

fanfare

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WHAT IT TAKES - AUDITIONING
FOR THE NAVY BAND
CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP
SPOTLIGHT ON MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS
CHELSI VANDERPOL



THE UNITED STATES
NAVY BAND
WASHINGTON, D.C.

A M E R I C A ' S
NAVYTM



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Summer has traditionally been one of our busiest times of the year. In just a three-month period, Navy bands performed 1,453 events for live audiences totaling 2.2 million. That includes two Navy Band national tours, our popular Concert on the Avenue series, fleet band performances at Navy Weeks and Fleet Weeks across the nation, overseas performances in Thailand, Vietnam, Spain, Germany, France, and the Philippines, among others, and ceremonies, including funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery. Your Navy bands are working hard, every day, to represent your Navy here at home, and to represent our great country around the world.

This issue, we're putting the focus on Navy Band auditions. Our Navy musicians perform at a ridiculously high level, and that's not because of luck or good fortune. We make it a point to hire the best of the best. We've spent years honing our audition processes, and we're always looking for ways to innovate and get the best musicians for our Navy. Our standards are as high as they come, because our Navy and nation deserves the best.

Finally, over the last several months, I've had to say goodbye to both my executive officer and senior enlisted advisor. Lt. Cmdr. Mark Corbliss transferred in August to the Naval School of Music to be their commanding officer, and Master Chief Musician Kevin Dines retired this summer after 30 years of service. Both men are fine leaders, and Navy Music is better off today because of their tireless work and dedication.

As always, thank you for your support. We, as a band and as a Navy, wouldn't be able to do what we do without you.


Kenneth C. Collins, Captain, USN
Commanding Officer

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*Front cover: East Rutherford, N.J. (September 9, 2018)
Musician 1st Class Michael Webb of the U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters chorus sings "I Lived" on the field at MetLife Stadium during a halftime show for the opening day game between the New York Giants and the Jacksonville Jaguars. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)*

*Inside front cover: MANHATTAN, Kan. (March 5, 2018)
Capt. Kenneth Collins, commanding officer of the U.S. Navy Band, meets with audience members following a U.S. Navy Band concert at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. The Navy Band performed in 12 states during its 21-city, 5,000-mile tour, connecting communities across the nation to their Navy. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Musician Adam Grimm/Released)*

*Back cover: LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (July 2, 2018)
Musicians 1st Class Manuel Pelayo de Gongora, left, and David Smith perform with the U.S. Navy Band, Cruisers, during a concert at the Disney Springs Marketplace Stage in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The U.S. Navy Band performed in seven cities in Florida, connecting communities to the Navy and building awareness and support for the Navy. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Musician Adam Grimm/Released)*

WHAT IT TAKES

AUDITIONING FOR THE NAVY BAND

by Senior Chief Musician Melissa Bishop

Developing the skills to become a professional musician takes years, decades or, some might say, a lifetime. Members of the U.S. Navy Band have spent much of their lives honing their craft, studying at the country's finest music schools and, in most cases, performing as professional musicians for years before ever joining the band. Take a look at what it takes to get a position in the band—to actually “win the job.”

It was the big day. Clarinetist Amy Eich, from Arlington Heights, Illinois, was about to audition for the United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C., for a position with the Concert/Ceremonial Band. Early on audition day, she arrived at the Sail Loft, the historic building on the Washington Navy Yard that is home to the band, checked in, and was ushered into a large warm-up room where thirty-two other hopeful clarinetists would soon be reviewing their music and finding a good reed. Eich played through her warm-up routine while she watched Netflix with her headphones on so she wouldn't be distracted by the other candidates. She had already picked out her best reeds the day before, so she didn't need to try to do that in a room filled with so many other clarinetists. Once she finished her warm-up, she put her clarinet away and continued to distract herself from her surroundings by watching her favorite show.

Eventually, she was escorted to a small practice room for some time to play by herself. This also meant she was one step closer to her actual audition. It was here that she tested out her reeds to pick her favorite. She played through several of the more challenging musical excerpts one last time for reassurance and then put her clarinet down. Eich attempted to find a meditative state of calm to keep her nerves from getting the best of her.

