



The United States Navy Band
SEA CHANTERS

The United States Navy Band "Sea Chanters" chorus is the official chorus of the United States Navy. The ensemble performs a variety of music ranging from traditional choral music, including the sea chantey, to Broadway musicals. Under the leadership of **Senior Chief Musician Georgina L. Todd**, the Sea Chanters appear throughout the United States and often perform at the White House, the Vice President's home and for other Washington dignitaries. In 1956, Lt. Harold Fultz, then the Band's assistant leader, organized a group from the Navy School of Music in Anacostia to sing chanteys and patriotic songs for the State of the Nation dinner. An immediate success, Admiral Arleigh Burke, Chief of Naval Operations, transferred them to the Navy Band, named them the "Sea Chanters" and tasked this all-male chorus with perpetuating the songs of the sea. In 1980, the group added women to their ranks and expanded their repertoire to include everything from Brahms to Broadway.

Today, the Sea Chanters are one of the most dynamic vocal ensembles in the country and are frequently found at the center of our most important national events, including the 56th Presidential Inauguration Ceremony in 2009. They have played a vital role in comforting the nation in times of mourning, including appearances at memorials for the astronauts of the space shuttle Columbia and the Presidential wreath laying ceremony at the United Airlines Flight 93 crashsite in Shanksville, Pa. Their performance of "Amazing Grace" at the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance at the National Cathedral in Washington after the events of 9/11 inspired all in attendance as well as a national television audience. In 1994, the chorus provided music at the funeral of former President Nixon in Yorba Linda, Calif., and the interment of former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis at Arlington National Cemetery.

They have appeared at the Kennedy Center Honors and with the National Symphony Orchestra for the nationally telecast "National Memorial Day Concerts" at the U.S. Capitol. In addition the group has appeared on "Larry King Live" and "CBS This Morning" as well as at the premier of the movie Pearl Harbor. Noted choral directors Dale Warland and Donald Neuen have guest conducted the ensemble, and renowned composers Roger Bourland, William MacDuff and Lloyd Pfautsch have written works especially for them. Other notable orchestral appearances include the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. The Sea Chanters have enjoyed a great reputation performing with such stars as Perry Como, Marian Anderson and Kenny Rogers.

Throughout their history, the Sea Chanters have remained true to the Navy's watchwords of pride and professionalism, and they continue to flourish in the 21st century and beyond as a vibrant ensemble.

HIGHLIGHTS

2009 - (Jan.) perform at the 56th Presidential Inauguration Ceremony for **President Barack Obama**
- (Apr.) opening performance at the “America Sings” festival on the National Mall
- (Sep.) performed at Fourth Annual Time of Remembrance Ceremony on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol with guest speakers **Kevin Bacon, Ross Perot** and **Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Michael Mullen**

2008 – (Mar.) special guests of the **Mormon Tabernacle Choir** under the direction of **Mack Wilberg** for broadcast of “**Music and the Spoken Word.**”
- (Sep.) perform with the **Kansas City Symphony** under the direction of **Michael Stern**

2007 - (Jan.) perform as part of the Armed Forces Chorus at the **State Funeral Service of President Gerald R. Ford** at the National Cathedral in Washington with guest speakers **President George W. Bush** and **Tom Brokaw**
- (Feb.) perform with the **Cincinnati Pops Orchestra** under the direction of **Erich Kunzel**

2006 - (Apr.) celebrate **50th Anniversary** with clinics and a gala concert at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland (College Park) with guest conductor and clinician, **Dr. John H. Dickson**
- (Dec.) perform at the **Memorial Service for President Gerald R. Ford** in the Capitol Rotunda

2005 - (Jan.) perform at the 55th Presidential Inauguration Ceremony for **President George W. Bush**
- (Apr.) sing “God Bless America” at the Washington Nationals’ home opener at RFK Stadium

2004 - (May) perform at “A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving” at the National Cathedral in Washington with guest speaker **President George W. Bush** as part of the ceremonies dedicating the **National World War II Memorial**
- (Jun.) perform as part of the Armed Forces Chorus at the **State Funeral Service of President Ronald W. Reagan** at the National Cathedral in Washington with guest speakers **President George W. Bush** and **President George H.W. Bush**

