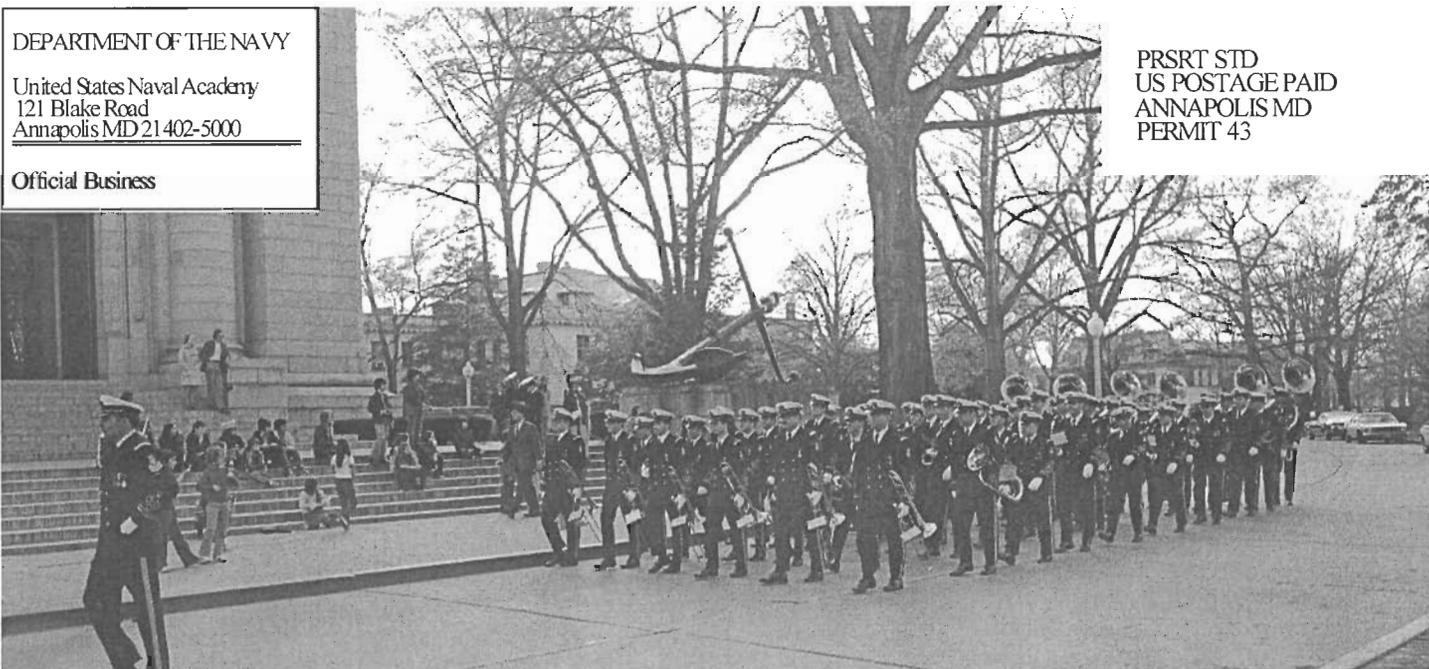


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“The Navy’s Oldest and Finest Band” marching circa 1971

Winter/Spring 2006



## MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS IN 2006

by MUI Lynda Dembowski

The United States Naval Academy Band boasts an exciting concert season for 2006! Our performing units are diligently preparing for many special musical events in the New Year. Below are highlights of upcoming concerts by the Concert Band, Next Wave, and Electric Brigade.

The Concert Band presents its annual performance in the Naval Academy Chapel on Saturday, January 21 under the direction of our 26th leader, Lieutenant Commander Melvin P. Kessler. The band will perform celebrated works by Johann Sebastian Bach and Richard Wagner. The Navy’s premier vocal ensemble, the United States Navy Band Sea Chanters, will perform classical and spiritual selections and join the band in a transcription of Antonio Vivaldi’s *Gloria*.



We welcome Mark Camphouse as guest composer/conductor in a performance of his music on February 10 in Mischer Hall. Mr. Camphouse is Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Radford University in Virginia. His works have received accolades from the American Bandmasters Association, and have been performed at such esteemed venues as Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, and Royal Albert Hall in London. Patriotism and American icons pervade his compositions, including *Movement for Rosa*, inspired by civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks, and *The Shining City*, a narrated band work based on speeches and writings of President Ronald Reagan.

