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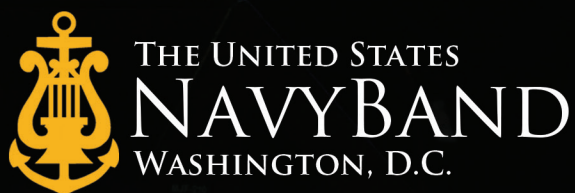
Fall 2019 Vol. 40 No. 2

COMMODORES CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

AFRICA PARTNERSHIPS

NAVY VETERAN IN BLUEGRASS HALL OF FAME

SPOTLIGHT ON
MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS DANLIE CUENCA



AMERICA'S
NAVY™

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It has been another exciting year at your United States Navy Band! All year long, we have been celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Commodores; in September, we hosted a special concert featuring both current and former members of the band. What a thrill to see so much jazz history on one stage.

Twelve Navy musicians were advanced to chief petty officer in September; seven at the U.S. Navy Band and five from fleet bands. One of the greatest joys of my job is to be able to participating in these promotions, where we watch our next generation of leaders put on those chief's anchors for the very first time. Seeing these newest chiefs, I know that the future of our Navy bands is secure.

In October, we celebrated our Navy's 244th birthday with one of our biggest concerts of the year. We were lucky to have in attendance a Navy veteran who was involved in the Apollo 11 mission, which you can read about in this issue. His presence served as a living connection to a not-so-distant past, when we watched with bated breath as humanity challenged Earth's boundaries.

Thank you always for your support, and we hope to see you at a concert soon!

Kenneth C. Collins, Captain, USN
Commanding Officer

Front cover: BETHESDA, Md. (Oct. 02, 2019) Musician 1st Class Danlie Cuenca performs during the Navy Birthday Concert with the U.S. Navy Band at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, Maryland, for the celebration of the 244th birthday of the U.S. Navy. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)

Page 3 photo: BETHESDA, Md. (Oct. 02, 2019) Musician 1st Class Trevor Shiflett plays electric guitar during the Navy Birthday Concert at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, Maryland, for the celebration of the 244th birthday of the U.S. Navy. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)

NO HIGHER HONOR

CELEBRATING THE NAVY'S 244TH BIRTHDAY

by Musician 1st Class April E. Enos

As the nation celebrates the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing, we remember the thousands of men and women involved in fulfilling President John F. Kennedy's 1962 charge to the nation to land a man on the moon before the end of the decade.

Among them was 25-year old Navy Lt. Clancy Hatleberg, part of a four-man team whose mission was to decontaminate the command module that brought astronauts Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong and Michael Collins back to Earth after its reentry landing in the Pacific Ocean.

Hatleberg was this year's guest of honor at the Navy's 244th birthday concert, a performance that included a prerecorded interview describing his memories that day, embedded with historic imagery. The production captivated the 1,100 audience members in attendance at The Music Center at Strathmore, in Bethesda, Maryland, as they watched Musician 1st Class Trevor Shifflett perform a moving arrangement of David Bowie's "Space Odyssey." Shifflett's guitar solo soared over a stirring video *(continued on next page)*





BETHESDA, Md. (Oct. 2, 2019) Capt. Kenneth C. Collins directs the Navy Band during the Navy Birthday Concert at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, Maryland, for the celebration of the 244th birthday of the U.S. Navy. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)

reflecting the journey of the Apollo program, bringing the audience along on the historical ride with him.

Vocalist Musician 1st Class Danlie Cuenca segued into Carl Smith and Raynard Miner’s classic “Rescue Me,” while the video narrative transitioned to imagery of Hatleberg’s specific mission. At the conclusion of her feature, Cuenca surprised the audience by introducing Hatleberg himself to the theater, creating an initial response of surprise and awe of their shared space with history itself. Like many Sailors serving today, Hatleberg saw his role in the mission as mostly inconsequential compared to the risks the astronauts themselves faced on a daily basis. It is this humility and devotion to duty that makes his service so remarkable, and echoes

today’s all-volunteer Navy. Every day the quiet heroics of the more than 300,000 active-duty Sailors largely go unnoticed as they perform routine training operations and prescribed duties that keep our Navy forward deployed and worldwide operational. The U.S. Navy Band salutes the service of each individual who played a part in the success of the Apollo 11 mission, and honors the memory of those who perished committed to the ideals of exploration. They remind us all that there is no higher honor than the privilege of serving in our United States Navy. *ff*