2003 - (Feb.) perform at the “**STS-107 Memorial**” for the astronauts of the space shuttle *Columbia* at NASA’s Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston with guest speaker **President George W. Bush**
- (May) ninth performance with **National Symphony Orchestra** for nationally televised **Memorial Day Concert**, directed by **Erich Kunzel**. Previous appearances in 1992, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2002

2002 - (Sep.) videotape “**America the Beautiful**” for national television broadcast by the **NFL** prior to each opening day football game
- (Sep.) perform for the “**Service of Remembrance and Resolve**” at the Pentagon’s **Phoenix Project Site** with guest speaker **President George W. Bush**
- (Sep.) perform at the “**Presidential Wreath Laying Ceremony**” in Shanksville, Pa., honoring the crew and passengers of **United Airlines Flight 93**

2001 - (May) perform for the premiere of *Pearl Harbor* aboard the USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

- (Jun.) perform with the Navy Band for the dedication ceremony of the **National D-Day Memorial** with guest speaker **President George W. Bush** in Bedford, Va.

- (Jun.) present **45th Anniversary Concert** at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va., featuring guest conductor **Donald Neuen** and new commissioned work by **Roger Bourland** and **William MacDuff**

- (Sep.) perform at the **National Day of Prayer and Remembrance** at the National Cathedral in Washington with guest speaker **President George W. Bush**

- (Oct.) perform with the Navy Band for the **United in Memory** memorial service at the Pentagon with guest speaker **President George W. Bush**

- (Nov.) perform on CNN's nationally televised "**Larry King Live**"

2000 - (Feb.-Mar.) perform with the Navy Band on a national tour throughout the Southeast and at the Navy Band's **75th Anniversary Concert**, March 4 at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington

- (Jul.) perform at Central Park, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Times Square, and on the NBC "Today Show" in conjunction with the **International Naval Review 2000** in New York

- (Oct.) provide music at memorial service for **USS Cole (DDG 67)** at Naval Station Norfolk (Va.)

- (Nov.) perform for the site dedication of the **National World War II Memorial** in Washington

1998 - (Feb.) perform at the **American Choral Directors Association Convention** in Providence, R.I.

- (Aug.) provide music at memorial service for **Rear Admiral Alan B. Shepard** at NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston.

1997 - (Apr.) perform with guest conductor **Dale Warland** and the **Dale Warland Singers** in Minneapolis

- (Jul.) perform at **Fort Vancouver Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular** in Vancouver, Wash.

- (Jul.) perform at **Texas Choral Directors Association** conference in San Antonio

- (Oct.) perform at the dedication of the **Women In Military Service For America Memorial** in Arlington National Cemetery

1996 - (Jan.) provide music at funeral of former **Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Arleigh Burke**, at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

- (Mar.) Navy Band and Sea Chanters chorus perform at **Carnegie Hall**

- (May) present **40th Anniversary Concert** at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Va., featuring guest conductor **Dale Warland** and new commissioned work by **Lloyd Pfautsch**

- (May) featured on Pennifield (N.Y.) Symphony Orchestra concert, "A Patriotic Tribute"

- (Dec.) featured in second annual nationwide satellite broadcast of Navy Band Holiday Concert on "**Navy Live**" productions from DAR Constitution Hall in Washington

1995 - (Jul.) second annual performance with **National Symphony Orchestra** for "**A Capitol Fourth**" National Independence Day celebration in Washington, D.C.

1994 - (Apr.) provide music for former **President Nixon's funeral** in Yorba Linda, Calif.

- (May) provide music for former first lady **Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' funeral** at Arlington National Cemetery

- (May) perform on "**CBS This Morning**" as part of **Memorial Day** celebration

1993 - (Mar.) perform at **Carnegie Hall** with the **Cincinnati Pops Orchestra** under the direction of **Erich Kunzel**
- (May) perform on NBC's nationally televised "**Bob Hope, The First 90 Years,**" with George Burns, Walter Cronkite, Ann Jillian, Tom Selleck and other celebrities
- (Jul.) sixth annual appearance as part of **National Independence Day** celebration at Washington Monument grounds

1992 - (Apr.) perform with **Cincinnati Pops Orchestra** in Cincinnati and in September for **Blossom Music Festival** in Cleveland
- (Oct.) perform as part of **Fleet Week** in San Francisco

