

DEPARTMENT OF THE
NAVY
United States Naval Academy
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ALL IN THE FAMILY

Two recent events remind those of us in the United States Naval Academy Band of our long history and family ties. On March 26 the great-granddaughter of John Philip Pfeiffer, the band's first leader (1853-1861) paid us a visit, and our April 3 concert featured a fourth generation musician to perform with the group.

Mrs. Dorothy Laborde, of Amarillo, Texas, is not the first visitor to the band, however she is certainly one of the most distinguished. "She is the first visitor to connect us with our beginnings," remarked the band's historian, MUC David Hanner. "It has been a lifelong dream to come to Annapolis and see what my great-grandfather did," Mrs. Laborde said. CDR Ralph Gambone, Leader, USNA Band, LTJG Dale Yager, Assistant Leader, and MUC Hanner, escorted Mrs. Laborde on a tour of the band spaces and the Naval Academy, culminating in the Naval Academy Archives, located in Nimitz Library. Archivists Gary La Valley and Beverly Lyall showed Mrs. Laborde her great-grandfather's letters kept at the Archives, and CDR Gambone presented her with a gift, a photo of the 1860 band under the leadership of her great-grandfather.

John Philip Pfeiffer, a member of the Charlestown (Boston) Navy Yard Band, was selected by CAPT Buchanan as the person to organize the newly authorized band at the academy. The musicians, from Boston and New York City, were all German and included his two sons, John Jr., and David.

Sons of bandmen have often aspired to follow in their father's footsteps and become members of "The Navy's Oldest and Finest Band." In 1887 Bandmaster Peter Schoff retired and was replaced by Charles Zimmermann, the composer of the Navy's official song, "Anchors Aweigh." He was the son of Charles Z. Zimmermann, a member of the band during the Civil War years. MUCM Ralph F. Gambone, a trumpet and clarinet instrumentalist, arranger, conductor, and eventually the leading chief, served in the band from 1948-1973. His eldest son, CDR Ralph M. Gambone, is now the 23rd leader of the band, and his youngest, Mark, performed as a clarinetist with the band for seven years. CDR Raymond A. Ascione, the band's 19th leader, was followed by his younger brother MUCM Jerry Ascione, now serving in The U.S. Navy Band, Washington, DC., and by his son MU2 Raymond D. Ascione, currently a clarinetist with the band. Other past family ties include Jerry Zadera, Sr. and Jr., brothers Tony and Vincent Abato, twin brothers John and Joe Davis, and

The United States Naval Academy Band

DIRECTOR

CDR Ralph M. Gambone

ASST. DIRECTOR

ENS Michael S. Grant

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

MUCM Gary R. Wolfe

OPERATIONS

MUC Rob Werntz

ADMINISTRATION

MUC Ken Shrum

SUPPLY

MUCS Richard Chappell

LIBRARIAN

MUC James Bean

SPECIAL PROJECTS AUDITION SUPERVISOR

MUCS Kathy Callahan

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MUCM Jim Cunningham

BOOKINGS:

(410) 293-1257

CONCERT INFORMATION:

(410) 293-0263



ALL IN THE FAMILY (cont.)

Each year the band hosts a "Side-By-Side" Concert where outstanding area high school musicians perform alongside Naval Academy Band members, a rare opportunity for the students to learn and perform in a professional setting. This years performance featured the winner of the USNA Band sponsored Concerto Competition, Mr. Michael Balderson, Jr. Michael's family history with the Naval Academy Band begins with his great-grandfather who played French horn with the band, his grandfather, also a French horn instrumentalist, retired from the band in 1962, and his mother, Ms. Sandra Balderson, performed as a soloist with the Naval Academy Band in 1966. Ms. Balderson, then 14, played Mozart's "Concerto for Flute in G Major" conducted by MUCM Ralph F. Gambone, father of CDR Gambone, the band's current leader and the first ever student soloist.

Michael Eugene Balderson Jr. performed the First Movement of Dragonetti's "Concerto in A Major," and is a senior at Broadneck Senior High School. He began playing the double bass in the fifth grade and is presently a student at the Peabody Preparatory School of Music in Baltimore, Maryland. He is principal bass of the Chesapeake Youth Symphony as well as a member of both the Symphonic and Chamber Orchestras at Broadneck Senior High School.

If you are interested in sponsoring a concert by any of The Naval Academy Band's performing groups, please write to the US Naval Academy Band, 101 Buchanan RD, Annapolis, MD 21402-5080 or contact our operations office at (410) 293-1257.

COMMANDER'S COLUMN



Dear Patron:

The band has just completed one of its busiest winter/spring concert schedules in recent memory, and thanks to you, one of our most successful. Most Friday nights saw Mitscher Hall filled to capacity by a very responsive and appreciative audience. On behalf of the men and women of the USNA Band I thank you for your continued support. I really believe you represent the best and most loyal patrons I have ever

known during my 29 years of naval service. Don't forget our summer concert series begins on Tuesday, July 7th at 7:30 on the city dock!