Soon, it was time. The proctor knocked on the door to take her into the Sail Loft, an impressive space consisting of a long room in which the Concert Band rehearses at one end. Walking in, Eich was led to a chair and stand which faced a

long blue curtain behind which sat the panel of judges. Although she couldn't see them, most of the clarinet section and some of the principal players of the woodwind section were seated at a long table, listening and taking notes for each audition. Eich took her time to get situated, reminding herself that there was no need to rush—she knew her nerves would make time seem to go faster than what was being experienced by the people listening to her audition.

She performed her solo piece and most of the first-round excerpts, feeling very pleased with how things were going, until she got to a technically challenging passage that she flubbed. She made

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

NAVY BAND YOUNG ARTIST

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 January 27, 2019.

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

www.navyband.navy.mil   

herself keep going, completing the excerpt without stopping despite getting tripped up. The committee behind the screen asked her to play the excerpt again, which she did, surprising herself by getting through it perfectly.

After completing the first round, she was taken back downstairs to the big warm-up area. A bit discouraged, she texted her dad who was on a business trip to Japan that she was pretty sure she didn't make it to the next round. Luckily, she was wrong. Her blunder did not matter as much to the committee as did her ability to continue on after her mistake and then play the selection perfectly when given a second chance. The proctor came into the room to tell her she was one of the candidates selected to stay for the next round. Her next text to her dad shared the good news that she had advanced to round two—the semifinals.

After a lunch break, she returned to play for the panel again. The procedure was much the same,

only this time, in addition to a selection of excerpts, she had to play several unfamiliar selections by sight. At one time, sight-reading would have been more of a challenge for her, but Eich had spent much of the past year preparing for and taking professional auditions, including a few for other military bands. Eich had already completed a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Science in water resources engineering, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and was finishing a Master of Music in clarinet performance and an Arts Leadership Program Certificate from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. She had decided that this audition for the Navy Band would be the last audition she would take before initiating "Plan B"—the search for an engineering job. Her preparations included playing through the list of excerpts for her clarinet professor two times a week, asking friends to listen to recorded practice sessions, and copying sheet music from her school library to practice sight-reading every morning as part of her daily warm-

up. The sight-reading practice paid off, as she was able to successfully play everything they put on the music stand in front of her. She was invited to play in the final round, and she happily texted her dad that news. Despite the fact that it was 3 a.m. for him, he responded, "Way to go! Good luck!"

During the short break before the final round, Eich was able to focus on the task at hand: playing well enough to get the job. It also helped that she



Seaman Recruit Amy Eich

got to meet a few of the members of the clarinet section whose genuine warmth toward her helped her remain calm when she went in for the portion of the final round that involved playing with them. She finished the excerpts, more sight-reading and the ensemble playing, then went back to the warm-up room to await the results. A member of the panel came in to tell her she'd been selected for an interview. Although she didn't know it at the time, the people conducting the interview were her future bosses: several senior leaders, officers and the band's career counselor. They discussed her educational background, her professional musical

experience, and explained what life in the Navy Band would entail. The committee deliberated for a few minutes, and then returned to offer her the job. She got to meet the commanding officer, Capt. Ken Collins, who shook her hand and pointed out that they'd both studied at the University of Illinois. He even knew one of her most influential mentors,



Musician 1st Class Amy Eich

the school's orchestra director, Donald Schleicher. It was a nice first impression.

She'd won the audition! Leaving the Navy Yard that evening, she was able to text her dad the good news to start his morning in Japan. Next would come meeting with a recruiter, enlisting and going to boot camp in Great Lakes, Illinois. But for now, she could enjoy knowing she'd succeeded in her quest for a job with "The World's Finest" United States Navy Band. A year and a half into her first enlistment, she is now Musician 1st Class Amy Eich.

While most of the members of the Navy Band follow a path similar to Eich's, some of them have taken a different route. Such is the case of Musician 1st Class Kristine Hsia from Long Island, New York. After attending the State University of New York at Fredonia and earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in musical theater, Hsia auditioned to be the vocalist for the Navy Band Commodores jazz ensemble. She had been informed of the audition by a mentor from college who told her that an opportunity like this one only came along once in a lifetime. Her

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NAVY BAND SAXOPHONE SYMPOSIUM

41st International Saxophone Symposium

Jan. 11 and 12
George Mason University
Center for the Performing Arts
Fairfax, Virginia



Musician 3rd Class Kristine Hsia

memorable first audition took place on Aug. 23, 2011, the day a rare earthquake shook Washington. She was called back for a second round after the tremors were over, but ultimately didn't win the job. However, at the audition, she was told about opportunities with the Navy's fleet bands, and that they were actively looking to fill vocalist positions.

