



fanfare

MARCH - APRIL ★ VOLUME 20 ★ NUMBER 3

Twenty-Second International Saxophone Symposium



Jean-Marie Londeix (center) gives some pointers to saxophonist Chris Batchelder as interpreter, Dr. William H. Street looks on.



Cmdr. Gambone, guest conductor Rodney Winther (second from right), and members of the Empire Saxophone Quartet after a successful performance of Michael Colgrass' "Urban Requiem."

from Saxophone Symposium

saxophonists. World-renowned artist and teacher, Jean-Marie Londeix from Bordeaux, France conducted two master classes and was the subject of a lecture and multimedia presentation by James C. Umble. Jim Carroll of "Jamey Aebersold" fame gave a clinic on beginning

improvisation to a standing room only crowd.

The final concert by the Commodores with guest artist Gary Smulyan had the 1300 seat audience jumping in their seats. Smulyan's fingers were flying faster than an F-16 being launched from a carrier deck. When asked his thoughts on the

symposium, he said, "It's an honor for me to share the stage with the Commodores. It is also important for young saxophonists to have an open dialogue to listen and play in a supportive environment." ff

from Country Current

throughout the country as featured performers at festivals, in support of Navy Recruiting and as part of the Navy Band's "Music in the Schools" program, Country Current continues to offer the finest in country/bluegrass music.

The group will be releasing a new compact disc, entitled "Havin' A Ball"

this summer. *Navy Band recordings are distributed free of charge and are restricted to educational institutions, public libraries, and radio stations. Because recordings are produced with appropriated government funds, they may not be distributed for private use and are not for*

sale. Please have your local library send us a letter of request on library letterhead and we'll be glad to send them a copy. We hope you enjoyed this article and look forward to features about our other groups in upcoming issues of fanfare. ff

In its first major concert of the new year, The United States Navy Band under the direction of Cmdr. Ralph M. Gambone and the Commodores jazz ensemble led by Master Chief Musician Leland V. Gause, hosted the 22nd International Saxophone Symposium. George Mason University's beautiful campus was the perfect venue for enthusiasts to witness the amazing talents of a host of internationally known artists who have dedicated their lives to the saxophone. Guest artists included Jean-Marie Londeix, the Empire Saxophone Quartet, James C.

Umble and Gary Smulyan. The opening concert featured the Navy Band and special guest soloists James C. Umble and the Empire Saxophone Quartet who performed Michael Colgrass' contemporary and challenging "Urban Requiem." Guest conductor Rodney Winther commented that he "... appreciated the Navy Band for showing a level of commitment to perform a work of this magnitude. With a group of professionals like this, you

can play a higher level of material." James C. Umble, who performed Heitor Villa-Lobos' "Fantasia," stated "I've been attending the Navy Band Saxophone Symposiums since the early 80s, and the connections I have made here were pivotal in my career. The Navy Band offers a tremendous service to the music community." Saturday provided clinics and workshops for saxophonists of all ages to learn from and play with some of the world's best



Chief Musician Scott Silbert and guest artist Gary Smulyan trade some "hot licks" on the baritone saxophone.

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Performance Calendar

MARCH

Navy Band
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 8 P.M.
Montgomery College
Performing Arts Center
51 Mannakee St.
Rockville, Md.

Commodores
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 7:30 P.M.
Patuxent High School
12485 Rousby Hall Rd.
Lusby, Md.

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 8 P.M.
Shenandoah University
Armstrong Auditorium
1460 University Dr.
Winchester, Va.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 7:30 P.M.
River Hill High School
12101 Clarksville Pike
Clarksville, Md.

Country Current
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1:30 P.M.
Eastern Shore Hospital Center
2810 Park Dr.
Cambridge, Md.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 7 P.M.*
Navy Museum (Bldg. 76)
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C.

*For FREE reservations call (202) 433-6897.
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 7:30 P.M.
The Lyceum
201 S. Washington St.
Alexandria, Va.

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 11:00 A.M.
Jewish Community Center
Kreeger Auditorium
6125 Montrose Rd.
Rockville, Md.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, NOON
Blessing of the Fleet
Navy Memorial
701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Country Current
bluegrass quartet
SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1:30 P.M.*
White House Visitors Center
1450 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.
*For more information call (202) 208-1631.