BETHESDA, Md. (Oct. 2, 2019) Musicians 1st Class Elena Yakovleva, left, Allison Fletcher, center, and Chief Musician Christina Bayes, right, perform on piccolo during the Navy Birthday Concert with the U.S. Navy Band at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, Maryland, for the celebration of the 244th birthday of the U.S. Navy. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)



FORMER NAVY BAND MEMBER INDUCTED IN BLUEGRASS HALL OF FAME

by Senior Chief Musician Adam Grimm

In its nearly 30-year history, barely 60 artists have been inducted into the International Bluegrass Hall of Fame. Bearing the names of legends like Bill Monroe (often called the “Father of Bluegrass”), Earl Scruggs, Lester Flatt, the Stanley Brothers, the Carter Family and Ricky Skaggs, the list enshrines only the most prominent and accomplished industry artists who have advanced the bluegrass tradition. On September 26, 2019, another name was added to that list: Bill Emerson.

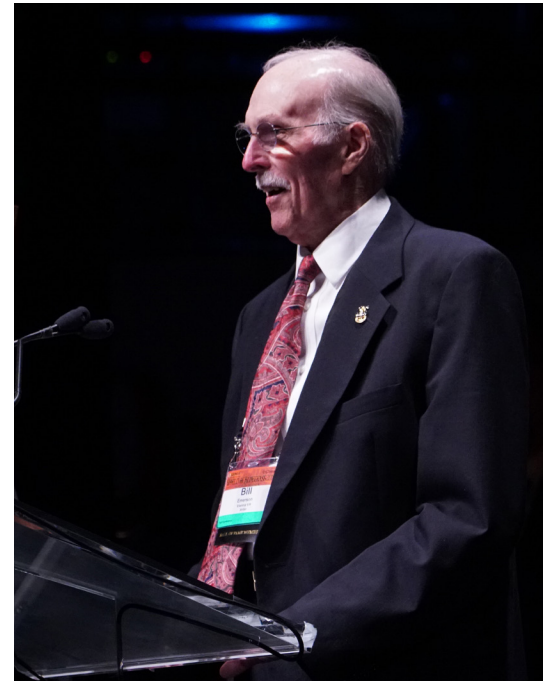
An extraordinary banjoist and one of the inaugural members of the legendary Country Gentlemen, Bill Emerson is also retired Master Chief Musician Bill Emerson, founding member of the U.S. Navy Band’s own Country Current. He enlisted in the Navy in 1973 and served in the Navy Band until his retirement in 1993.

During his acceptance speech, held at the International Bluegrass Music Awards ceremony at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh, North Carolina, Emerson said; “I want to thank everyone at the U.S. Navy Band. That was the experience of a lifetime and I wouldn’t have missed it for anything in the world. And they’re still going, and I’m so proud of those guys.”

Today’s Country Current carries on Emerson’s legacy of musical excellence rooted in naval service. In the week leading up to the awards show, the group performed at the World of Bluegrass (hosted by the International Bluegrass Music Association) in

Raleigh, the Bristol Rhythm and Roots Reunion in Bristol, Virginia and the Dumplin’ Valley Bluegrass Festival in Kodak, Tennessee.

“Bill Emerson has always been a musical hero of mine and it is a tremendous honor and privilege to carry on the tradition that he started with Country Current,” said Musician 1st Class Haley Stiltner, Country Current’s banjoist (only the third in the band’s 46-year history). “His contributions to the genre of bluegrass are invaluable and his induction is well deserved.” *ff*



Retired Master Chief Musician Bill Emerson speaks during his induction into the International Bluegrass Hall of Fame at the International Bluegrass Music Awards at Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh, North Carolina. (Photo by Dan Schram/Released)



Chief Musician Bill Emerson on the cover of Fanfare in 1974.