(Continued on page 2)

## COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Hello once again. I hope you are enjoying reading our newsletter. We have had an exciting beginning to our concert season and have more planned leading into the winter months.

As we move into the spring our recital series will be in full swing. These recitals give our fine professionals an opportunity to showcase their outstanding musical abilities and you an opportunity to hear great music in an intimate setting. Please mark your calendars with all of our performance dates and locations.

Some of you have experienced difficulties getting on to the Academy grounds or receiving proper guidance from the gate guards as to the location of our concerts. I apologize for the inconvenience; we are working to correct this and hope to have it resolved soon.

I hope you have enjoyed being in the renovated Mitscher Hall as much as we have. There is still more ordered and we are excited about how they will positively affect the acoustics in the hall. Once installed, the hall should look and sound like a "world class hall."

Sincerely,



Melvin P. Kessler  
Director



Dr. Richard E. Strange joins the band as guest conductor on Saturday, April 8. Dr. Strange is Professor of Music and Director of Bands, Emeritus at Arizona State University, and is former Director of Bands at Carnegie Mellon University. Highly respected as a conductor, clinician, and educator, he has received outstanding achievement awards from the Arizona Music Educators Association and the National Band Association. This concert program will feature *Symphony for Band* by Vincent Persichetti as well as selections from standard and contemporary band repertoire.



### The United States Naval Academy Band

**DIRECTOR**  
LCDR Melvin Kessler  
**ASST. DIRECTOR**  
ENS Diane Nichols  
**COMMAND MASTER CHIEF**  
MUCN James Rodak  
**OPERATIONS**  
MUCS Dan Drew  
**ADMINISTRATION**  
MUC Amy Jajouira  
**SUPPLY**  
MUC Karl Schultz  
**LIBRARIAN**  
MUC Jared Williams  
**AUDITION SUPERVISOR**  
MUC Ken Rabbe  
**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
MUCS Ronald Ory-Leticie  
**CONCERT INFORMATION:**  
(410) 293-0263

(Continued from page 1)

## EXTREME ATHLETES

by MUI Ben Redwine

The question we're asked most frequently in regard to our job with the Naval Academy Band is: "Is music your only job?" The answer to that question is not so simple. The primary focus of our work is indeed music, but band members also work in many collateral duties related to the operation of the band. These functions include publicizing our concerts, assisting members with travel issues, hiring new members of the band, scheduling concerts and ceremonies, and more! As active duty members of the United States Navy we are required to participate in General Military Training and we are expected to pass the Navy's biannual Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA), which measures each service member's physical strength and endurance. The PFA includes curl-ups, push-ups, and a 1.5 mile run; regular exercise and training is necessary in order to score well on this important test.



MUI Matthew Manturuk

Two members of our Concert Band have recently taken this training to the extreme. Petty Officers Matthew Manturuk, percussionist, and Travis Siehdnel, tubist, trained for and completed the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Marine Corps Marathon, which took place on October 30<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C. Petty Officers Manturuk and Siehdnel started training about 16 weeks before the big event, scheduling three training runs per week. These training runs included a speed workout on the track at the Naval Academy, a tempo run ranging from 3-10 miles and a long run that ranged from 10-20 miles. The peak of their training occurred in September, when they both logged about 180 miles. Over a four month period, the total mileage of their training is estimated at 400 miles.

Both runners competed in the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Annapolis Ten-Miler in August as part of their training for the marathon. This was the first competitive race for Petty Officer Manturuk. In September, they both competed in the Gulf Coast Relief 5K Run/Walk in Alexandria, Virginia, which raised \$114,000 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Petty Officer Siehdnel also competed in the Army Ten-Miler in October, for the third time.

On October 30, they ran the race, along with 30,000 other entrants before 150,000 spectators who cheered along the entire course. Marines offered overwhelming support along the course with food and water. Petty Officer Manturuk finished number 5,979 with a time of 4 hours and 20 minutes (an average of 9:56 per mile) and Petty Officer Siehdnel finished number 7,076 with a time of 4 hours and 28 minutes (an average of 10:15 per mile). Both athletes were given a huge morale boost when they were joined by tubist, Petty Officer Todd Nix, for the last six miles of the marathon.