She signed up, enlisted and completed recruit training, followed by six months of "A" school at the Naval School of Music in Little Creek, Virginia. Hsia then went overseas to the U.S. 7th Fleet Band in Yokosuka, Japan. After a year performing in the rock band, show band and wind ensemble, singing in jazz combos and other acoustic small groups, marching with a bass drum, and singing in more languages than she could fathom, she found out the Commodores hadn't filled the vocalist spot and were holding another audition. So she auditioned again, and this time won the position. Hsia says the experience and confidence she gained by singing full-time in a fleet band helped her to be a better performer. The fact that she was able to see the world while doing so was priceless.

Musician 1st Class Cory Parker also had an interesting journey on his way to becoming a vocalist in the Navy Band. Parker, originally from Caroline County, Virginia, enlisted in the Navy in 2003 after high school. After completing recruit training, he was also stationed with U.S. 7th Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan, aboard the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63), not as a musician, but as an aviation boatswains mate fuels (ABF) from 2003-2007, earning his qualifications as an enlisted aviation warfare specialist. While aboard the Kitty Hawk, Parker taught himself to read music and play the piano, and furthered his keyboard skills by playing for the base choir. He had been an avid singer since sixth grade. While in Japan, Parker successfully auditioned with the 7th Fleet Band for a vocalist position and was sent to the Naval School of Music to train as a Navy musician.

Upon graduation, Parker was assigned to Navy Band New Orleans for three years. His primary duty there was performing as lead vocalist with the Crescent City Krewe, the band's contemporary

music ensemble. He often performed in support of Navy recruiting by touring the gulf coast area, spreading the message to high school and college students about the benefits of serving in the Navy. In 2011, Parker won an audition for the U.S. Navy Band Cruisers popular music ensemble as a vocalist.



Musician 1st Class Cory Parker

Whenever there is an opening in the Navy Band, there is a nationally advertised audition for that billet—for the vacancy on that instrument or voice type in a specific ensemble of the band. Most of the applicants are civilians, but candidates who are already in the military or have had prior military service also apply. For the smaller groups like the Sea Chanters chorus, Cruisers,

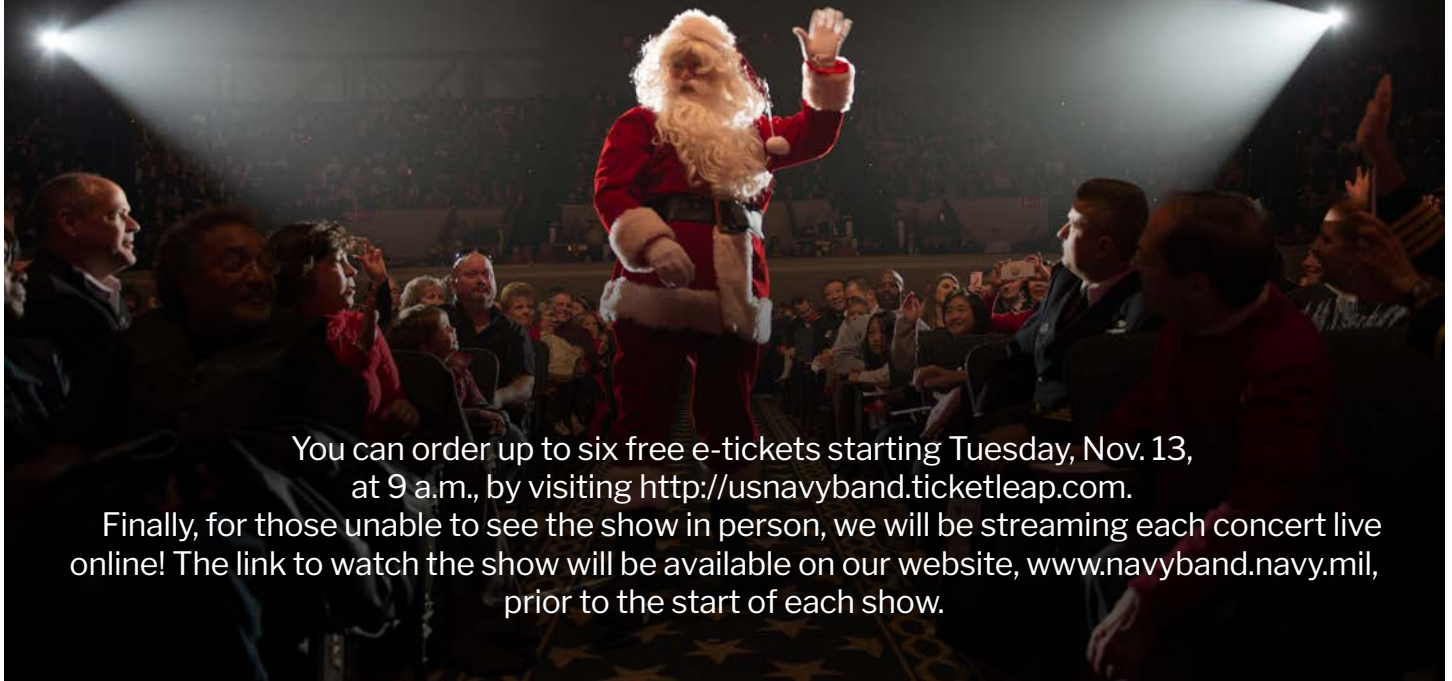
Country Current country-bluegrass ensemble or the Commodores, applicants are pre-screened by