U.S. NAVY BAND **SOLO COMPETITION**

YOUNG ARTIST SOLO COMPETITION

The U.S. Navy Band’s Young Artist Solo Competition is open to all students currently enrolled in grades 9 through 12. Visit our website for information on how to apply for this unique opportunity. Deadline for submissions is **Jan. 5, 2020.**

Top prize includes a solo performance with the Concert Band and The Ambassador Middendorf Young Artist Award of **\$1,000.**





ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Sept. 22, 2019) Retired Chief Musician Yolanda Pelzer-Parker, left, Retired Musician 1st Class Leslie Summy, center, and Musician 1st Class Kristine Hsia perform with the U.S. Navy Band commodores jazz ensemble as they celebrate 50 years of jazz in the Navy. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)

COMMODORES CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

by Senior Chief Musician Adam Grimm

With the ensemble swinging away on Artie Shaw's "Traffic Jam," the voice of Musician 1st Class Kristine Hsia echoes throughout the concert hall. "Celebrating 50 years as the Navy's premier jazz ensemble, the United States Navy Band Commodores!" Senior Chief Musician Bill Mulligan steps out in front of the band, his clarinet soaring above the other instruments.

The Commodores begin nearly every public performance this way, but this particular concert is different. On Sept. 22, at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria, Virginia, current and past members of the group gathered to pay tribute to all of the musicians who made, and continue to make, the Commodores one of the preeminent jazz ensembles in the world. The group is celebrating its 50th anniversary all year long, including

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Sept. 22, 2019) Trombone section alumni of the U.S. Navy Band commodores jazz ensemble perform with the band celebrating 50 years of jazz in the Navy. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)

upcoming performances at The Midwest Clinic and Jazz Education Network Conference. This concert, however, was an opportunity to bring back Commodores alumni to perform alongside the current members.

"It was an incredibly special experience for me, mostly because we got to meet and talk with all of the alumni," said Mulligan. "It really brought home to me that, while we all get to enjoy long careers here individually, we are a part of something much bigger, something that started long before we got here and hopefully will continue for a long time after we leave. One of the highlights of my career."



More than 40 alumni attended the concert, with 23 of the former members performing on stage. With the current members of the band, that accounts for almost half of the approximately 130 musicians who've called the Commodores home over the last half-century.

After the ensemble's energetic start with "Traffic Jam," they brought out Hsia to sing the classic "Everyday (I Have the Blues)," followed by Musician 1st Class Jonathan Barnes' original "Mosaic." The rest of the concert featured alumni, both sitting in with the band and soloing out front.

For Sonny Rollins' "Doxy," the Commodores brought out a bass trombone quartet, as well as featuring every trombonist on stage. What made this quartet special was that it represented the entire history of Commodores bass trombonists: retired Senior Chief Musician Jim Randall, retired Master Chief Musician Lee Gause, retired Musician 1st Class Mark Morgan and Master Chief Musician Matt Neff.

Another highlight came during the hard swinging

"Battery Charger," when four drummers, retired Master Chief Musician Gary Elliott, retired Senior Chief Musician Leonard Cuddy, Senior Chief Musician John Parsons and Musician 1st Class Kevin McDonald, rotated their way through the drum chair during an epic drum solo.

Near the end of the performance, the Commodores played Senior Chief Musician Rob Holmes' arrangement of the Navy hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save," to honor the members of the group that have passed away. The name of each deceased member was projected on the screen behind the band.

Retired Chief Musician Ron Diehl said it best after the concert. "I was so proud of how the band has kept the flame alive for all these years. The professionalism and spirit came through on the concert, as the artistic

level kept rising, and excitement grew."

We all look forward to another wonderful 50 years from the Navy's premier jazz ensemble, the Commodores! *ff*

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***"It really brought home to me that, while we all get to enjoy long careers here individually, we are a part of something much bigger, something that started long before we got here..."*** - Senior Chief Musician William Mulligan  
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U.S. NAVY BAND **HOLIDAY CONCERT**

Saturday, Dec. 21, at 3 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 21, at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 22, at 3 p.m.

Unable to attend this year's holiday concerts? Go to our website, www.navyband.navy.mil, prior to the start of each concert for a link to watch each performance online!

SPOTLIGHT ON MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS DANLIE CUENCA

by Chief Musician Casey Campbell

The Cruisers popular music group's talented new vocalist recently joined the U.S. Navy Band after serving five years at Navy Band Great Lakes, where she was named the 2018 Naval Service Training Command Bluejacket of the Year.

Please tell us about your childhood and musical education.