Ceremonial Band
SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1 P.M.
Blessing of the Fleet
Navy Memorial
701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

APRIL

Navy Band
MONDAY, APRIL 5, TBD
Easter Egg Roll
The White House (South Lawn)
Washington, D.C.
FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 8 P.M.*
Metz Jr. High School
9700 Fairview Ave.
Manassas, Va.
*For FREE ticket information call
Historic Manassas, Inc. at (703) 361-6599.

Country Current
SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 3 P.M.
Sharptown Firemans Memorial
Building
Joe Morgan Rd.
Sharptown, Md.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 7:30 P.M.
All-Eastern Band and Instrumental
Clinic
Naval Amphibious Base
Little Creek Theater
Little Creek, Va.

Chamber Music
Ensembles
SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 6 P.M.
Temple Baptist Church
6916 Dogwood Rd.
Baltimore, Md.

Windjammers
woodwind quintet
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 7 P.M.*
Navy Museum (Bldg. 76)
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C.
*For FREE reservations call (202) 433-6897.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 12:15 P.M.
National Bldg. Museum
401 F St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY

Navy Band
FRIDAY, MAY 7, 8 P.M.
Maryland Hall
801 Chase St.
Annapolis, Md.

Commodores
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 7:30 P.M.
Millersville University
Lyte Auditorium
Millersville, Pa.

Commodores combo
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 7 P.M.*
Navy Museum (Bldg. 76)*
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C.
*For FREE reservations call (202) 433-6897.

Country Current
SUNDAY, MAY 2, 4 P.M.
Dolphin Beach
Waterway Dr.
Montclair, Va.
FRIDAY, MAY 7, 7 P.M.
Rockburn Park
6145 Montgomery Rd.
Elkridge, Md.

Chamber Music
Ensembles
SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2 P.M.
Glenview Mansion
603 Edmonston Dr.
Rockville, Md.

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.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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617 Warrington Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20374-5054
(202) 433-2525

Official Business

fanfare



It is indeed a pleasure to address you for the first time as the Leader of the Navy Band and to convey my message through our new *fanfare* format.

For those of you who have been receiving *fanfare* for years, I'm sure you'll like the new format with its new features. We really like the style and function, and for those of you who watch how we spend your tax dollars, you will be glad to know the cost of producing the new *fanfare*, although bimonthly, is the same as the former version.

In February the Navy Band departs on its national concert tour of the Southwest followed by the Sea Chanters who depart in March for a two-week tour of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. These annual public relations tours are used to support our Navy's recruiting efforts and to bring the Navy's premier musical ensembles to the American public. Our groups are able to bring a real Navy presence to cities and towns where ships are unable to go. Based on the hundreds of letters we receive as a result of these tours, I can tell you that our musical units are very much appreciated by all our patrons. We at the Navy Band feel very proud to be able to serve our Navy and our country in this manner.

On March 4, 2000, the Navy Band officially commences the celebration of its 75th Anniversary. We have many plans in motion on how we will celebrate this auspicious occasion. Special recordings, concerts and tours will all be part of the celebration, including a combined national concert tour to the Southeast by the Navy Band and Sea Chanters chorus commencing in February 2000 and ending with a gala concert in Washington on the anniversary date. We will keep you posted of these festivities.

On behalf of all the members of the Navy Band I thank you for your continued support and hope to see you at future performances.

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

NOTABLE QUOTES

"I'm delighted to be here. CDR Gambone is a delight to work with."

-Dr. James C. Umble

"If you want to play, it's a tremendous opportunity."

-Concerning careers in the military bands

-Dr. James C. Umble

"It was an honor for me to take part in North America's major symposium for our instrument... and work with our best musicians in concert presentations and an aesthetic environment."

-Dr. William H. Street

History of Country Current

The year was 1972. Television shows like "Laugh-In" and "Hee-Haw" were the rage. The war in Vietnam was winding down, support for the military was low and enlistments were lagging as the draft was phased out in favor of an all volunteer force. Commander Donald W. Stauffer, the Navy Band's fourth leader, understood the value of music as a recruiting tool, and believed a specialty group that could appeal to a grassroots audience in America's heartland would be just the vehicle to do it.

