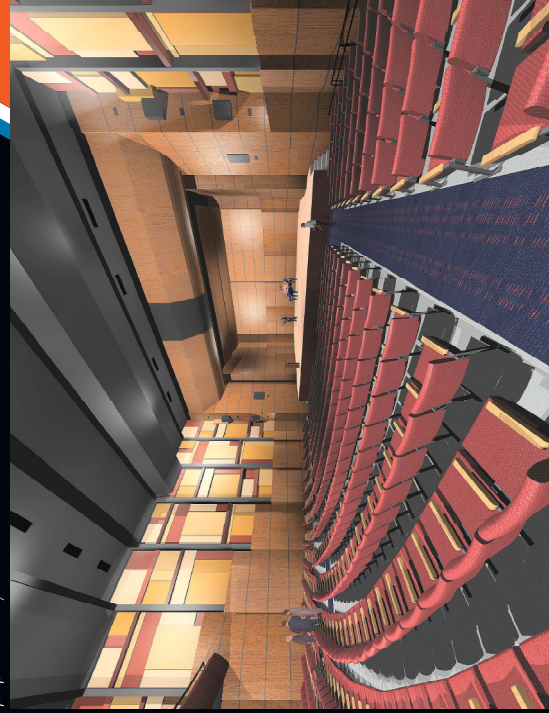




THE UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD BAND
Commander Kenneth W. Megan, Director

Proposed Leamy Hall Interior - Du Bose Associates Architects



FALL 2010

www.uscg.mil/band

BEHIND THE SCENES

Presorted First Class

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U.S. Coast Guard Academy
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After 41 years with no major renovations, the home of the Coast Guard Band is getting a serious facelift. Work began on Leamy Hall Auditorium the morning after the Coast Guard Academy graduation ceremony. Worn and faded blue chairs were pulled out and loaded onto a truck. The best of these are being donated to a high school in Rhode Island. With demolition and remodeling under way during the next nine months or so, the Band will rehearse in the graciously-loaned Dealey Theater on Naval Submarine Base New London. Performances are scheduled in other indoor and outdoor venues around Connecticut, including New London's historic Garde Arts Center.

The state of the Coast Guard Academy's Leamy Hall has become problematic over recent years as the building has worn and aged. In addition to Coast Guard Band concerts, the auditorium's uses have ranged from graduation activities and leadership lectures to all hands meetings and movie nights for Academy cadets. Each of these activities was negatively impacted by the hall's ill-functioning heating and cooling, lighting, and electrical systems. Heating and air conditioning deficiencies made the building increasingly uncomfortable throughout the year. The lighting and electrical systems were outdated to the point of being unserviceable. Spare parts for lighting were either no longer manufactured or only available internationally at unreasonable cost. Procedure even for changing a light bulb on the stage was extremely hazardous, involving 1.5 foot crawl spaces located at great heights and complicated hoisting maneuvers. There was need for new video projection technology as well as an up-to-date sound system. Musicians who have performed in Leamy Hall will tell you that there were not only problems with electronically amplified sound, but unamplified acoustic issues as well. The sound quality in the hall was often described as too harsh or bright, while at the same time tending to be muddled and unclear. On stage, it is often challenging to hear across sections of the band in order to play accurately together.