I was born in the Philippines in 1995. My dad was already here in the United States; he got here in 1994. He would come back to the Philippines to visit us every other year for a couple months. I got to the states in September 2003. I didn't really know much English growing up; I was raised on mostly Tagalog, which is the official language of the Philippines. I was an only child until 2002 and my mom really took advantage of that. As soon as I was able to sing my "ABCs," she was like, "Okay, I'm hearing my child, and I feel like she's got something going on with her voice," and that's when it started. She had me learn Céline Dion and Whitney Houston songs; a lot of power ballads. I took up trombone when I got to middle school because ironically I didn't want to be in the choir. I was a proud band geek all through high school. I didn't join the choir until my junior year, but throughout that time I would still be singing songs to myself all the time.

How did you decide to be a Navy Musician?

In high school I was also in Navy JROTC. Our competition teams were very tight and I enjoyed that discipline and training very much. At one point I wanted to join the Marine Corps. There was a talent show at my high school during my senior year and the guy who was setting up the sound system was a retired Navy musician who also happened to be my choir director's husband; retired Master Chief Musician Rick Jasper. He heard me sing and told her, "Hey, we should have her audition for the Navy Music Program!" So she told me about that, and I said it couldn't hurt to prepare a couple songs and sing for a couple of people. So I got in contact with someone at Fleet Forces Band and had my audition two weeks later. As soon as the audition was over they said, "You're hired! Welcome to the Navy Music

Program!" I was going to join the military anyway, but I didn't know what I was going to do until I found out that the Navy hires vocalists, and well, that was that.

What are some of your most memorable Navy performances?

Since I arrived here, I would say this summer's Concert on the Avenue series was incredibly meaningful to me. As someone who started my Navy career in a fleet band watching these guys perform from a distance, whether it was on YouTube or Facebook, and then suddenly finding myself not only sharing a stage with them, but being a featured vocalist... well, it's hard to put into words. It's been surreal. I still come to work most days and can't believe that I get to work in this building. I feel like my experience in the fleet has given me such a solid foundation to build on, and I'm just grateful for the opportunities I've been given.

This October was Filipino-American History Month. How does your heritage as a Filipino-American influence you as a person and as a performer?

I feel privileged to have known another life living in the Philippines for the first seven years of my life, because it's so different than anything I would have experienced here. My backyard was a mango forest, and maybe a mile from my house there was also a mountain range. My neighbors were my cousins and everybody knew everybody in the village. Part of me misses it because all of my mom's family is still there, but at the same time I love being here in the states and I still have so much to discover around the country. I haven't been to the Western part of the country so I'm pretty excited to explore that area. Family is a really big thing in the Philippines, and you don't even have to be related; if you grew up with somebody then they're like family. They would drop in every day. "Hey, have you had dinner? What are you guys cooking? Can I have some?" Nobody would bat an eye. "Yeah, sure, come join us for dinner." I really miss that closeness and sense of community. Here that means I say hi to everybody

even if I don't know you. Even the audience members, the shy ones. I learned that from my mom; she instilled in me that sense of finding a connection with people. For me, when I perform, I kind of take it all in and remember that everybody's different, but in some ways we're all the same. I'm never going to know what everyone is going through, so any little thing I can do on stage to make them feel included feels significant. It feels good to be included in something.

What's it like to sing with the Cruisers?

Oh I love it! They're my kind of people. We're all really loud in our own unique ways, but also really similar. I'm very comfortable being around them and they made me feel really welcome when I got here. A lot of us have backgrounds as prior fleet band musicians, and I think those experiences deepen our sense of family. We almost instinctively recreate that small fleet band feeling because it's just such a core part of who we are. Collectively, our sense of humor is the same so it definitely makes for a good group and a lot of enjoyable interaction. They're all just incredibly talented, great musicians, and great people too. *ff*

READING, Pa. (July 6, 2019) Musician 1st Class Danlie Cuenca, from Norfolk, Va., dances to the music during the Cruisers performance at Community Days 2019 at Governor Mifflin Senior High School. (U.S. Navy photo illustration by Musician 1st Class Sarah Blecker/Released)



NAVY BAND ORCHESTRATES PARTNERSHIPS IN AFRICA

By Musician 1st Class Joseph Schoonmaker, U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band

The U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band's brass band, "Topside," recently returned from a six-week deployment to the Gulf of Guinea aboard USNS Carson City (T-EPF 7) in support of Africa Partnership Station (APS). The deployment took us to Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Cabo Verde, each country providing unforgettable opportunities to make connections with people from all walks of life, with diverse cultural backgrounds, using the universal language of music. When we visit countries where language creates a barrier to interaction, music acts as an international language that helps build true and lasting partnerships.

