



fanfare

MARCH/APRIL 2002 ★ VOLUME 23 ★ NUMBER 2

SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED...

time seemed right to move on to something different; new co-workers, different musical and professional responsibilities. At the time, I didn't know Garth Brooks from a bathtub, but I worked hard to learn a new style of music and I spent four years with a great bunch of guys who were also world class country/bluegrass pickers!

The National Tour Director position opened up and I applied for, got and have just finished my 5th year in that position. I love what I do, and there are times I really miss the daily performance and camaraderie, but I know that for me and my family, I'm at the right place at the right time in my life.

tour operations...Under the heading of National Tours, we book and support over 100 concerts a year, distribute press/publicity materials, arrange all lodging and transportation (air and ground), issue and process all required travel documents, and answer and process countless letters, e-mails and phone calls, requesting future band performances around the country. There is no "normal" day, which makes my job so interesting (and busy!). On any given day, I'll be working on various stages of development for often up to 8 present and future tours, plus all the day to day tasks needed to have the office run as smooth as possible.

I have a terrific collateral staff made up of eight full time players from our various groups, who take total responsibility for up to 10 tour days for their specific group (concert booking, lodging, and site logistics). These concerts generate an audience of over 138,000 a year and much good will for the band and for our Navy. I'm also blessed to be part of a terrific Navy Band staff. All of our folks in the different departments do outstanding work and bend over backwards to make sure the organization runs smoothly and that the performer's "music stand and chair" are at the right place at the right time. It also helps to have a great officer corps, which we do!

inspirations...I've met many people over the years that have inspired me, but my parents, my wife and our two kids are my main inspiration. Retired Master Chief Musicians John Haderly and Art Swanson were instrumental in setting up the Tour Operations department and everyday I give them a quiet thanks for the way they set up the office structure and for the opportunities they gave me.

travel...I've traveled so much with the Navy Band over the years, it's hard to pick a specific place to visit (or revisit). Maybe in another life I was a cowboy, but I still love to visit Western Nebraska. I love its wide-open spaces and the people.

hobbies...Besides doing activities with my family, I still play music and maintain a home percussion studio. I enjoy reading (Washington political thrillers) and watching old movies on TV.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2002

Commander Ralph M. Gambone and all the members of The United States Navy Band concluded a successful 2001 with two full-house Holiday Concerts at DAR Constitution Hall and an appearance as the featured military band at the 55th Annual Convention of the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago.

After a well-deserved vacation the band jumped right into the New Year with its celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the International Saxophone Symposium held at



Santa (MUCS Chip Connelly) shares his gift of song at the Navy Band's 2001 Holiday Concert, "Happy Holidays."

capacity crowds indicating a resurgence in military band's popularity as our country continues to display the flag and a renewed sense of patriotism.

that city's Folk Festival. From the hundreds of glowing E-Mails generated by their performance it isn't hard to see why they are featured in most bluegrass festivals around the country.



Cmdr. Gambone conducts the Navy Band as Paul Bro, Dale Underwood and MUC Timothy Roberts collaborate on Stevie Wonder's *If It's Magic*, the encore at the Friday evening concert of the 25th International Saxophone Symposium.

Country Current's bluegrass quartet made its first trip to Anchorage Alaska to perform at

As one retired Army patron wrote, "It's not fair that the Navy gets the better uniforms AND the better band!"

As the Navy Band and its specialty groups travel around the nation on National Tours and to other special events, it is gratifying to know that our music touches the hearts of so many of the American people. Commander Gambone and all the members of the Navy Band hope to see you at one of our concerts and appreciate your continued patronage and support. *ff*



Robert Jager conducts the Navy Band on his composition *Mystic Chords of Memory* at the 55th Annual Convention of The Midwest Clinic in Chicago.

George Mason University, followed closely by a live recording concert by the "Commodores" jazz ensemble at the same venue. Both events were performed before near



MU1 Yolanda Pelzer belts out *Cry Me A River* at the Commodores' "Live Recording Concert" as pianist, MUCS Jeff Deegan and guitarist, MU1 Gary Malvaso provide the background.

