



The United States Navy Band, the Navy's premier musical organization, was established by Congress on March 4, 1925. It is directed by **Captain Brian O. Walden**. Located in the Sail Loft at the historic Washington Navy Yard, the band presents honors at official ceremonies and memorial services and performs hundreds of public concerts annually throughout the Washington area and around the country. Recognized as "The World's Finest," the band features some of the nation's top musicians and performs a variety of music from classical orchestral works to original arrangements of current popular favorites, as well as traditional marches and patriotic fare.

During over 80 years of service, the Navy Band has become associated with events of national and international significance. The band has participated in 21 presidential inaugurations and appears at national dedications and memorial services, recently playing a vital role in the state funerals for Presidents Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford.

Since its inception, the Navy Band has been associated with distinguished celebrities. In 1929, it collaborated with Arthur Godfrey on NBC's "Hour of Memories" radio show. Lt. Robert Taylor and Lt. j.g. Gene Kelly were featured performers on "The Navy Hour" radio program, which the band produced for an astounding 23 years from 1945-1968. More recently, it was honored to perform with Academy Award honorees Ernest Borgnine, Tony Curtis and Gregory Peck. The band continues to be a presence on network radio and television, including a performance of "America the Beautiful" in 2002 that was broadcast by the NFL prior to each game during opening week.

Internationally, the band has appeared at military tattoos and festivals in Oslo, Stockholm and Quebec City. It also performed in 1996 at the 300th Anniversary of the Russian Fleet in St. Petersburg and at The Baltic International Festival of the Fleets in Kaliningrad, Russia.

The Navy Band is at the forefront of music education, sponsoring the International Saxophone Symposium and the Music in the Schools program for elementary and secondary schools. In addition, the band is in constant demand by the nation's foremost musical education organizations, such as the American Bandmasters Association and The Midwest Clinic - An International Band and Orchestra Conference.

The Navy Band occupies a position of national prominence as a service tradition and a distinguished musical organization.

## UNITED STATES NAVY BAND HIGHLIGHTS

- 2009 – (Jan.) participates in the 56<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration
- 2007 - (Jan.) participates in the State Funeral of President Gerald R. Ford in Washington
- 2006 – (Apr.) “Sea Chanters” chorus celebrates 50th anniversary with a concert at the University of Maryland’s Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center (Aug.) Navy Band celebrates the official Grand Re-opening and Dedication of the Historic Sail Loft and Navy Band rehearsal spaces on the Washington Navy Yard (Sep.) the Chief of Naval Operations officially designates the United States Navy Band a command (Oct.) performs with guest narrator, Academy Award winner Ernest Borgnine for the Navy’s 231st Birthday Concert at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington
- 2005 - (Jan.) presents 28th International Saxophone Symposium at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. (Jan.) performs for the 55th Presidential Inauguration (Feb.) Navy Band, "Sea Chanters" chorus and "Cruisers" contemporary music ensemble perform together on national tour (Mar.) presents 80th Anniversary Concert at DAR Constitution Hall hosted by The Honorable Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy (Oct.) performs with guest narrator, Academy Award winner Ernest Borgnine for the Navy’s 230th Birthday Concert at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington (Dec.) the Navy Band returns to the Historic Sail Loft on the Washington Navy Yard after a three-year renovation
- 2004 - (May) performs at the dedication of the National World War II Memorial with guest speaker President George W. Bush in Washington (Jun.) participates in the State Funeral of President Ronald W. Reagan in Washington (Sep.) performs at the seventh Norwegian Military Tattoo in Oslo (Oct.) performs with guest narrator, Academy Award winner Ernest Borgnine for the Navy’s 229<sup>th</sup> Birthday Concert at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington
- 2003 - (Feb.) performs at the Space Shuttle Columbia STS-107 Memorial Service at Washington National Cathedral in Washington with guest speaker Vice President Richard Cheney (Mar.) performs at the 69th Annual Convention of the American Bandmasters Association at the University of Maryland (College Park)
- 2002 - (Sep.) videotapes “America the Beautiful” for national television broadcast by the NFL prior to each opening day football game (Sep.) performs for “Beam of Hope” candlelight vigil marking the first anniversary of 9/11 at Freedom Plaza in Washington (Oct.) performs with guest narrator, Academy Award winner Ernest Borgnine for the Navy’s 227th Birthday Concert at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington
- 2001 - (Jun.) provides music for the dedication ceremony of The National D-Day Memorial with guest speaker President George W. Bush in Bedford, Va. (Oct.) provides music for the United in Memory memorial service at the Pentagon with guest speaker President George W. Bush (Oct.) performs with guest narrator, actor Tony Curtis for the Navy’s 226th Birthday Concert at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington (Dec.) presents opening concert of the 55th Annual Conference of The Midwest Clinic in Chicago with guest conductor, Robert Jager
- 2000 - (Jan.) performs at the 111th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif. (Mar.) presents 75th Anniversary Concert at DAR Constitution Hall hosted by The Honorable Richard Danzig, Secretary of the Navy (Apr.) Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L Johnson presents Meritorious Unit Commendation to the band for outstanding service. Previous awards in 1971, 1973, 1976, 1990 and 1995 (Jul.) performs at Central Park, Staten Island and on the USS Nassau (LHA 4) in conjunction with the International Naval Review 2000 in New York
- 1999 - (Aug.) performs for the 100th Anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at their National Convention held