We met the USNS Carson City in Dakar, Senegal. At the U.S. Embassy's Fourth of July celebration, we were joined onstage by the popular djembe



ABIDJAN, Cote d'Ivoire (July 18, 2019) Musician 3rd Class Ray Carega interacts with children during a community relations project at the SOS Children's Village Abobo Gare. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ford Williams/Released)

drummer "Papis." We also enjoyed a collaborative performance with musicians, dancers, and actors from the National School of Arts, during which they taught us a Senegalese folk song. The highlight event in Dakar was a concert at the African Renaissance Monument during the African Cup of Nations soccer tournament. The crowd, watching the matches on a big-screen TV, joined us for a rousing rendition of "Seven Nation Army."

The next leg of the trip was in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. For our performances and radio interviews, the band was accompanied by two French-speaking U.S. Sailors with local connections. One of the Sailors, a naval reservist who grew up in Abidjan,



SEKONDI, Ghana (July 23, 2019) The U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band, embarked aboard USNS Carson City, (T-EPF 7) performs for students at the Naval Basic School in Sekondi, Ghana, July 23, 2019. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sara Eshleman/Released)



TAKORADI, Ghana (July 23, 2019) Students at St. John's Anglican Primary School dance with the U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band, embarked aboard USNS Carson City (T-EPF 7) during a community relations project in Takoradi, Ghana. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sara Eshleman/Released)

taught us an Ivorian folk melody. We played it for the radio shows as well as for live audiences. The students from the University of Felix Houphouet Boigny gave us one of the most enthusiastic receptions we've ever seen, singing, dancing and chanting, "USA! USA!"

Our next stop, Sekondi, Ghana, offered further proof of West African hospitality with a welcome party featuring Ghanaian bands accompanied by traditional dancers, gifts of soccer-style scarves and a red, white and blue cake. While underway from Cote d'Ivoire to Ghana, we learned a folk melody from several Ghanaian sailors who joined Carson City. Audiences immediately recognized the tune and sang along. The music not only brought people together through dancing and singing; it encouraged relationships between other APS crew members and our host-nation partners.

Nigeria brought a welcomed return

"The band exists at the tactical level of relationship building. At the boundary between cultures, the band is the bridge." –Adm. James G. Foggo, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa

Cabo Verde closed out the deployment for us. We were privileged to play "Sodade," a beautiful Cabo Verdean ballad, outside the municipal market in downtown Mindelo. The band played softly and let the crowd carry the tune. It was a special moment and a wonderful reflective way to close out our time in Africa.

We performed 40 times for live and broadcast audiences exceeding 15 million. This mission exemplifies what Navy bands are capable of and how they can contribute to the broader goals of the Navy and the United States and has been the highlight of my career. *ff*

to Lagos for our band, as we had previously visited during exercise Obangame Express in March of this year. Our Nigerian song of choice was "Water No Get Enemy" by Afrobeat legend Fela Kuti. The audience practically jumped out of their seats when we hit the first note! The next day, we performed the same song on Silverbird TV, reaching millions of viewers in and beyond Lagos. Playing Fela Kuti in that city and getting *that* reaction was a special, unforgettable moment in our musical careers.

NAVY BAND **SAXOPHONE SYMPOSIUM**

42nd International Saxophone Symposium

Jan. 10 and 11, 2020
George Mason University
Center for the Performing Arts
Fairfax, Va.

Soloists: Asya Fateyeva, Otis Murphy
Bob Mintzer and the
Navy Band Saxophone Quartet
Special guest clinician Frederick Hemke





ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 31, 2019) Lt. Cmdr. Adam Williamson, director of the U.S. Coast Guard Band conducts the joint service concert at the Annapolis City Dock (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY BAND TEAMS UP WITH COAST GUARD

Musician 1st Class Aden Beery, U.S. Naval Academy Band

The Naval Academy Band has been hard at work throughout the spring semester and summer months, carrying out its primary mission of supporting the Brigade of Midshipmen and official academy functions, all while continuing its outreach in the community. From a first-time collaboration with another service academy band, to showing support for allies in commemoration of a war long ended, to reaching new audiences with a newly formed ensemble, the band has been finding new ways to reach a broader audience.