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Holiday Concerts at DAR Constitution Hall

Saturday, Dec. 15, at 3 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15, at 8 p.m. - Sunday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m.



You can order up to six free e-tickets starting Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 9 a.m., by visiting <http://usnavyband.ticketleap.com>.

Finally, for those unable to see the show in person, we will be streaming each concert live online! The link to watch the show will be available on our website, www.navyband.navy.mil, prior to the start of each show.

U.S. NAVY BAND CLARINET DAY

Clarinet Day

Saturday, Nov. 17
from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
live streamed clinics and
recitals featuring Sean Osborn
for more information email:
navybandclarinetday.fct@navy.mil

Gala Concert

Friday, Nov. 17
at 7 p.m.
Kenmore Middle School
200 S. Carlin Springs Rd.
Arlington, Va.

Free and open to the public, no tickets required

www.navyband.navy.mil   

sending in a recording before being invited to come to Washington for a live audition. For the Concert/Ceremonial Band, anyone can come to the open audition which will attract up to 75 people or more. Regardless of the type of audition, those coming to Washington for the audition have prepared a list of required music. Successful candidates are often already working as professional musicians and most have earned at least a bachelor's degree before winning the job. This is also the case for the Naval Academy Band which, like the Navy Band, holds auditions for instrument-specific vacancies within its ensembles.

Auditions to fill vacancies in each of the nine fleet bands are often held in Millington, Tennessee, where Fleet Band Activities is located, but they occasionally occur in other cities. According to Musician 1st Class Andrea Sematoske, the fleet auditions coordinator, in the last year applicants have travelled to Tennessee from 37 states and Puerto Rico for the open-call auditions which attract an average of 22 candidates. Just like the U.S. Navy Band and Naval Academy Band, the fleet has been able to fill its advertised vacancies at every audition with world-class musicians coming

from the top conservatories and music schools around the country. Additionally, all Navy bands serve as audition sites for the fleet bands, so interested applicants only have to find the nearest band in order to audition. Reflecting back on her decision to audition for the Navy Band, Eich says she encourages anyone considering doing so to research all the resources the Navy has to offer, including the Loan Repayment Program, retirement benefits and the GI Bill, just to name a few. For someone just graduating from music school or getting started in their career, there are a lot of practical benefits to joining a military band which can be hard to find elsewhere in the music world. As her recruit division commander in boot camp observed at the end of her training, to be part of a Navy in which so many people of all different talents are able to put their abilities to use for the betterment of our country is really something special.

For more information about auditioning for the U.S. Navy Band or the Navy music program, please visit www.navyband.navy.mil/auditions.html.

