

REUNION

Country Current



THE UNITED STATES
NAVY BAND
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AMERICA'S
NAVYTM



The United States Navy Band Country Current is the Navy's premier country/bluegrass ensemble. The group is nationally renowned for its versatility and phenomenal musicianship, performing a blend of modern country music and cutting-edge bluegrass. This seven-member ensemble employs musicians from diverse backgrounds with extensive high-profile recording and touring experience in the music scenes of Nashville, New York, New Orleans and more. In the tradition of country music, each member is a skilled performer on multiple instruments. The band uses banjo, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, mandolin, fiddle, electric bass, upright bass, dobro, pedal steel guitar and drum set.

Country Current was officially formed in 1973 by Cmdr. Donald Stauffer, the fourth leader of the Navy Band. However, its framework began a year earlier in 1972, when musicians Eddie Davidson (lead guitar and emcee), Larry Watts (bass), Dan Meyers (guitar), Bob Faylor

(drum set), Tensel (Parker) Leach, (vocals) and Bob Kaufman (fiddle/mandolin) came together as the ensemble known as "Country Tide." During a performance at DAR Constitution Hall, in Washington, D.C., they met Bill Emerson, a well-known banjoist in the country/bluegrass music scene. After expressing interest in joining the Navy, he was recruited specifically to lead the group, renamed Country Current. Its purpose as a specialty group was to expand the reach and diversify audiences of the Navy Band, which it did quite successfully. Under Emerson's leadership, the group became an instant hit, making an appearance at the Grand Ole Opry shortly thereafter, and performing for the Academy of Country Music Awards just a few years later. Members of Country Current have been among the top instrumentalists in their field, a tradition that continues to this day.

Country Current's bluegrass group showcases six members in an acoustic setting, performing traditional, contemporary and original

bluegrass compositions. Bill Emerson established the ensemble in 1989 and they quickly began playing to standing room-only audiences in libraries and concert halls in the Washington metropolitan area. Soon after, the group received national attention on TNN's "Nashville Now," WWVA's "Wheeling Jamboree" and at Opryland Park. Over the years, they have performed with legendary bluegrass artists such as Alison Kraus, Nickel Creek, Rhonda Vincent and the "Father of Bluegrass," the late Bill Monroe.

Throughout its existence, the ensemble has been in constant demand by the nation's most prominent bluegrass festivals. In 1992, they traveled with the Ceremonial Band to perform at the Swedish Army Tattoo in Stockholm, and performed at the 1994 International Bluegrass Music Association's "Showcase," followed by performances at the IBMA's "Awards Show" and "FanFest" in both 1997 and 2000. Also in 2000, the group was featured at the Folk Festival in Anchorage, Alaska, and in 2001 at the Mississippi Bluegrass Reunion in Purvis, Mississippi. In 2011, Country Current became the first military band to perform at South by Southwest in Austin, Texas. Today, the group routinely performs at festivals such as Darrington, Windgap, Gettysburg, Lake Havasu and Grass Valley.

Since its inception, Country Current has been a favorite of the most senior government officials, regularly for the president, vice president, secretary of the Navy, chief of naval operations, chairman and vice-chairman of the

Joint Chiefs of Staff, the master chief petty officer of the Navy and numerous other dignitaries. The group has also performed overseas in Stockholm, Nova Scotia and Beijing, as well as at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans. Reaching out to communities both locally and nationally, they regularly perform for veterans, elementary schools, and in support



of our active-duty Sailors. With a fun-filled and family-friendly stage show, Country Current has been delighting its fans for 45 years with their musical virtuosity and humor.

Tonight's performance has special meaning: it's the first time original members of the ensemble are joining the celebration. The concert will highlight the great legacy of the ensemble and will feature many of its notable alumni. Each former member has chosen a few songs to perform, accompanied by other alumni as well as current members of today's Country Current.



San Pedro Sula, Honduras

NAVY MUSIC

Every year, Navy musicians present 6,000 performances across the United States and around the world, connecting with millions of people. The Navy's 11 bands represent the Navy in a musical capacity by stimulating pride, esprit de corps, retention and recruiting, promoting national and international public relations, and enhancing the prestige of the Navy.

Navy bands **go where ships can't go** to expand and strengthen our network of partners. In a typical year, Navy bands travel to more than 40 countries, helping to improve access and relationships abroad.

Here at home, Sailor musicians play an important role honoring the long and proud tradition of naval service. While traveling all across the country, Navy bands come together with communities to honor and celebrate the service of veterans.

Whether performing for school children in Asia, entertaining crowds in the Midwest, or participating in funerals at Arlington National Cemetery, your Navy bands are connecting people from all walks of life to America's Navy.

UNITED STATES NAVY BAND

The United States Navy Band is the premier musical organization of the U.S. Navy. Comprised of six primary performing groups as well as a host of smaller ensembles, "The World's Finest" is capable of playing any style of music in any setting.

Since its inception in 1925, the Navy Band has been entertaining audiences and supporting the Navy with some of the best musicians in the country, performing for more than 270 public concerts and 1,300 ceremonies each year. From national concert tours to presidential inaugurations to memorial services at Arlington National Cemetery, the Navy Band proudly represents the men and women of the largest, most versatile, most capable naval force on the planet today: America's Navy.

The United States Navy Band, nationally and internationally, stands for musical and military excellence.

The Navy Band is dedicated to the education of younger musicians. The Music in the Schools program features band members presenting clinics, master classes and recitals at local schools. Every spring, the Concert Band hosts their annual Young Artist Solo Competition.

