

PROGRAM NOTES



Lieutenant Commander Bruce A. McDonald reported for duty as Director of the United States Naval Academy Band in October of 2012. Previously, he had served as Director, U.S. Fleet Forces Band in Norfolk, VA, Fleet Bandmaster of both the Pacific Fleet Band in Pearl Harbor, HI and SIXTH Fleet Band in Naples, Italy, Associate Conductor of the United States Navy Band in Washington, DC, and as Music Program Liaison Officer to the Chief of Information, also in Washington, DC.

LCDR McDonald enlisted in the Navy in 1989 as a trombonist with the U.S. Naval Academy Band in Annapolis, Maryland. There, he performed with the "Electric Brigade" Top 40 Ensemble, the Brass Quintet, and as principal trombonist with the Wind Ensemble. After promotion to Chief Petty Officer in 1997, he transferred to the U.S. Navy School of Music in Little Creek, Virginia, where he graduated first in his class from both the Ceremonial Conductor/Drum Major and the Enlisted Bandleader/Assistant Director courses. He then transferred to the Atlantic Fleet Band in Norfolk, Virginia, where he was the ceremonial band director and assistant concert band conductor prior to his commissioning in October 2000 and subsequent assignment to the U.S. Navy Band.

LCDR McDonald holds a master's degree in instrumental conducting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The United States Naval Academy Band, "The Navy's Oldest and Finest," has been providing music for the Brigade of Midshipmen and surrounding community since 1852. Located at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, the band is comprised of 68 professional, Navy musicians, who have studied at some of the best music schools and conservatories in the country, and who have extensive résumés in performance and teaching.


At the Naval Academy, the USNA Band performs for dress parades, athletic events, pep rallies and other traditional events. In the community, the band presents concerts, provides music for civic events, and presents instructional clinics and performances for K-12 and university students. The band also plays for military ceremonies and funerals throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

In recent years, the band has supported the Naval Academy Admissions Department, touring throughout the country and performing at admissions forums and high schools. These events have greatly contributed to diversity initiatives and an overall increase in the number of applications to the Naval Academy.

The Naval Academy Band takes pride in representing the Naval Academy's deep heritage of excellence. Performing at the highest professional standard for the Navy, the Naval Academy, and the citizens of this great country remains our ultimate goal.

Visit the USNA Band's Website:
<http://www.usna.edu/USNABand/>

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SUPERINTENDENT'S COMBO

MUC James Fowler, unit leader

TRUMPET

MUC Matt Shea - Ellington, Connecticut

SAXOPHONE

MU1 Colin Renick - Belmont, Massachusetts

PIANO

MU1 Todd Simon - Dover, Delaware

DRUMS

MUC Joe McCarthy - Meriden, Connecticut

BASS

MUC James Fowler - Ponca City, Oklahoma

BIOGRAPHIES

MUC Matt Shea is from Ellington, Connecticut and joined the Naval Academy Band as a trumpeter in 2004. He attended the University of North Texas in Denton, TX, where he earned a bachelor's degree in jazz performance in 1996. Later, he returned to UNT, and earned a master's degree in 2001. While in graduate school he performed as the jazz trumpet soloist in the world renowned One O'clock Lab Band, recording "Lab '98" and "Lab '99" with the ensemble.

MUC Shea gained invaluable professional experience freelancing in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. He performed big bands, brass quintets, wedding bands, musicals, salsa bands, rock bands, and small jazz ensembles. He performed for studio recordings used for radio and television commercials, and performed live for several Dallas Cowboy football games, a Dallas Stars hockey game, and with the Ft. Worth/Dallas Ballet. While on summer breaks from school, MUC Shea worked as a showband musician for Norwegian, Royal Caribbean, and Carnival Cruise Lines. Having worked for Carnival periodically from 1998 to 2000, MUC Shea accepted a full-time position with them in 2001 and was quickly promoted to Musical Director.

MU1 Colin Renick is from Belmont, Massachusetts and joined the Naval Academy Band as a saxophonist in 2006. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Film Production from Ithaca College in 1995, he went on to pursue a career in music. He attended the State University of New York at Buffalo where he studied with Edward Yadzinsky, and earned a Bachelor of Arts in music in 2001. He then attended Indiana University where he completed the double degree program, earning master's degrees in saxophone performance and jazz studies. While at IU, he studied classical saxophone with Otis Murphy, and jazz with David Baker, Pat Harbison and Tom Walsh.

MU1 Renick's professional credits include a cross-section of musical styles, from classical to jazz to R&B to free improvisation. Highlights include performances with the Genkin Philharmonic, the Odean Pope Saxophone Choir, David Baker's Jazz Ensemble, David Sanchez, and the Busselli-Wallarab Jazz Orchestra. In addition, he was a founding

member of several original ensembles, including the Saxophone Cartel (a saxophone quintet), and the jazz/hip-hop/funk band, Mojai.

MU1 Todd Simon is from Dover Delaware and joined the Naval Academy Band as a pianist in 2009. He received a Bachelor of Music degree specializing in Jazz Piano Performance at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in 2007. While there, he studied piano and organ with Tim Murphy, and soprano/alto/tenor/baritone saxophones with Gary Thomas. In addition to playing multiple instruments in several Peabody ensembles, MU1 Simon also contributed original compositions and arrangements.

Upon graduation, MU1 Simon began performing more regularly on the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. jazz scene. During his time as a full-time freelance musician, he performed with Dontae Winslow, Alex Norris, Donvonte McCoy, Tarus Mateen, Jimmy "Junebug" Jackson, Mike Hawkins, the Rumba Club, and The Fabulous Hubcaps, a group his father founded.

MUC Joe McCarthy is from Meriden, Connecticut and joined the Naval Academy Band as principal percussionist in 1994. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree in percussion performance from The Hartt School of Music in 1988, and a master's degree in percussion performance from the University of North Texas in 1992.

Upon graduation, MUC McCarthy taught percussion and music theory at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, Texas and performed with The Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, and the Dallas Jazz Orchestra. At the top of his profession, he won a Latin Grammy Award in 2008 for music recorded with his Latin Jazz Ensemble, Afro Bop Alliance. MUC McCarthy is currently the unit leader of the Naval Academy Band Jazz Ensemble, *Next Wave*.

MUC James Fowler is from Ponca City, Oklahoma and joined the Naval Academy Band as principal bassist in 2000. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oklahoma City University in 1990 and a master's degree in music education from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1994.

Prior to enlisting in the Navy, MUC Fowler performed with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Tulsa Philharmonic, and the Delta Queen Steamboat Company. He also served on the faculties of Northern Oklahoma College and Southern Nazarene University.