Petty Officer Nix is an "extreme" athlete in his own right, rowing lightweight crew competitively (he has recently placed first at the Head of the Potomac, third at the Canadian Henley Royal Regatta in Ontario, and 12<sup>th</sup> place at the World Indoor Rowing Championship in the master 30-39 age category) and mentoring the Naval Academy Midshipmen Lightweight Crew rowing team.

Petty Officers Manturuk and Siehdnel mentioned that they plan to continue running as their primary form of exercise. Petty Officer Manturuk stated that his goal is to shave about one hour off of his time so that he can qualify for the Boston Marathon. Petty Officers Manturuk and Siehdnel are an inspiration to the whole band and we wish them luck and success in future races!



MUI Travis Siehdnel



MUI Todd Nix

(Continued on page 6)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

Musician First Class Devona Williams for her selection as USNA Band's Sailor of the 3rd Quarter, and to Musician First Class Matthew Shea for his selection as USNA Band's Sailor of the 4th Quarter.



## FRIENDS OF THE NAVAL ACADEMY (FONA) APPLICATION INFORMATION

The Friends of the Naval Academy program provides appropriate access to people outside the normal Department of Defense scope that support the USNA mission, its people, and its reputation. The FONA pass allows patrons affiliated with the Naval Academy to have vehicular access. Patrons that already have a DoD vehicle decal or handicapped tags/pass do not need to apply for a FONA pass. FONA passes take time to process and will be forwarded when available. Due to limited parking onboard, you should strongly consider the shuttle bus service. There are a limited number of FONA passes available to Naval Academy Band patrons on a first-come, first-served basis. To renew an expired FONA pass, call the Pass and Tag office (410) 293-5762 to arrange either a walk-in or mail-in exchange pass.

To apply for a FONA pass, e-mail Senior Chief Ronda Ory-Lettie [orylettie@usna.edu](mailto:orylettie@usna.edu) or write to:

United States Naval Academy Band  
101 Buchanan Road  
Annapolis, MD 21402-5080

If you or a friend would like to receive "Serenade," the Naval Academy Band newsletter, please fill out the enclosed coupon and mail it to us. We will be happy to include you on our patron list. **BONUS!** Patrons with email will receive press releases for each concert.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

email : \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

U.S. Naval Academy Band  
101 Buchanan Rd  
Annapolis MD 21402-5080

(Continued from page 2)

The Concert Band continues to support youth in music through its annual "Side by Side" concert on March 17 at Annapolis High School. This performance features Anne Arundel County's finest offering of young and talented band students. In May, the Concert Band completes its spring schedule with two installments of the Annapolis Music Festival.



"The Navy's Oldest and Finest" jazz ensemble, Next Wave, will feature vibraphonist Dave Samuels in their first performance of the New Year on February 24 at Mitscher Hall. Currently leader of the Latin Jazz sextet, "Caribbean Jazz Project," Samuels has received a Grammy Award for "Best Latin Jazz Recording" for the group's 2003 release, *The Gathering*, and a subsequent Grammy nomination for their 2004 recording, *Birds of a Feather*. Respected as a frontrunner in the Latin-jazz idiom, he has earned his reputation as a top mallet instrumentalist through collaborations with such renowned artists as Gerry Mulligan, Stan Getz, Pat Metheny, Frank Zappa, The Yellow Jackets, and Spyro Gyra. Listeners will be delighted by his fresh, innovative approach with original compositions as well as music from the likes of Oliver Nelson and Thelonius Monk. The performance will feature arrangements for Next Wave that are newly created by the artist in conjunction with ensemble director, Senior Chief Musician Dan Drew.



Electric Brigade, the Navy's premier Top-40 band, is gearing up for a new season of concerts and tours. During the winter months, the unit has an intensive rehearsal schedule as they prepare and perfect the shows they will present to the public in 2006. The versatile members of Electric Brigade transcribe all their music from recordings of popular artists and create concert shows with a blending of music styles from current hits. In the spring, the band will commence its annual tour of schools in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, and New York.

In support of the Brigade of Midshipmen, the Naval Academy Band will perform during the spring dress parade season, as well as at many ceremonies and activities during Commissioning Week. For more information, please call (410) 293-0263 or log on to <http://www.usna.edu/USNABand>.