COMMODORES 2018 NATIONAL TOUR

REGION 3

OCTOBER 25

LOUISBURG, NORTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 26

CLOVER, SOUTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 27

MARIETTA, GEORGIA

OCTOBER 28

NEWNAN, GEORGIA

OCTOBER 29

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

OCTOBER 30

THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

NOVEMBER 1

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 2

JEKYLL ISLAND, GEORGIA

NOVEMBER 3

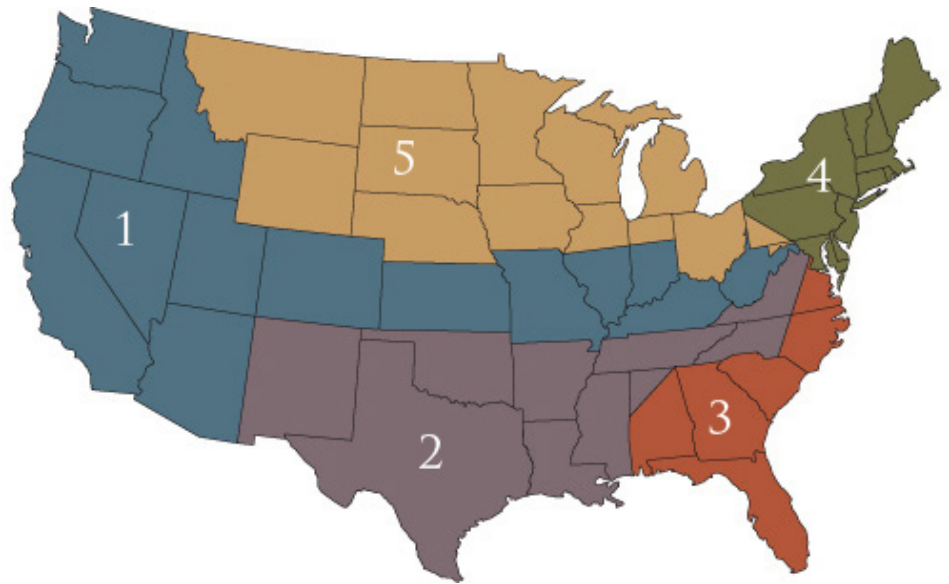
PALM COAST, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 4

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.

NOVEMBER 5

BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA



NOVEMBER 6

TAMPA, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 7

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 8

AVON PARK, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 10

NAPLES, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 11

PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 12

CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 13

TAVERNER, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 14

KEY WEST, FLORIDA

Mark your calendars as the Concert Band will be touring region 2 from Feb. 20 through Mar. 19 and the Sea Chanters will tour region 2 from Mar. 3 through Mar. 23.



WASHINGTON (Aug. 21, 2018) The U.S. Navy Band Cruisers celebrated their 20th anniversary with a concert in the Adm. and Mrs. Arleigh Burke Theater at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., that included former members of the Cruisers and their predecessors, the Navy Band Port Authority. (U.S. Navy photo by Musician 1st Class Brittany Foster/Released)

SPOTLIGHT ON MUSICIAN 1ST CLASS CHELSI VANDERPOL

by Musician 1st Class Sarah Blecker

Musician 1st Class Chelsi Vanderpol is an alto vocalist with the Navy Band Sea Chanters chorus. A native of Lynden, Washington, she can often be found soloing in front of the band for major concerts, including the summer Concert on the Avenue series, the Navy birthday concert and the Navy Band Holiday concert. We recently sat down with her to learn more.

What is your musical background?

I grew up in a very musical family. My last name is Vanderpol and we were frequently compared to the VonTrapp family singers. We all loved musical theater and everyone played an instrument. I started piano at age 8 and the flute at age 9 and played both throughout high school. I knew I wanted to pursue music and decided on Azusa Pacific University in Southern California after their university choir and orchestra toured through my tiny town in Washington and blew me away! I joined their music program as a vocal performance major but later switched to a theater major because I wanted time outside of the strictly vocal forums to participate in more of the university's theater productions, while still graduating on time. Still, without the time as a music major, I don't believe I would have received the incredible music theory, sight reading and basic musicianship skills that I needed to land this job. After college, I taught vocal classes and private voice lessons at Dancemaker Studios in Glendora, California, and got a job at Pirates Dinner Adventure as a vocalist, eventually becoming the musical director. I was working there when I learned about the job with the Navy and the rest is history!

What led you to join the Navy and how do you think your background helped prepare you?