in Kansas City, Mo. (Aug.) performs for the first “Festival International de Musiques Militaires de Quebec” in historic Quebec City

- 1998 - (May) performs for rededication ceremony of the Wright Brothers National Memorial with guestspeakers former President Bush, Buzz Aldrin and David Hartman at Kill Devil Hills, N.C. (Sep.) second appearance at the International Swedish Army Tattoo in Stockholm (Sep.) presents fifth annual “Newly Published Music Workshop” with Jack Bullock, CherylFloyd, Richard Floyd, Anthony J. Maiello and Frank Mantooh (Oct.) performs with guest narrator, Academy Award winner Gregory Peck for the Navy’s 223rd Birthday Concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- 1997 - (Jan.) performs on NBC’s “Today Show” during Presidential Inaugural celebration in Washington (Mar.) performs at American Bandmasters Association International Convention in San Diego (May) performs at Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Ceremony of Dedication in Washington (Jul.) performs at Fort Vancouver Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular in Vancouver, Wash. (Sep.) presents fourth annual “Newly Published Music Workshop” with Richard Dunscomb, David R. Holsinger, Robert Jager, Jerry F. Junkin and Anthony Maiello (Oct.) performs at dedication of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery
- 1996 - (Mar.) Navy Band and “Sea Chanters” chorus perform at Carnegie Hall (Jul.) performs at 300th Anniversary of the Russian Fleet in St. Petersburg, and at The Baltic International Festival of the Fleets in Kaliningrad, Russia (Dec.) presents opening concert of the 50th Annual Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago with guest conductor, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Karel Husa (Dec.) featured in second annual nationwide satellite broadcast of Navy Band Holiday Concert on “Navy Live” productions from DAR Constitution Hall in Washington
- 1995 - (Feb.) receives 1994 Navy Personal Excellence Partnership/Community Service Awardfor the National Capital Region (Nov.) appears on NBC’s “Today Show” as part of Veteran’s Day festivities in New York (Dec.) performs “Pageant of Peace” with Jack Jones, Denyce Graves and Kathie Lee Gifford at the lighting of the National Christmas Tree in Washington
- 1994 - (Jun.) performs opening ceremony for World Cup Soccer Match at R.F.K. Stadium in Washington (Sep.) presents “Newly Published Music Workshop” at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. Guest conductors include James Curnow, Bruce Pearson and H. Robert Reynolds
- 1993 - (Mar.) receives Music Educators National Conference “Certificate of Excellence” for participation in MENC’s Eastern Division Conference in Springfield, Mass. (May) performs in the Memphis in May “International Festival Tattoo” in Memphis, Tenn. (Jul.) featured in the National Independence Day Celebration on the Washington Monument grounds, marking the band’s seventh annual appearance at the event (Oct.) performs for Bicentennial of the U.S. Capitol and reinstallation of the “Statue of Freedom” to the U.S. Capitol dome, with Liza Minelli and the Howard University chorus
- 1992 - (Apr.) Capt. William J. Phillips is first captain to be appointed Officer in Charge/Leader (Aug.) performs 30th annual Children’s “Lollipops” Concert at Sylvan Theatre on Washington Monument grounds (Sep.) performs at the International Swedish Army Tattoo in Stockholm (Dec.) receives The Col. George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands from the John Philip Sousa Foundation
- 1991 - (Jan.) performs Chief Musician Mike Stein’s “We Are With You” in support of Operation Desert Shield, on ABC’s “Good Morning America” television show (Jun.) marches in Washington and New York parades honoring “Operation Desert Storm” troops (Nov.) initiates “Music in the Schools” program offering concerts