Performance Calendar

The U.S. Navy Band and specialty groups present the following FREE concerts. Tickets or reservations are not required unless noted (*). For more information call (202) 433-2525.

MARCH NAVY BAND AND BISHOP IRETON WIND ENSEMBLE

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 7:30 P.M.
Bishop Ireton High School
Garwood Whaley Auditorium
201 Cambridge Rd.
Alexandria, Va.

CEREMONIAL BAND
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 12:30 P.M.
St. Patrick's Day Parade
King & West Sts.
Old Town
Alexandria, Va.

COMMODORES
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 7:30 P.M.
Century High School
355 Ronsdale Rd.
Sykesville, Md.

COUNTRY CURRENT
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 7 P.M.
Navy Museum (Bldg. 76)*
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C.
*For FREE reservations call (202) 433-6897.

APRIL NAVY BAND

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 8 P.M.
Shenandoah University
Armstrong Auditorium
1460 University Dr.
Winchester, Va.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 8 P.M.
College of Southern Maryland*
Route 301 (Mitchell Rd.)
La Plata, Md.
*For FREE ticket information call (301) 934-7828.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 7:30 P.M.
"Symphonic Celebrations"
Bishop Ireton High School
Garwood Whaley Auditorium
201 Cambridge Rd.
Alexandria, Va.

COMMODORES
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 8 P.M.
"America's Best High School Jazz Festival"
Arundel Senior High School
1001 Annapolis Rd.
Gambrells, Md.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 3 P.M.
Mary Washington College
Dodd Auditorium
1303 College Ave.
Fredericksburg, Va.

MONDAY, APRIL 22, NOON
"Navy Earth Day"
Navy Memorial
701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2 P.M.
"Georgetown Jazz Fest"
Georgetown University
White-Gravenor Esplanade
Washington, D.C.

COUNTRY CURRENT
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 3 P.M.
Ashton Methodist Church
17314 New Hampshire Ave.
Ashton, Md.

**COUNTRY CURRENT
bluegrass quartet**
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, APRIL 12-13, TBD*
"Spirit of the Suwanee Music Park"
Live Oak, Fla.
*An admission fee will be charged to attend this festival. For more information call 800-392-7014.

CRUISERS
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 7 P.M.
Navy Museum (Bldg. 76)*
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C.
*For FREE reservations call (202) 433-6897.

BRASS QUINTET
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 7 P.M.
Twinbrook Library
202 Meadow Hall Dr.
Rockville, Md.

**PERCUSSION
ENSEMBLE**
SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 9 A.M.
"2002 Maryland/Delaware
Day of Percussion"
Towson University
Center for the Arts Concert Hall
Towson, Md.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY

NAVY BAND
FRIDAY, MAY 10, 8 P.M.
River Hill High School
12101 Clarksville Pike
Clarksville, Md.

SEA CHANTERS
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 7:30 P.M.
Manassas Baptist Church
8800 Sudley Rd.
Manassas, Va.

COMMODORES
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 7:45 P.M.
Fallston High School
2301 Carrs Mill Rd.
Fallston, Md.

COUNTRY CURRENT
FRIDAY, MAY 3, 7 P.M.
Glenwood Park Senior Center
Rte. 97
Glenwood, Md.

BRASS QUINTET
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 12:15 P.M.
National Bldg. Museum
401 F St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

**NAVY BAND 2002
SPRING TOUR**
The Navy Band departed February 15th on a 22-day tour through Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The following is a list of remaining tour dates and locations.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 7 P.M.
Iowa Central Community
College Auditorium
Fort Dodge, Iowa

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 3 P.M.
George Daily Community Auditorium
Oskaloosa, Iowa

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2 P.M.
University of Northern Iowa
Gallagher-Bluedorn