I worked at the dinner theater for a few years, and while I loved my time there for the fun stunts and silly scenes, it was the same show, day in and day out. Eventually I developed the desire to be a part of something bigger than myself. I had also been considering leaving California for some time, and had already subscribed to a job search email

list. I received repeated emails about openings for musicians in the Navy music program, and at first I thought it sounded crazy. Both of my brothers serve in the military and I've always been impressed with them and the work they do serving our country... it's nothing I ever thought I'd be doing! But I'd heard about another singer who used to work at Pirates before my time who was involved in some capacity with Navy music (I didn't even know where she was at the time). I reached out to her from our mutual contacts and peppered her with questions about her job. After a lengthy conversation, I decided to just send in the audition materials to see what would happen. Incidentally, now I work every day with that helpful person, Musician 1st Class Maia Rodriguez! Such a small world--just two pirates who decided to join the real Navy and get legitimized.

What are some highlights of your Navy career thus far? Do you have a favorite?

The opportunity in my first year to sing "Fight Song" for the Navy birthday concert and eventually have that song made into an incredibly powerful video to honor of our wounded warriors has been an amazing experience. We even got to take that song to a Giants game at the Met Life Stadium in New York for a half time show last year which was also an incredibly powerful moment! I also love any opportunity to sing for foreign dignitaries, especially when we prepare a song in their language to perform for them on diplomatic visits. One of my favorite moments was singing "Feha Haega Helwa" in Arabic for Egyptian dignitaries. They loved it so much that they requested a video of it which has now gone viral across Egypt....pretty crazy stuff! The travel is exciting, too.

You often perform in front of the band as a soloist. Do you get nervous? How do you prepare?

I get the opportunity to solo pretty regularly and, absolutely, I still get nervous! I think we all do--I don't think that goes away. I just think you get better at hiding it. I also employ the usual stuff: deep breathing plus a lot of practice and repetition so I don't have to doubt myself amidst the nerves. Einstein says something about energy not being able to be destroyed but rather changed from one

form to another. I think about that and try to change that nervous energy into power and excitement to share my message with the audience. I think what we do is so important and I think people need to hear it. And no, I never picture anyone in their underwear.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

I have a little Yorkie dog, Baxter, who is non-stop energy and keeps me busy and snuggled! I LOVE home projects and you can usually find me repainting some room in my house or planting new things to try in the garden, or really anything outdoors, whether it's hiking or hitting the beach! I also write my own music and still play the piano at home. A few years ago I picked up a ukulele and haven't been able to put it down since. And, I spend an excessive amount on the phone with my family and friends back on the West Coast. Thanks to video chat, I never feel like I have to miss my nephews and nieces growing up!



FLEET BANDS IN ACTION

By Musician 1st Class Alex Ivy, U.S. Navy Fleet Band Activities



MINORCA, Spain (June 15, 2018) The U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band plays at the Farragut Legacy Engagement concert at Teatro Principal de Mao in Minorca. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alyssa Weeks / Released)

All around the globe, Navy Music is on the scene. Navy bands are connecting Americans to their Navy, building awareness and support for America's Navy, and going to places around the world that may have never seen an American Sailor, expanding and strengthening our nation's network of partners.

The **U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band** performed in Minorca, Spain, during the celebration of the 150-year legacy of Adm. David Farragut's diplomatic mission to Spain. The U.S. Pacific Fleet Band performed with the Royal Australian Navy, Royal Canadian Navy and Indonesian Navy for a combined military band concert as part of the Rim of the Pacific 2018 exercises.

The **U.S. Fleet Forces Band** and **Navy Band Northeast** sent musicians to Fleet Week New York City. The two bands brought the U.S. Navy to thousands of spectators across the city with high-energy performances in Times Square and Washington Square Park, and with a nationally-televised performance on Fox and Friends.

The **U.S. 7th Fleet Band**, embarked aboard USNS Millinocket (T-EPF-3) in support of a U.S. 7th Fleet theater security cooperation patrol, and performed throughout Singapore, Malaysia and the

Republic of the Philippines. The band is enhancing relationships and partnerships throughout the Indo Pacific and demonstrating 7th Fleet's commitment to the region.

Navy Band Great Lakes performed for an opening ceremony in Joliet, Illinois, as part of NASCAR's Stars & Stripes Weekend at the Chicagoland Speedway. Navy Band Northwest participated in the 28th annual International Military Band Concert in Olympia, Washington. The program offered the band an opportunity to collaborate with the Royal Canadian Navy and Army bands, as well as other U.S. service bands.

Navy Band Southeast spent an entire month supporting the Navy's outreach initiatives. The band participated in Navy Weeks and Fleet Weeks in Birmingham, Alabama; New Orleans; Port Everglades, Florida; and Tampa Bay, Florida.