Over Memorial Day weekend, the band presented a joint service concert with members of the United States Coast Guard Band at the Annapolis City Dock, marking the first time the two service academy bands have shared a stage together. In front of an enthusiastic audience, Lt. Cmdr. Patrick K. Sweeten, director of the U.S. Naval Academy Band, and Lt. Cmdr. Adam Williamson, director of the U.S. Coast Guard Band, each conducted a portion of the program of American music. While most of the audience was seated on dry land, many listened from boats docked in scenic Annapolis Harbor. The two bands are slated to reunite in February, 2020, for a concert in New London, Connecticut.

Earlier in the spring, Sweeten and three members

of the band accompanied the USNA Color Guard to New York City to perform for two Anzac Day services. Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand, commemorating the anniversary of the first military action fought by those country's forces during World War I. Sweeten represented the USNA superintendent and spoke at the ceremony. Senior Chief Musician Matthew Manturuk led the color guard and the musicians into the ceremonies with a drum cadence, Musician 1st Class Matthew Harriman performed on bagpipes and Chief Musician Davy DeArmond rendered the traditional Anzac Day bugle calls. Both services were attended by foreign dignitaries, including the former Australian prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull; former U.S. ambassador to Australia, John Berry; and Australian consul general to New York, Alastair Walton.

Over the summer, "Blues & Gold" officially became the newest ensemble of the Naval Academy Band. Under the direction of Chief Musician Rory Cherry, the group performs classic blues and blues-infused music by artists such as B.B. King and Muddy Waters, and current hits by Joe Bonamassa and Eric Clapton. They spent the summer attracting new fans and playing for appreciative audiences at the Annapolis City Dock and other local venues, as well as events at the Naval Academy. With his southern drawl and easy-going rapport with audiences, Cherry, who performs as guitarist and lead vocalist, has a knack for entertaining. Add a rhythm section and horns, and the resulting high-energy sound had concertgoers singing and dancing to the music.

Musician 1st Class Dan Coffman, the group's trombonist, described the effect "Blues & Gold" has



NEW YORK (May 31, 2019) Musician 1st Class Matthew Harriman performs on bagpipes for one of two Anzac Day services in remembrance of the anniversary of the first military action fought by the forces of Australia and New Zealand during World War I. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

on audiences. “It’s a different style of music that gets people excited and allows us to get out into the community and play concerts with music that people

recognize”, he said. “It fills a public need for outdoor concerts that drum up excitement, especially with veterans and military.” ff

NAVY MUSIC’S NEW CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

By Senior Chief Musician Adam Grimm

It was April 1, 1893, when the Navy promoted its first chief petty officers. The ranks were created for nine occupations: masters at arms, boatswain’s mates, quartermasters, gunner’s mates, machinists, carpenter’s mates, yeomen, apothecaries, and band masters (musicians). For 126 years, chief petty officers have served as a critical link between junior enlisted Sailors and naval officers. Today, as it was 126 years ago, chief petty officers lead and manage musicians in Navy bands all over the world. This year, 12 Navy musicians were advanced to chief petty officer. ff



CHIEF MUSICIAN
David Babich
U.S. NAVY BAND

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Bryce Edwards
U.S. NAVY BAND

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Shawn Purcell
U.S. NAVY BAND

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Travis Siehndel
U.S. NAVY BAND

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Jennifer Stokes
U.S. NAVY BAND

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Michael Webb
U.S. NAVY BAND

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Timothy “Adam” Whitman
U.S. NAVY BAND

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Christopher Bourgeois
U.S. PACIFIC FLEET BAND

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Christopher Eddlemon
NAVY BAND NORTHWEST

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Stephen Hux
U.S. 7TH FLEET BAND

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Joseph Moore
NAVY BAND SOUTHEAST

CHIEF MUSICIAN
Anthony Smouse
U.S. FLEET FORCES BAND

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

COMMODORES

Sitting in the Cape Henlopen high school auditorium in Lewes Delaware, listening to The US Navy Band Commo-dores. Couldn't wait to get home to tell you how great they are! We enjoyed every minute of the jazz concert. Looking forward to having them return to Lewes Delaware again next summer.

- Roseann D.

BRASS QUINTET

Last night I attended a performance by the Navy Band Brass Quintet at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and was completely blown away by the excellence of each of the performers, individually and as an ensemble. As a former member of The United States Army Band ("Pershing's Own"), I am well aware of the numerous demands placed on musicians serving in the military, and the members of the quintet played so well together that one might think that was their only job. They represent both the Navy and the United States well.