Performing Arts Center
Cedar Falls, Iowa

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 7 P.M.
Champaign Centennial High School
Champaign, Ill.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 7:30 P.M.
Southport High School
Indianapolis, Ind.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 7:30 P.M.
Veterans Memorial Civic
and Convention Center
Crouse Auditorium
Lima, Ohio

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 7:30 P.M.
Masonic Auditorium
Dayton, Ohio

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 7:30 P.M.
Secrest Auditorium
Zanesville, Ohio

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 3 P.M.
Fort Hill High School Auditorium
Cumberland, Md.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

The United States Navy Band
617 Warrington Ave., S.E.
Washington Navy Yard, D.C. 20374-5054

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The United States Navy Band ■ Washington, D.C.
Commander Ralph M. Gambone, USN ■ Officer in Charge/Leader

All concert information is accurate at time of publication, though subject to change due to weather and other conditions. For concert updates call the 24-hour Navy Band Performance Calendar at (202) 433-2525, or visit us on the web at www.navyband.navy.mil.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Well, here it is February 2002 and I'm preparing for the Navy Band's Spring National Tour and we are still receiving ticket requests for our 2001 Holiday Concert at DAR Constitution Hall! As most of you probably know, the events of September 11th resulted in an indefinite delay in mail being delivered to the Washington Navy Yard. Had we waited for your original ticket requests, we would never have received them in time. Our solution was to establish a mailbox off the Navy Yard in order to process your requests in time for the holiday performances. I would like to thank all of you for your patience and understanding during this period. Thanks to the outstanding work of our Public Affairs staff, both concerts were attended by full-house audiences of 3,700 patrons.

When the concert band performed at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in December 2001, we were fortunate to have in attendance Rear Admiral Annette E. Brown, USN, our "Chief of Navy Bands." Actually, RADM Brown is the Assistant Commander for Personnel Readiness and Community Support, PERS-6. During my 33-year naval career, RADM Brown is the first flag officer to actually attend a Navy Band Midwest performance in an official capacity. We greatly appreciate her steadfast support and continued personal interest in the Navy Band. As a small token of our appreciation we presented her with a signed Navy Band lithograph.

As you read through this issue of FANFARE you will notice many important accomplishments by members of your United States Navy Band. You will also find that we have recently added many new instrumentalists and vocalists to our organization. Each of these new members is a marvelous musician and a wonderful individual. We are very pleased to welcome each of them to our Navy Band family.

Don't forget to checkout the Sea Chanters' National Tour schedule in this issue and please make plans to hear them if they are in your area. I think you will enjoy their exciting performance. Also, the Navy Band will be performing for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Convention in Philadelphia, Pa. on April 18, 2002.

Thank you again for your continued support of The United States Navy Band. I look forward to seeing you at a future performance.

Ralph M. Gambone, Commander, USN
Officer in Charge/Leader

NOTABLE QUOTES

"Last night I had the unmatched pleasure and honor to hear the Navy Band play to TWO packed ballrooms of composers, conductors and many luminaries in the music industry at the MIDWEST Clinic in Chicago. There were people standing two deep along the wall and many left standing outside after each of the concerts began!! They played magnificently!"

Annette E. Brown
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Assistant Commander for
Personnel Readiness
and Community Support,
PERS-6

"Throughout my military career I have had the opportunity to listen to a number of different military bands. I have never before felt compelled to write a letter of appreciation. After hearing this group, (Country Current at Anchorage Folk Festival) I had to send this note. These men were Awesome!!"