Speaking of our city dock concerts, in addition to the concert band, the July 28th concert will feature an alumni big band. The 17 piece group will be comprised of former members of the band. This should prove to be an exciting performance and one you won't want to miss.

I am pleased to announce our recent promotions to Master Chief and Senior Chief Petty Officer. They are: MUCM James Cunningham, MUCS Max Murray and MUCS Richard Chappell.

Also, MUCM Gary Wolfe relieved MUCM Don Carter as the band's Command Master Chief and Senior Enlisted Advisor. MUCM Carter will retire this summer after completing over 28 years of active duty service. He has served in many capacities as an instrumentalist, manager and administrator. His skills and knowledge will be greatly missed by our organization. We wish him and Nancy "fair winds and following seas" as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Since the Carter's will remain in the Annapolis area, we expect to see them at future band functions and I'm sure Don will be an active participant in our annual alumni concerts.

On May 29th a farewell reception was given in honor of Admiral Charles R. Larson, the 51st and 55th Superintendent of the U. S. Naval Academy. During the evening, the USNA Band premiered an original march, composed by MUI Rob Vuono, Jr. and dedicated to Admiral Larson, entitled "Vision Fulfilled". It was a fitting send-off for Admiral Larson who was a great supporter of the band. During both tours he and Mrs. Larson always made the band feel an important part of the Naval Academy family. We will miss them both.

Again, thank you for your continued support. I hope to see you at one of our city dock concerts this summer.

Sincerely,

R. M. GAMBONE
Director



MUCM GARY R. WOLFE, USN

Master Chief Musician Gary R. Wolfe is a native of Vienna, VA. Prior to enlisting in the Navy, he graduated from Oakton H.S. and attended North Texas State University as a student of the Jazz Studies Program. He enlisted in the Navy in Sept., '71 and completed recruit training at NTC Great Lakes. After graduating from the School of Music in Little Creek, VA, he was assigned to the Chief of Naval Air Training Navy Band at NAS, Corpus Christi, TX in July, '72.

In Sept., '75 he reported to the Commandant 13th Naval District's Navy Band of the Northwest where he served as musical director of the show band and later the contemporary ensemble. Wolfe led these bands on recruiting tours covering the Pacific Northwest and entertaining troops at remote locations such as Adak, AK.

Wolfe reported to The USNA Band in July, '79. He's performed as trumpet soloist with the contemporary ensemble, jazz ensemble and combos, concert band, ceremonial and marching units. In '86 he began announcing for concerts and Naval Academy events and has since become recognized as "The Voice of the Naval Academy." From '89-'92 he was the Head Drum Major and Chief-in-Charge of the Marching Band. In Oct., '92 he graduated from the Navy's Senior Enlisted Academy in Newport, RI. He was the Chief-in-Charge of the Band's Operations Department from '92-'98 and is currently the Command Master Chief and Senior Enlisted Advisor.

Master Chief Wolfe has performed as a back-up instrumentalist on stage with some of the nation's greatest entertainers, such as Bob Hope, Tony Bennett, Rosemary Clooney, Jack Jones, Milton Berle, Harry Blackstone, The Temptations, and many more. He has recorded for film, commercials, and educational recordings, and hosted a local radio show from '90-'92.

His decorations include The Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, The Meritorious Unit Citation, The Good Conduct Medal (Sixth Award), and The National Defense Medal (Second Award).

Master Chief Wolfe currently resides in Annapolis with his wife, Senior Master Sergeant Patricia A.F. Wolfe, Soprano Soloist and Operations Chief with The United States Air Force Band's Singing Sergeants chorus.

MOVING?

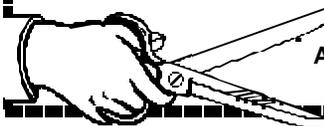
The United States Naval Academy Band has friends all over the world. If you are planning to move and would like to take Serenade with you, please mail us your new address along with the old (as it appears on the mailing label now). Because Serenade is a tri-annual publication, your forwarding time with the US Post Office

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Band**
101 Buchanan Rd
Annapolis MD 21402-5080
Attn: Public Affairs

Cut and About Town

ALL CONCERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
for information call
410.293.1262