- Gary R.

CRUISERS

Thank you for another wonderful performance tonight in Boonsboro, MD! The new lead singer is absolutely amazing! My daughter and I have attended many



of your concerts. She's a 14 year-old patriotic, serious saxophonist and I am hoping to one day see her up on stage with you. Looking forward to next summer's concert series! Thank you for the music. And thank you for our freedom!

- Julie S.

CONCERT BAND

We wanted to let you know that the concert at the Pullo Center in York, PA on April 11, 2019 was awesome!! My husband and I are absolutely amazed at the musical talent that you have in the concert band. We love that you pay tribute to veterans. We live in the best country in the world and we always feel

so good after listening to very inspiring music. Thank you so much!!! God Bless You all.

- Dennis and Linda D.

COUNTRY CURRENT

Just wanted to pass along how much we enjoyed the show at Hagerstown Community College on Sunday, June 23, 2019. So pleasantly surprised to hear that the Navy has a country band! And totally blown away by the talent of all the members. We are folks who still believe that showing pride and patriotism in our country is not only politically correct, but appropriate! We get it - FREEDOM ISN'T FREE! Especially loved the salute to each branch of the armed services (with veterans standing as they were played) and the closing song — Lee Greenwood's God Bless The USA. Thank you again and more than anything, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

- Julia S.

CRUISERS

I want to thank you for the wonderful concert. Special acknowledgement to the retiring chief musician who is retiring after 24 years of loyal service. Her beautiful voice and spoken words express her love of the Navy and her craft. I want to welcome the new member of the Cruisers...[she] sang with such emotion, she is going to be a great fit with fellow musicians. Milton Park





was completely full of joyous listeners and veterans. The songs of tribute for those who served in the military was a proud moment and well appreciated. The Navy Cruisers musicians are the "best of the best".

- Karl B.

CONCERT BAND

I am an old soldier from the Vietnam era. My wife and I, along with several [others] attended the concert on March 1, at the Texas Lutheran University. I am not one that is easily impressed but I have to confess that what I witnessed on that stage was way beyond AWE-SOME. Capt. Collins was excellent in his directing and the concert band went way beyond the call. My wife has never seen any type of concert let alone a military one...she was dumbfounded and said she wished it hadn't ended so soon. A special shout out to Musician 1st Class Sarah Tietz and Senior Chief Courtney Williams. What harmony they have together. And as a choir member at Oakwood in New Braunfels I truly marveled [at] the voice range of Senior Chief Williams. Wow, no wonder he is the voice of the Navy. When I was in junior high I got an old record player and my first two albums purchased were 1) Victory at Sea by Richard Rogers and 2) the U.S. Navy Band with the Sea Chanters. And yet, having grown up as a neighbor to several Navy recruiters.....I ended up in the Army. Well done to all!! You are, what America is all about. Serve Proudly...GO NAVY!

-Larry G.

COUNTRY CURRENT

I was at the steel guitar convention this past weekend and I cannot even begin to tell you how amazing that band is. They have to be the best band I have ever seen in my life. Each and every one of them were the nicest people as well. I stood next to the stage during the performance. I am the one who built the pedal steel guitar for [Musician 1st Class Henry Johns]. I cannot begin to tell you how proud and honored I was to see and hear it being played by this band. I hope to see them again in the future. A major treat for me. I just wanted to pass that along.

-Mike M.

SEA CHANTERS

Attended a performance of the Navy Sea Chanters at Town Hall in La Plata, MD yesterday evening. I was impressed at the level of talent by these folks, and their professionalism. Obviously, they show the best of Navy values! As a Navy veteran myself, I cannot say enough! Totally enjoyed it, and will definitely see them again. Well Done, go Navy!

- William B.

SEA CHANTERS

Because I live in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, I have the privilege of being able to see and hear all of the service bands perform, including the various ensembles. All are world-class performers. Although I am retired Air Force myself, I have to acknowledge that the Navy Band is the best in the area. And of the various ensembles, the Sea Chanters are absolutely the cream of the crop. I have heard the Sea Chanters perform a number of times, most recently on June 15th at the Lorton Workcamp. What great ambassadors for the Navy they are! Their music selection decisions are spot on to what the public loves, and of course they carry out the performance to perfection. I look forward to seeing the Sea Chanters perform again soon.

- David P.





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