The United States Navy Band, nationally and internationally, stands for musical and military excellence. Whether performing at Carnegie Hall, the White House or a rural civic auditorium; sharing the stage with Ernest Borgnine, Itzhak Perlman, Branford Marsalis or Vince Gill; or appearing on television programs like "Today," "Meet the Press" and "Good Morning America" and in films like "Clear and Present Danger," the United States Navy Band is constantly reaffirming why they are "The World's Finest."

COUNTRY CURRENT

Saturday, May 19, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.
Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall

MISSOURI

Musician 1st Class Kenny Ray Horton

WHEREVER YOU ARE

Musician 1st Class Kenny Ray Horton

HONKY TONK HEART

John Neel, Lonnie Wilson

WHO'S CHEATIN' WHO

Jerry Hayes

AMERICAN SATURDAY NIGHT

Ashley Gorley, Kelly Lovelace, Brad Paisley

* ALUMNI BAND *

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

Bob Thiele

*Musician 1st Class (ret.) Eddie Davidson,
guitar/vocals*

WALKIN' AFTER MIDNIGHT

Alan W. Block

Musician 1st Class (ret.) Tensel (Parker) Leach, vocals

LET ME BE THERE

John Rostill

*Musician 1st Class (ret.) Tensel (Parker) Leach,
vocals, Musician 1st Class (ret.) Eddie Davidson,
guitar, Chief Musician (ret.) Larry Watts, bass*

WHERE DID COUNTRY GO

Master Chief Musician (ret.) Jerry Gilmore

*Master Chief Musician (ret.) Jerry Gilmore,
guitar/vocals*

HEART OVER MIND

Mel Tillis

Master Chief Musician (ret.) Jerry Gilmore, guitar

STATUE OF A FOOL

J. Crutchfield

Musician 1st Class (ret.) Ben Winter, guitar/vocals



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Willie Nelson

Musician 1st Class (ret.) Ben Winter, guitar/vocals

THEME TIME

Master Chief Musician (ret.) Bill Emerson

Master Chief Musician (ret.) Bill Emerson, banjo

APPALOOSA

Master Chief Musician (ret.) Wayne Taylor

Master Chief Musician (ret.) Wayne Taylor, guitar/vocals

HEART OF CAROLINE

Master Chief Musician (ret.) Wayne Taylor

Master Chief Musician (ret.) Wayne Taylor, guitar/vocals

LEGEND IN MY TIME

Master Chief Musician (ret.) Wayne Taylor

Master Chief Musician (ret.) Wayne Taylor, guitar/vocals

CHEROKEE SHUFFLE

Traditional

Senior Chief Musician (ret.) Keith Arneson, banjo

FINALE



U.S. NAVY BAND

COMMANDING OFFICER

CAPT.
Kenneth C. Collins, conductor
Reno, Nevada

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LT. CMDR.
Mark K. Corbliss
Jersey City, New Jersey

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

MASTER CHIEF MUSICIAN
Kevin T. Dines
Washington, D.C.

COUNTRY CURRENT

BANJO, GUITAR AND VOCALS

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Haley E. Stiltner
Windsor, Virginia

FIDDLE, MANDOLIN AND VOCALS

SENIOR CHIEF MUSICIAN
Patrick J. White
Williamsport, Maryland

DRUMS

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Christina M. Catalanotto
Slidell, Louisiana

PEDAL STEEL GUITAR AND DOBRO

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Henry A. Johns
Huntington Beach, California

GUITAR

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Joseph M. Friedman
St. Louis, Missouri

EMCEE, GUITAR AND LEAD VOCALIST

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Kenneth Ray Horton
Rocky Comfort, Missouri

ELECTRIC BASS, STRING BASS AND VOCALS

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Daniel J. Stewart
Laceyville, Pennsylvania

AUDIO PRODUCTION ENGINEER

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Brandon P. Lennon
Washington, Massachusetts

FORMER MEMBERS

BANJO

MASTER CHIEF MUSICIAN
William H. Emerson

SENIOR CHIEF MUSICIAN
Keith Arneson

MUSICIAN 2ND CLASS
Harold E. Kehr

VOCALS

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Tensel (Parker) Leach

EMCEE, GUITAR AND LEAD VOCALIST

MASTER CHIEF MUSICIAN
Wayne Taylor

MASTER CHIEF MUSICIAN
Jerry E. Gilmore

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Robert "Eddie" Davidson

GUITAR

MASTER CHIEF MUSICIAN
Robert Sullivan III

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Daniel Meyers

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Frank Solivan II

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Benjamin A. Winter

FIDDLE, MANDOLIN AND VOCALS

SENIOR CHIEF MUSICIAN
Michael Stein

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Robert T. Kaufmann

PEDAL STEEL GUITAR

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Jeffrey N. Agnew

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Bradley Corbin

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Patrick Gulley

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
David Sutton

ELECTRIC/STRING BASS AND VOCALS

SENIOR CHIEF MUSICIAN
Michael "Mick" Nicholson

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Larry D. Watts

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Jeremy Middleton

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Bryan Smith

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Charles Patrick Verner

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Joseph Wheatley

DRUMS

MASTER CHIEF MUSICIAN
Joseph L. Barnes

MASTER CHIEF MUSICIAN
Robert Snider

SENIOR CHIEF MUSICIAN
Gary Griswold

CHIEF MUSICIAN
John Emerich

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Dale L. Vanderpool

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Robert Faylor

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
William Kreitner

AUDIO PRODUCTION ENGINEER

SENIOR CHIEF MUSICIAN
David Morse

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Brian P. Bowman

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Conrad C. Reynolds

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Scott A. Shepherd

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Louis Brown

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Robert Palmer

MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
Christopher M. Trupe



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