CW2 Joseph Rahn, U.S. Army
Fort Richardson, Alaska

FEATURES/CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

LOOKING BACK... PORT AUTHORITY

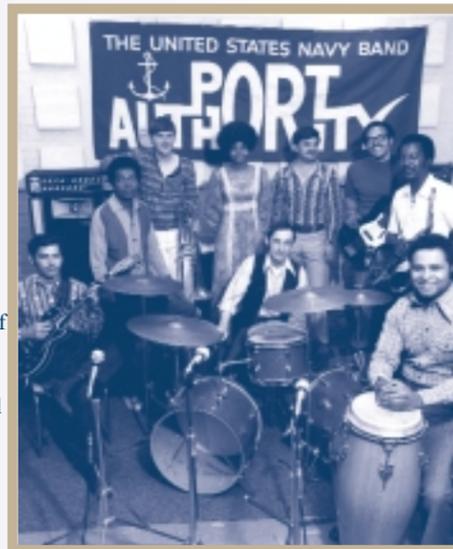
As the decade of the 1960s came to an end, American society continued to change even as the Vietnam War continued to rage. The Southeast Asian conflict sparked hostility toward the military, seriously affecting recruiting efforts, all the while musical tastes continued to change as the baby boom generation became a huge force in popular opinion. It was under such circumstances that the fourth leader of the Navy Band, Commander Donald W. Stauffer, made a decision to form Navy Band specialty units that would not only appeal to America's changing musical tastes, but also make a major contribution to the recruiting effort. So, along with the formation of the "Commodores" jazz ensemble in 1969 and the "Country Current" country-bluegrass group in 1972, Cmdr. Stauffer saw the necessity to establish a rock group to attract the nation's most recruitable age-group.

"Port Authority" was born in September 1970 from a synthesis of two separate Navy Band rock-instrumental groups, "The Mariners" and "The j.g.s." The nucleus for "Port" was drawn from three former members of The Mariners - Chief Musicians Jim Allen, Don Letbetter and Emmett Wright. After a brief stint as cocktail pianist for President Nixon in the White House, Allen became the leader and changed the group's focus from jazz/rock to a more soul-oriented sound. The original group

consisted of 12 members and established what was essentially a Blood, Sweat and Tears or Chicago-type sound. With Allen's accomplished background as a musician and his deep knowledge of gospel music, the basis for contemporary soul music, he was the natural choice to lead the group in its evolution from jazz/rock to soul.

Part of the reason for changing the sound of the group was to appeal to the increasing number of African Americans who were enlisting in the Navy at the time.

Shortly after becoming the group's leader, Allen tailored the group from 12 pieces to eight, to give it a tighter sound and improve the band's mobility on the road. Allen also began to search for new talent, the kind of musicians who played soul the way it should be played. Allen ended up fronting a racially balanced group, that Navy Recruiting Command had performing at the grueling clip of two shows a day, six days a week, to predominantly black audiences around the country. Judging from the response of Navy recruiters at the time, the popularity of Port



Port Authority, 1972

Authority with young audiences was tremendous.

As the Vietnam War came to an end, many of the musicians in the group decided to separate from the service and reenter civilian life. Port Authority took on new members and new directions and continued to demonstrate its versatility in performances at The White House, local high schools, state fairs, and in concerts in over half the United States and in eight foreign countries. Over the group's 15-year history, Port Authority appealed to a variety of young audiences, performing as a rock, jazz-rock, soul, and top-40 band. Before disbanding in 1987 the group performed as a high-powered, modern, jazz sextet with a repertoire spanning the musical spectrum from standards to progressive jazz.

Many talented and versatile musicians were part of Port Authority's history and two of its members are still here at the Navy Band. Master Chief Musician Robert Sullivan, the guitarist with Country Current and Senior Chief Musician Jeffrey Deegan, the pianist with the Commodores. The void left by Port Authority is now being filled by the Navy Band's newest group - The Cruisers. ff



Port Authority, 1986

SEA CHANTERS 2002 SPRING TOUR

The Sea Chanters depart April 8th on a 17-day tour through Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The following is a list of tour dates and locations.

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 7 P.M.
University of Wyoming
Concert Hall
Laramie, Wyo.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 7:30 P.M.
Civic Center
Cheyenne, Wyo.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 7:30 P.M.
Natrona County High School
Casper, Wyo.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 7 P.M.
Newcastle High School
Newcastle, Wyo.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 7 P.M.
Spearfish High School Auditorium
Spearfish, S.D.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 7:30 P.M.
Bluffs Middle School
Scottsbluff, Neb.