and workshops by Navy professionals in Washington area schools

- 1990 - (May) performs at White House arrival ceremonies honoring Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev
- 1989 - (Jan.) featured in American Bicentennial Presidential Inaugural activities in Washington (Apr.) performs as part of New York parade commemorating Bicentennial of George Washington's Inaugural
- 1987 - (Jul.) opens National Public Radio's "Greatest Bands in the Land" series (Sep.) appears in nationally televised Constitution Bicentennial Parade in Philadelphia (Dec.) presents opening concert of the Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago followed by clinic with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Karel Husa
- 1986 - (May) appears at 75th Anniversary of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Fla. (Jul.) participates in Statue of Liberty rededication in New York
- 1981 - (Jan.) performs for the 52 American hostages returning to Andrews Air Force Base following captivity in Iran
- 1978 - (Mar.) sponsors first International Saxophone Symposium, featuring the Concert Band, Commodores and guest artists
- 1976 - (Jul. 4) performs aboard the carrier USS Forrestal during "Operation Sail" festivities marking the nation's bicentennial celebration in New York
- 1975 - (Mar. 4) presents 50th Anniversary Concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts with guest artists Arthur Fiedler and Julius La Rosa
- 1968 - "Navy Hour" radio show ends after 23 years
- 1962 - (Aug.) performs first Children's "Lollipops" Concert at Potomac Watergate
- 1940 - American Bandmasters Association recognizes the Navy Band as "The World's Finest"
- 1932 - (Feb. 22) John Philip Sousa makes his last appearance with a major band when he guest conducts the Navy Band at the U.S. Capitol for the bicentennial of George Washington's birth
- 1929 - welcome home Rear Adm. Richard Byrd following his South Pole flight  
Lt. Charles Benter, the band's first leader, along with Dr. Edwin Franco Goldman and John Philip Sousa, organize the American Bandmasters Association
- 1927 - welcome home Col. Charles Lindbergh at the Washington Navy Yard dock on his return on the cruiser USS Memphis, following his historic transatlantic flight
- 1925 - (Mar. 4) President Calvin Coolidge signs a bill establishing The United States Navy Band and giving approval for national tours



## WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT THE UNITED STATES NAVY BAND...

**PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH:** "...and I want to thank the Navy Band. Every time I hear you play I step a little lighter."

**FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH:** "...the always impeccable, seemingly perfect, United States Navy Band."

**CHICAGO DAILY NEWS:** "Our Navy's band is magnificent. Its repertoire is varied and its style in all it plays is direct and just."

**SALT LAKE TRIBUNE:** "The United States Navy Band literally blew itself into the hearts of an audience which jammed the Tabernacle Tuesday night. The group performing was, without a doubt, one of the finest bands in existence."

**THE CAPITAL (Annapolis, Md.):** "Demonstrated why it [Navy Band] may rightfully claim the title 'world's finest'...sophisticated instrumentation and stirring sound."

**TEXAS LUTHERAN COLLEGE (Seguin, Texas):** "...the concert was superb! The quality and versatility of the performance were incredible and the showmanship was outstanding--a great time was had by all!"

**DAILY PRESS (Utica, N.Y.):** "The Navy Band put on a remarkable display of versatility. Imagine! Beethoven and Count Basie, Rachmaninoff and John Philip Sousa, Debussy and Tommy Dorsey all on the same program...the conductor steered the band in impeccable style from orchestral compositions to jazz to hymns."

**STANDARD-SPEAKER, (Hazelton, Pa.):** "U.S. Navy Band in a word--great...it was a night to remember for lovers of great music."

**CHRONICLE-INDEPENDENT (Camden, S.C.):** "Our newspaper recently sponsored an appearance of the U.S. Navy Band and it was an overwhelming success. The band was flawless, as usual, and enthralled the large crowd with its great blend of selections."

**GRAMOPHONE MAGAZINE (Middlesex, England):** "The U.S. Navy Band is certainly one of the finest in the world."

**MURRAY LEDGER & TIMES (Ky.):** "It was an inspirational performance...the patriotic fervor of the audience was aroused by the band's selections and professionalism. The proof: standing ovations from the audience."

**DAILY HERALD (Arlington Heights, Ill.):** "There's nothing quite as American as band music...Wednesday night's visit by the U.S. Navy Band should leave no doubt that this tradition is being maintained at its highest level."

**OPERATIONS DIRECTOR OF THE DALLAS SYMPHONY:** "...The U.S. Navy Band is an exemplary ambassador to the American people. I look forward to their next tour to the Dallas area."

## **Order of photos**

1. United States Navy Band
2. Captain Brian O. Walden, USN, Commanding Officer/Leader
3. Lieutenant Walt Cline, USN, Executive Officer/Assistant Leader
4. Lieutenant Junior Grade Gregory A. Fritz, USN, Special Groups Department Head,  
Administrative Officer, Associate Conductor
5. Master Chief Musician Michael J. Schmitz, Enlisted Conductor
6. Musician 1st Class Andrew J. Skaggs, Enlisted Conductor
7. Musician 1st Class Darrell C. Partin, Enlisted Conductor
8. Chief Musician Courtney R. Williams, Concert Narrator