1991 - (Jun.) **National Victory Celebration Memorial Service** at Arlington National Cemetery

1989 - (Jan.) participate in **American Bicentennial Presidential Inaugural** activities including the "Salute to the First Lady" and the "George to George" Children's Festival
- (Sep.) perform on NBC's "**From The Heart**" television special at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.
- (Oct.) produce first, full-length musical, *Carousel*, at George Washington University

1988 - (Aug.) perform as part of "**From The White House**" with **Marvin Hamlisch**

1987 - (Jan.) provide music for the **Challenger Astronauts Memorial Service** at the Fort Myer (Va.) Chapel

1986 - (May) perform at Naval Aviation's **75th Anniversary Gala** in Pensacola, Fla.
- (Jul.) perform at **Liberty Weekend television broadcast** with Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra
- (Dec.) present Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*

1985 - (Nov.) present Navy Band's first opera, *Gianni Schicchi*
- (Dec.) perform at **Kennedy Center Honors** salute to **Bob Hope**

1981 - (Oct.) debut as mixed chorus at **206th Navy Birthday Concert** at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts Concert Hall in Washington

1978 - (Apr.) appear with **Kenny Rogers** on **Perry Como's Easter TV special**
- (May) perform at **Kentucky Derby Week** festivities in Louisville

1976 - (Jun.) perform at **Boston Pops Orchestra's** annual "Navy Night" Concert
- (Jul.) perform at "**Parade of the Tall Ships**" bicentennial celebration in New York

1961 - (Dec.) appear with **Marian Anderson** and **Oberkierken Children's Choir** in "**Berlin Christmas**" aired on international television from Germany

1960 - (Feb.-Mar.) Sea Chanters and Navy Band accompany **President Eisenhower** on a South American tour

1956 - (Jan.) **Eighteen male students** from the **Navy School of Music** form a chorus, directed by Lt. Fultz and named the "**Sea Chanters**" by **Admiral Arleigh Burke**, Chief of Naval Operations

WHAT OTHERS SAY...

LARRY KING (*Larry King Live*): "...a bright, sparkling, young, active group."

THE MALONE TELEGRAM (Malone, N.Y.): "...The performance was simply fantastic. The Sea Chanters represented the U.S. Navy in its finest tradition."

POST-CRESCENT (Appleton, Wisc.): "...an absolutely wonderful musical event at Pickard Auditorium...a delightful evening."

WASHINGTON POST: "Selections from 'Les Miserables,' 'Guys and Dolls' and 'Oklahoma!' were sung with talent and zest by the Navy's Sea Chanters chorus."

WELCH DAILY NEWS (Welch, W.Va.): "The Sea Chanters chorus dazzled McDowell County's general public with an important facet of life—a first-rate musical program."

THE DAILY GAZETTE (Schenectady, N.Y.): "This is a virtuoso vocal group and their program was fast-paced and varied, every note of the way. Sea Chanter members can handle close, tricky harmonies when singing as a group and shine in the spotlight as solo singers."

EVENING OBSERVER (Dunkirk-Fredonia, N.Y.): "These are outstanding voices, on a par with the very best that Broadway and the major opera choruses can boast."

DAILY ADVANCE (Elizabeth City, N.C.): "...brought the house down...presenting a musical feast, the Sea Chanters let no one leave the table feeling hungry."

THE EAGLE-TRIBUNE (Methuen, Mass.): "We've heard them before and just think the talent is stupendous."

NAVY BAND PATRON (Montpelier, Vt.): "...Their repertoire was excellent, their blended voices harmonized beautifully and we were enchanted. This was a 'spit and polish' professional, yet very warm, group of people."

RETIRED LT. CMDR., U.S. NAVY (Hot Springs Village, Ark.): "...All aspects of the performance were outstanding and a great credit to the Navy."

RETIRED LT. COL., U.S. AIR FORCE (Winchester, Va.): "...The professionalism and sincerity of this group was apparent to all in the audience. They are great ambassadors for the Naval Service."

SGT., U.S. ARMY (Fort Bragg, N.C.): "I must confess that I was deeply moved by the performance of the Sea Chanters at the memorial service (for the victims of September 11) at the National Cathedral in Washington last week. They have a unique gift that America needs at this moment."