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 7:30 P.M.
North Platte High School
North Platte, Neb.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 7:30 P.M.
Grand Island Senior High School
Auditorium
Grand Island, Neb.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 7 P.M.
University of Nebraska-Kearney
Health and Sports Center
Kearney, Neb.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 7 P.M.
Papillion-La Vista High School
Auditorium
Papillion, Neb.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 7 P.M.
Saydel High School Auditorium
Des Moines, Iowa

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 7:30 P.M.
Miller Junior High School Auditorium
Marshalltown, Iowa

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 3 P.M.
George Daily Community Auditorium
Oskaloosa, Iowa

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 8 P.M.
University of Iowa
Clapp Recital Hall
Iowa City, Iowa

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 7:30 P.M.
Augustana College
Centennial Hall
Rock Island, Ill.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25 7:30 P.M.
The Historic Dixon Theater
Dixon, Ill.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 7:30 P.M.
West Chicago Community High School
Auditorium
West Chicago, Ill.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Musician First Class Christopher J. Raifsnider, clarinetist with the Navy Band, on his selection as

"Sailor of the Year" for 2001...and to **Chief Musician Michael J. Schmitz**, trombonist with the Navy Band, on his selection as "Chief of the Quarter"...and to **Musician First Class Kevin V. Taylor**, percussionist with the Navy Band on his selection as "Sailor of the Quarter" for the period October-December 2001.



WELCOME ABOARD TO...

Musicians First Class Jennifer A. Bowerman, soprano with the Sea Chanters, **Stephen G. Henry, Jr.**, facilities engineer with the Navy Band, **Rachel Malone**, alto with the Sea Chanters, **Christina S. Phillips**, soprano with the Sea Chanters, **Amy M. Smith**, French hornist with the Navy Band, and **Tia P. Turner**, clarinetist with the Navy Band.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

If you have been fortunate

to attend a performance by any of the Navy Band's premier units, it probably never crossed your mind what efforts were made "behind the scenes" to bring the concert to your area. Tour Operations Director, **Master Chief Musician Bob Snider** spends countless hours making sure that every detail is successfully achieved allowing for an enjoyable evening of music for the audience and the musicians. His performing background with the Concert Band and Country Current allows him the insight to meet any touring challenge before it has a chance to become a problem.

background... I have been fortunate to be part of a musical family. My father was a horn teacher and band director at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln). My mom was a piano/organ teacher/performer. (I attended a LOT of concerts and recitals as a child.) My first music lessons were on piano, followed by violin and finally drums, which seemed to stick. I had good teachers and great exposure to many different kinds of music (all those recitals/concerts again!). While in high school I spent two fantastic summers at the Interlochen National Music Camp (Mich.). It was wonderful to play in bands and orchestras conducted by masters like William Revelli, Frederick Fennel and even Aaron Copland. My first year of college I attended Wichita State University then transferred to the University of Nebraska (Lincoln) where I received my bachelor's degree. I received a master's degree at Indiana University of Pennsylvania which led me to my first "real" job as percussion instructor/assistant band director at the University of Wisconsin (Green Bay).

While at Green Bay, I met Earl Louder, a world class euphonium performer/teacher and former member of The United States Navy Band. He performed with my band and shared many stories about his Navy Band days, and when the Navy Band had a percussion opening, I decided to take the audition. I survived boot camp, came to DC and have just completed my 20th year with what I consider the finest group of musicians AND people anywhere! In retrospect, all my prior opportunities and especially performing experience made it an easy transition to the Navy Band.

career changes... My first assignment with The United States Navy Band was eleven irreplaceable years as a percussionist and later timpanist with the Concert Band. It was like a dream come true, performing with some of the finest players in the world, everyday, at home and on the road. On top of that, we performed many concerts and ceremonies that became part of our American History. It was also during this time I became a "plank-holder" in our newly organized Tour Operations Department.

In the early 90s there was a drum set opening in the Country Current and the



Visit us on the web at www.navyband.navy.mil

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