Navy Band Southwest traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to support Navy Recruiting District San Antonio's recruiting initiatives. Navy musicians partner with recruiters to connect with young people and raise awareness of opportunities for service in America's Navy.

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CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP



FAREWELL XO

After more than two years as the Navy Band's executive officer, Lt. Cmdr. Mark Corbliss has assumed command of the Naval School of Music in Little Creek, Virginia. At his farewell ceremony on August 29th, Corbliss was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, which cited his "relentless commitment to organizational improvement."

"My time with the US Navy Band has been, by far, the most rewarding experience of my career," said Corbliss. "I have enjoyed my time in D.C. immensely and feel blessed to have traveled in that orbit, if only for a little while."

NEW SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR

Master Chief Musician James Armstrong has taken the helm as the Navy Band's new senior enlisted advisor, replacing Master Chief Musician Kevin Dines, who retired this summer. Armstrong, a trombonist, spent the last seven years as the Concert/Ceremonial department chief in charge. A native of Springdale, Pennsylvania, he joined the Navy Band in 1993, having completed a Bachelor of Music at Duquesne University and a Master of Music at Northwestern University.



SAN FERNANDO CITY, Philippines (July 10, 2018) Musician Seaman Kathryn Whitbeck of U.S. Navy 7th Fleet Band sings for students during a performance at La Union High School as a part of Maritime Training Activity (MTA) Sama Sama 2018. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Fulton/Released)

NAVAL ACADEMY BAND HIGHLIGHTS

by Musician 1st Class Stephen Farrell

The U.S. Naval Academy Band's mission is to support the Brigade of Midshipmen. Since 1862, the band has incorporated the tradition of military music into the midshipmen's education, performing at parades, formations, ceremonies, lectures, athletic events and graduation. Additionally, the band performs community concerts and conducts educational outreach events.

New officers Commissioning Week at the end of May is the busiest time of year at the academy. Kicking off the festivities is the annual Herndon Monument Climb, a tradition which marks the end of plebe (freshman) year. Plebes must scale the greased 21-foot monument and replace a plebe "dixie cup" cover - which has been placed atop the monument - with an upperclassman's cover. The band plays music to motivate the plebes as they work together to complete the challenge. It took the Class of 2021 two hours, nine minutes and 35 seconds to cap the monument, signifying that they were officially "Plebes No More!"

The week culminates with the Graduation and Commissioning Ceremony, with graduates receiving their diplomas and becoming commissioned officers in the Navy or Marine Corps. Throughout the week, the USNA Band performed 19 engagements reaching an audience of approximately 68,000, including President Donald Trump, Undersecretary of the Navy Thomas Modly, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson

and Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Glenn Walters.

WELCOMING THE PLEBES

At the end of June, the Naval Academy welcomed the Class of 2022 on Induction Day (I-Day). The band plays an integral role in the events of the day, from Morning Colors, to the Oath of Office ceremony in which the new class takes the oath to officially become midshipmen, to the final march into Bancroft Hall where Plebe Summer officially begins. The annual "Navy Night at the Baysox" signals the unofficial end to Plebe Summer, as it is the first time the new class leaves the academy grounds. This excursion to see the local minor league baseball team is always supported by the band, which provides fans with pre-game patriotic music and then performs the national anthem alongside the midshipmen color guard.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

The Superintendent's Combo traveled to Wisconsin in April for the Eau Claire Jazz Festival, hosted by the University of Wisconsin. The combo, led by Chief Musician Colin Renick, performed a recital, taught a masterclass, and teamed up with the midshipmen jazz band, Trident Brass, for two additional performances.

In August, Musician 1st Class Erika Loke represented the band at the International Horn Symposium held at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Loke performed a recital on the Wagner Tuba, a derivative of the French horn. After her performance, she reflected, "I am honored I had the chance to demonstrate to the students in attendance that there are unique and meaningful ways they can serve their country while continuing to pursue their passion of music."



Annapolis, Md. (Aug. 11, 2018) Musician 1st Class Sam Chin leads the band onto Worden Field in the Plebe Formal Parade on Parents' Weekend. (U.S. Navy photo /Released)

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

COTA CONCERTS

What a spectacular, inspiring performance! We loved all your singers who are not only fantastic but their personality and love of singing for people really came through. And what beautiful musical instruments you play, and how well. Everyone walked away with the feeling that they were part of something really special. It made the trip for my brother and family. Thank you!