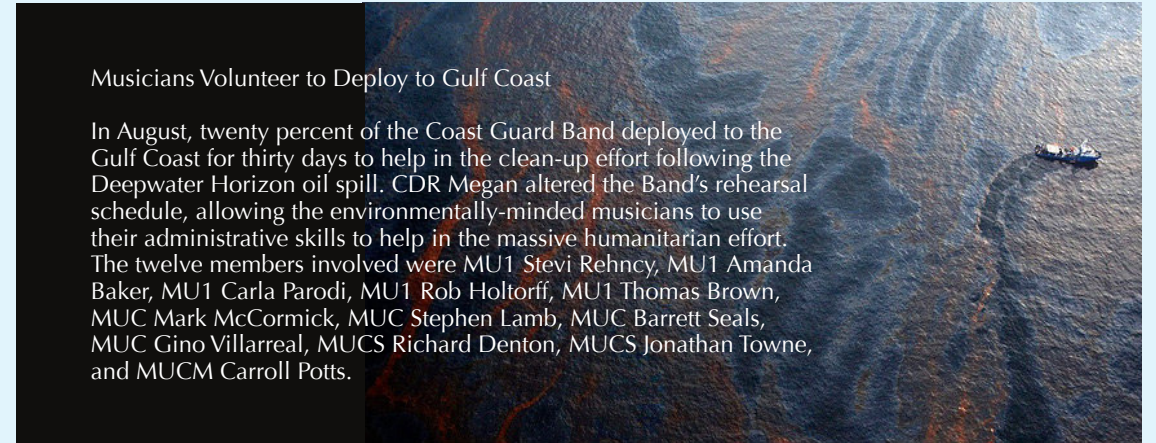
After more than a year of committee meetings, renovation planning, and budget negotiations, Leamy has been placed in great hands. The Hartford-based Du Bose Associates Architects, responsible for the renovation design, is cooperating with the acoustical design firm Akustiks of South Norwalk, Connecticut. Du Bose has completed an extensive number of projects for colleges and universities throughout New England, including projects at Amherst College, the University of Rhode Island, and the University of Connecticut. Akustiks is a team of highly experienced acousticians who specialize in performing arts facilities, museums, and educational institutions. The firm is responsible for the acoustic design of the new Nashville Symphony Concert Hall, the new recital hall at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and the Eastman Theater renovation at the Eastman School of Music.

Plans for the Leamy Hall project include a complete gutting and rewiring of the electrical infrastructure, as well as brand new (and much quieter) heating and cooling systems, lighting, mechanical stage apparatuses, and video and sound systems in the auditorium and backstage areas. Improvements in comfort and accessibility are planned, for example handicapped seating will be available at both the front and rear of the seating area, and aisles will be widened. Seats will be deeper and wider than before. The main seating area of the auditorium will have two aisles instead of three, increasing the number of the "best" seats in the center of the hall. Energy efficiency of the hall will be improved by the modernized construction as well.

In addition to a beautiful and modern new look, complete renovation of the wall, ceiling, floor, and stage coverings will improve the acoustics of Leamy Hall. The goal is for every seat in the house to receive the same high quality of sound from the performing ensemble. If all goes as planned, the Coast Guard Band audience will enjoy a warmer atmosphere and better musical experience than ever before at the Coast Guard Academy.

Musicians Volunteer to Deploy to Gulf Coast

In August, twenty percent of the Coast Guard Band deployed to the Gulf Coast for thirty days to help in the clean-up effort following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. CDR Megan altered the Band's rehearsal schedule, allowing the environmentally-minded musicians to use their administrative skills to help in the massive humanitarian effort. The twelve members involved were MU1 Stevi Rehncy, MU1 Amanda Baker, MU1 Carla Parodi, MU1 Rob Holtorff, MU1 Thomas Brown, MUC Mark McCormick, MUC Stephen Lamb, MUC Barrett Seals, MUC Gino Villarreal, MUCS Richard Denton, MUCS Jonathan Towne, and MUCM Carroll Potts.





In addition to performing in the concert band, **MUC Joshua Thomas**, associate principal saxophone, also plays in the saxophone quartet, and has been a national and international tour soloist. Thomas has given solo and chamber music performances at several regional and international saxophone conferences, at the Midwest Clinic, at the U.S. Joint Forces 13th Salute to Veterans Concert, at several universities throughout the country, and with the Turin, Italy, Opera Orchestra. He has also won prizes at numerous national and international solo and chamber music competitions. Joshua earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Michigan State University, a Master of Music degree in saxophone performance from Louisiana State University, and a Master of Arts degree in music theory from Connecticut College. He was recently named a Selmer Performing Artist.

When did you begin to play the sax?

I started saxophone in the sixth grade, despite some intense pressure from my dad to play tuba.

Was there someone who encouraged your musical abilities?

There were so many people along the way, but the first people to encourage me were my family. My dad was a band director in Plano, Texas, so I grew up going to concerts and watching marching band shows, and of course all of our babysitters were his band students. I literally grew up thinking that everybody was in band, or at least wanted to be. My parents always encouraged me and provided private lessons when I started to play. I had many other influences, ranging from the other band directors in town, to my saxophone teachers, Joe Lulloff at Michigan State, and Griffin Campbell at Louisiana State.

It sounds like your family is quite musical.

Everyone in my family played an instrument at one time or another. My dad was a trombonist and my mom played flute in high school. My oldest brother plays trumpet in a neighborhood rock band. My other brother went to school for music and worked for a time as a professional hornist, but a lip injury forced him to give it up.