JULY 4	CONCERT BAND USNA Farragut Field	7:30p.m. Annapolis, MD
JULY 12	CONCERT BAND Allen Pond Park	7:00p.m. Bowie, MD
JULY 12	ELECTRIC BRIGADE Downs Park	6:00p.m. Pasadena, MD
JULY 19	CONCERT BAND Rawlinsville Camp	7:30p.m. Rawlinsville, PA
JULY 19	ELECTRIC BRIGADE Allen Pond Park	7:00p.m. Bowie, MD
JULY 25	ELECTRIC BRIGADE Lula G. Scott Center	7:30p.m. Churchton, MD
JULY 26	ELECTRIC BRIGADE Devers Hall	7:00p.m. Ft. Meade, MD
JULY 26	CONCERT BAND Sousa Band Shell Sunset Park	3:00p.m. Port Washington, NY
JULY 30	CONCERT BAND Community Center	7:00p.m. Ocean Dunes, MD
JULY 31	ELECTRIC BRIGADE Tinney Davillion	7:00p.m. Strasburg, PA
AUG 2	CONCERT BAND Wm A Humbert Amphitheatre	7:00p.m. Bel Air, MD
AUG 9	ELECTRIC BRIGADE Inner Harbor Amphitheatre	7:00p.m. Baltimore, MD
AUG 16	CONCERT BAND Linthicum Park	7:00p.m. Linthicum, MD



noteworthy events

CONGRATULATIONS to our:
new First Class Petty Officers
MU1 Marcia Diehl and MU1 Michael Jarjoura;
new Senior Chiefs
MUCS Max Murray and MUCS Rick Chappell;
new Master Chief MUCM Jim Cunningham;
and to MUCM Gary Wolfe who assumed the position of
Command Master Chief/Senior Enlisted Advisor.



NAVAL ACADEMY BAND SAILORS OF THE QUARTER

MU1 Dan Drew, 4th Quarter '97
MU2 Richie Smith, 1st Quarter '98

NAVY/MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MUCS Max Murray
MUC Rob Werntz

NAVY/MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL

LTJG Dale Yager
MUCS Thomas Steele

NAVAL ACADEMY BAND SAILOR OF THE YEAR

MU1 Dan Drew

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTERS OF COMENDATION

MU2 Joe McCarthy
MU2 Michael Whittaker

FAREWELL TO:

LTJG Dale Yager to Leader, Navy Band Newport
MUCM Don Carter to Fleet Reserve
MUCS Thomas Steele to Fleet Reserve
MU2 Patricia Zweibel to "CIVLANT"
MU2 H. Lee MacDowell to School Of Music

WELCOME ABOARD TO:

ENS Michael S. Grant; Assistant Leader, USNA Band

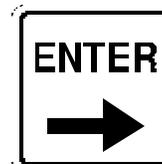
New to the USNA Band Family

Lauren Grace Fisher

Born MAR 17, 1998

Congratulations to the proud parents.

MU2 John and Virginia Fisher



Visit us on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.nadn.navy.mil/USNABand>

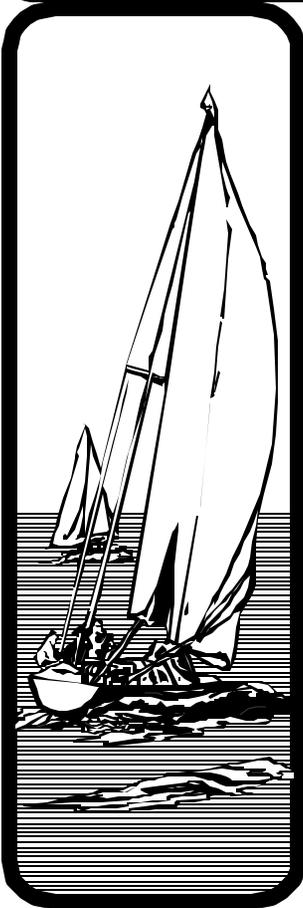


The United States Naval Academy Band
presents

Summer Serenade '98

— FREE ADMISSION — BRING YOUR OWN SEATING

“Pleasant evenings of music
for the entire family!”



JULY 7
Concert Band

JULY 14
Children's Concert

JULY 21
Electric Brigade

JULY 28
Alumni Concert

AUGUST 4
Concert Band

AUGUST 11
Finale Concert
7:00pm

AUGUST 13 
RAIN DATE:
Finale Concert 7:00pm
ONLY if August 11 is rained out.

Every Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m.
from July 7 through August 11



Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Annapolis,
the City of Annapolis and the United States Naval Academy



The United States Naval Academy Band
presents

Summer Serenade '98

Guest Series

Featuring
THE NATION'S PREMIER MILITARY BANDS

July 9 from The U.S. Navy Band

The Commodores

July 16 from The U.S. Air Force Band

The Airmen of Note

July 23 from The U.S. Navy Band

Country Current

July 30 from The U.S. Army Band

The Army Blues

August 6 The U.S. Naval Academy Band

The Electric Brigade

 Parents Open House Weekend
MITSCHER HALL rain site

Every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m.
from July 9 through August 6 at the
Naval Academy's Rip Miller Astro turf Field

-- FREE ADMISSION --
sit in the stands or bring your own seating