Marie Reinsdorf COTA

All I can say is the NAVY BAND ROCKS... All the singers were fabulous. I just cannot say enough of how impressive you all are. Thank you for a wonderful evening...only wish it lasted another hour.

James Magdalenski COTA

COUNTRY CURRENT

Attended the Country Current concert in Town Square in Leonardtown, MD tonight. GREAT show! All the musicians were fabulous, and the lead singer was amazing! Thank you so much for the professionalism, the authenticity, the patriotism, and the MUSIC. Keep up the good work!

Rich Buckingham, CDR (ret.), USCG

What a fantastic show!! They blew it out of the field. Never expected such high level talent. Send them back, I didn't get enough. One of the best events I've been to in some time.

Owen Mancarella, Pensacola, FL

My wife and I once again totally enjoyed the performance of Country Current at Bellevue State Park. The band is very talented, personable and makes you proud to be an American. They are great ambassadors for the Navy. Although it was 93 degrees during the performance, the time flew by, was very entertaining, and everyone had a wonderful time. We hope to see you again next year!

John Leonowich, Wilmington, DE

We just saw Country Current perform at Frying Pan Park in Herndon. This is at least the third time we have seen this band, and by far it was the best performance ever...Tonight's performance

was outstanding, from the opening Star Spangled Banner to the final song, and everything in between. Your voices are so fitting for country music, and your instrumental abilities are the tops. Keep up the good work - hope to see you again in the not too distant future.

Bill & Betty Arey, Herndon VA

My family absolutely loved the Navy Band Country Current's performance at Navy Yards Park in DC tonight. They played a great variety and had personality and enthusiasm to excite the crowd and get everyone up and enjoying themselves. What an amazing show, can't believe it was free. Thank you!!

Jenny Campbell, Washington, D.C.

To say the very least, we were impressed. Their appearance was stunning, inspection ready! Their performance was outstanding. At a festival where the performers are giants in their field, Country Current stood head and shoulders above the crowd! They are a credit to the United States Navy Band, the United States, and to their country! I would not be surprised to find a number of young people knocking on their U.S. Navy Recruiter's doors as a result of their appearance, their performance, and their dedication to the Navy and their country!

Gerald J. McAllister II, RMC, USN (Ret.),
Cherokee, NC

My husband and I recently had the privilege of hearing this group for the first time at Cherokee, NC, Bluegrass Festival. The performance was awesome. We agreed that they were our favorites. We left there with a greater appreciation for our men and women who serve our great nation. They most honorably represented the military well! Look forward to seeing them again! Keep up the good work!

James Cook

SEA CHANTERS

The performance was outstanding and as a middle school principal the experience for our students has life-changing potential. I observed the students in the audience throughout the performance, they were engaged

and very expressive...I am thankful that our students had this experience and hopeful that others have the pleasure of witnessing such an amazing performance.

Maria Ramadane, Principal, Graham Park Middle School, Triangle, VA

I had the pleasure, or rather the honor, of attending a concert Saturday night by the Sea Chanters. They were absolutely wonderful and provided hundreds of people an incredible evening of beautiful music of all types. Your organization is a wonderful example of the makeup of our military and their various abilities...They were much appreciated and a fabulous P/R tool for the Navy.

Ursala Hennessy, Reston, VA

CONCERT BAND

Your concert was spectacular! We enjoyed every moment. The sounds were so clear and beautiful. Really special. A wonderful tribute. You have so many talented musicians, thank you for sharing with us. Theresa and Michael Langeheine, York, PA

COMMODORES

We wanted to write and express how much we enjoyed the recent Commodores concert at the Gordon Bowie Pavilion...The Band is very tight and well in tune. Thank you and we would invite you to come back...as often as your schedule allows. Amy Ardolina, Montgomery Village, MD

I just wanted to send a note of thanks to the Commodores for their performance at Shepherd University this past Saturday...It was such a treat for our students and community here at Shepherd to hear this truly amazing group. In addition to their stellar musicianship, the members of the band were also very warm and friendly with all of our staff and audience members, taking the time to speak with them after the concert...Having so many connections with the Navy and the Commodores really made the evening quite special.

Kurtis Adams, Associate Professor,
Director of Jazz Studies Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV

fanfare

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