Do you teach?

I do enjoy teaching, especially when the student is excited to be there and is engaged in the lesson. I have a degree in music education and spent one year after college teaching middle and high school band in Michigan.

When you aren't working, what are you up to?

Usually having a tea party with our three year old daughter, Hannah, or keeping our one year old son, Monroe, from putting everything he finds in his mouth. I also enjoy exercising and baking desserts. Lately I've been trying to master making a good truffle. Musically, an unusual hobby I have is to work with composers to commission new works for saxophone.

Have you commissioned many new works?

I've commissioned about a dozen pieces. I'll be playing one of them on my recital on September 25 at the La Grua Center in Stonington. David Schumacher composed *Deconstructing Eddie* based on my early musical interest in Eddie Van Halen's amazing guitar playing. Also, Carl Cafagna is composing a twenty-first century version of *Blue Caprice* by Victor Morosco. Interestingly enough, David, Carl and I played together in a sax quartet at Michigan State.

Of what accomplishment are you most proud?

Honestly, I'm most proud that I've been able to find this job with the Coast Guard Band, where I get to play music professionally, at a place that has been very supportive of my personal goals, and that allows me to support my family and provide a good environment to raise my kids.

In addition to soloing on Maurice Whitney's Introduction and Samba on the September 5 Band concert at Fort Trumbull, the saxophonist MUC Joshua Thomas performs a solo recital at the La Grua Center in Stonington, Connecticut, on Saturday, September 25, 2010, at 5 p.m.

Please direct comments or questions to:

Public Affairs
U.S. Coast Guard Band
U.S. Coast Guard Academy (pb)
15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320
860.701.6826

Concert Band

Sunday, September 5—3 p.m. Fort Trumbull, New London, CT

Rain date: Monday, September 6—3 p.m.

Labor Day marks the traditional end to summer as well as to the Coast Guard Band's summer series at Fort Trumbull. With the assistance of the cannons of the Artillery Company of Newport, Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture closes the program with a bang.

Friday, October 1—7:30 p.m. The Morgan School, Clinton, CT

The Band performs its annual October concert hosted by the Clinton Chamber of Commerce.

Sunday, October 24—2 p.m. Garde Arts Center, New London, CT

Music From the Sea includes works inspired by the myth and majesty of the ocean, with selections by Debussy, Handel, Vaughan Williams, and Sousa.

Sunday, November 21—2 p.m. Garde Arts Center, New London, CT

A Tribute to Veterans—presented in prism style with groups small and large around the hall—honors those who have served our nation with a range of patriotic musical works.

Thursday, December 16—7 p.m. Coventry High School, Coventry, CT

The Band makes merry with a variety of holiday favorites.

Sunday, December 19—2 p.m. Garde Arts Center, New London, CT

Enjoy the Coast Guard Band's celebration of the *Winter Holidays* with favorites for children of all ages.

Concert Band Venues

Fort Trumbull State Park	The Morgan School	Garde Arts Center	Coventry High School Auditorium
90 Wallbach St. New London, CT 06320 860.444.7591	27 Killingworth Turnpike Clinton, CT 06413 860.664.6504	325 State Street New London, CT 06320 860.444.7373	78 Ripley Hill Road Coventry, CT 06238 860.742.7346

Chamber Players Recital Series

Sunday, September 19—2 p.m. Noank Baptist Church, Groton, CT

Saturday, September 25—5 p.m. MUC Joshua Thomas, alto saxophone, La Grua Center, Stonington, CT

Wednesday, October 6—12 p.m. Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT

Sunday, October 17—2 p.m. Hepburn Arts Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Sunday, November 7—2 p.m. New London Maritime Museum and Customs House

Sunday, December 12—2 p.m. Noank Baptist Church, Groton, CT

Chamber Players Venues

Noank Baptist Church	La Grua Center	Western Connecticut State Ives Concert Hall	The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center	New London Maritime Museum
18 Cathedral Heights Groton, CT 06340 860.536.7129	7 Stonington Commons 32 Water Street Stonington, CT 06378 860.535.2300	181 White Street Danbury, CT 06810 203.837.8350	300 Main Street Old Saybrook, CT 06475 860.510.0473	150 Bank Street New London, CT 06320 860.447.2501

All performances are free and open to the public. Unless otherwise noted, no tickets are required. For more information about the Coast Guard Band, call our Concert Information Line, 860.701.6826 or visit www.uscg.mil/band.