Building on the success of the Navy Band's recently formed "Commodores" jazz ensemble, Commander Stauffer set out to establish a country music group. He approached Navy Recruiting about the idea, and in support they notified local recruiters across the nation that The United States Navy Band was forming a country music group. Through Stauffer's vision, the Navy Band was the first military band to offer this popular and exciting music to the public.



Country Current, 1973
Left to right: D. Meyers, E. Davidson, R. Faylor, B. Emerson, T. Parker, R. Kaufmann, L. Watts



Country Current country-bluegrass group, 1999
Left to right: W. Taylor, J. Emrich, D. Sutton, P. White, J. Wheatley, K. Arneson, R. Sullivan

The group was built around a nucleus of musicians already serving the band in various capacities. Musician's First Class Eddie Davidson and Dan Meyers from Missouri were recruited as a result of the nationwide search for country musicians.

With these talented young musicians and core of veteran Navy Band professionals, the group rehearsed and debuted as "Country Tide" in a joint concert with the renowned

bluegrass band, the "Country Gentlemen" at Departmental Auditorium in Washington, D.C. in late 1972.

Chief Musician Bill Emerson became the musical leader of the group, set them on course and in 1973 they took the name "Country Current." As the group's national reputation grew, they were invited to perform live on the "Ralph Emerson Show" in Nashville.

Chief Emerson proceeded to mold and develop Country Current's sound as personnel continued to change. With the arrival of Senior Chief Musician Jerry Gilmore in 1976 as co-leader and master of ceremonies, the group's popularity continued to increase. It was during this

period that Country Current acquired the talents of Musician First Class Jeffrey Agnew as the first pedal steel guitar player to give the band that "special" country sound. About the same time, Musician First Class Michael Stein brought his unique fiddle and vocal talents to Country Current. His gift for songwriting was also an asset, and later would bring the group international recognition for its recording of "We Are With You" during "Operation Desert Storm" in 1991.

Through the years, Country Current has performed with some of country/bluegrass music's biggest stars including the Statler Brothers, Charlie Daniels, Boots Randolph, Suzy Boggus, Kathy Mattea, Alison Krauss, John Anderson, Jerry Reed and the late Bill Monroe.

A favorite of Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush and Clinton, Country Current is in constant demand for White House receptions and barbecues on the lawn. As international ambassadors of good will, Country Current accompanied President Bush to the Republic of China, and also performed at International Tattoos in Sweden and Nova Scotia.

Country Current celebrated its 25th Anniversary on April 19, 1998 with a concert at Fairfax High School in Fairfax, Va. The group's present leader Master Chief Musician Robert Sullivan continues the proud tradition started by Master Chief Musician Bill Emerson. Appearing in concert

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Musician First Class Mel Kincaid, tenor vocalist with the Sea Chanters, on his selection as the Navy Band's 1998 "Sailor of the Year."



Chief Musician Hal Fryer, public affairs assistant, on his selection as "Chief of the Quarter" for the period October-December 1998.

Musician First Class Yolanda C. Pelzer,

vocalist with the Commodores, on her selection as "Sailor of the Quarter" for the period October-December.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Chief Musician Sharon E. Barry is the pianist for the "Sea Chanters" chorus and was the Navy Band's 1997 "Sailor of the Year."



beginnings... My piano studies began at age seven and a milestone in my education was accompanying the school chorus in the seventh grade. Mrs. Barbara Davis, an inspirational teacher, groomed and nurtured some spark that she saw in me. Playing for her was truly the beginning of a long journey to my present position.

education and work experience... After graduating from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., I enlisted in the Navy in 1977 and was assigned to Navy Band New Orleans. I left the Navy in 1981 to attend the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where I received a master's degree in Church Music with a specialization in piano performance in 1985. After a year of teaching K-6 general music in the New Orleans public school system, the doors were opened for me to come back into the Navy Music Program and I reentered the Navy in 1989 with a tour of duty in Navy Band San Diego. In 1995 I was assigned to my present position with the Sea Chanters.

goals ... I hope that I will never allow myself to stagnate musically, professionally, or as a person. I want to further develop my ability to listen and help others when needed.

hobbies ... Our schedule can be overwhelming at times, but when possible I enjoy listening to live and recorded music, going to the theater and the movies. My husband Stan and I are very involved with our church so our free time is pretty well filled! **ff**