



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



1984



2011

SPRING/SUMMER 2012

www.uscg.mil/band

BEHIND THE SCENES

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The United States Coast Guard Band: Then and Now

Traveling is an important part of the United States Coast Guard Band's mission. We spend a great deal of time every year on charter buses and commercial airlines. However, Coast Guard Band members didn't always travel as comfortably as we do today. Although we may occasionally grumble at the percentage of us that are assigned middle seats or the hassles of navigating airport lines as a party of fifty-five, we really can't complain. Just ask Howard Pardee, former clarinetist and drum major of the Coast Guard Band. Back in his early days in the 1960s, the Band traveled on C-130s. In fact, the Band continued to travel this way for another couple of decades. On one particular flight to Galveston, TX, Pardee explains "[it] took over ten hours. We were in the normal web seats, no food, no water and no head."



The Lockheed C-130 Hercules has been the USCG's troop and cargo transport workhorse for over 50 years

Times certainly have changed in the last fifty years. In the early sixties the Band's primary mission was to support the United States Coast Guard Academy and its corps of cadets; today the Band is the official musical representative of the entire United States Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security. Since the entire Coast Guard is busier than ever, it can rarely spare a C-130, and the band usually travels on commercial flights. The Band is more culturally diverse than ever, with members from all over the world. The Coast Guard Band enlisted its first female member, percussionist Constance Coghlan in 1973; today there are fifteen. We began radio broadcasts of our concerts in the 1980s, and are now working towards live streaming of performances online, in addition to radio and television appearances. In 2000 the Band added ten new billets, the first expansion since the 1960s. We have seen considerable growth in our tours and our education programs and welcome many more guest artists, both soloists and conductors.

While we have great pride in the Band's increasingly important role in promoting the Coast Guard, it is equally important to remember our past. However, stories such as Mr. Pardee's that make up the oral history of the Coast Guard Band are often difficult to document. We have a database full of historical photos and archived recordings, and we even have an assigned Coast Guard Band historian, but there is much of our history that cannot be chronicled easily. Whether it is playing for the funeral services of John F. Kennedy, marching in a parade for over six million spectators at the end of the first Gulf War, or passing by the record crowds on the way to Barack Obama's inaugural parade, hearing a personal account of these events is meaningful and important.

Because of the close-knit community we share as both Coast Guard members and as musicians, many Band members keep in touch long after leaving the service. In 2009, a group of retired Band members formed the United States Coast Guard Band Retiree and Alumni Group (USCG BRAG) with the mission of facilitating contact among past and present members of the Coast Guard Band. USCG BRAG co-founder and retired piccolo player Cheryl Six adds, "we have always envisioned BRAG being a central 'location' for all former Band members to share photos, stories, memories and whatever is on their minds." While the group has been successful in its mission, the new connections being made between former and current Band members are equally valuable. In addition to their organized gatherings, the BRAG uses social media websites to facilitate photo sharing and group conversation among past and present Band members. These lines of communication will help keep our history alive for years to come. In another fifty years, when even the practices of 2012 seem antiquated to our successors, some new MU will still hear stories about the days when the Band rode on C-130s.

-MUC Kelly Hurrell



MUC Jose Cordero with the Jazz/Rock combo *Force Five*

MUC Jose Cordero was the third cornet player and commercial soloist with the USCG Band from 1973-1994. He also performed as lead trumpet player in the USCG Jazz Band, with the USCG Dixieland Band, and as leader of "WindSong," the USCG Cocktail Jazz Combo, a position he held during his entire tenure with the USCG Band.



MU1 Joel Baroody is one of the Band's newest members, performing as section trumpeter since June 2011.

How did you hear about the Coast Guard Band?

I first heard of the USCG Band from my previous Commanding Officer, CWO J. Hale - USAF Band, who was an acquaintance of LCDR Broadwell, then Director of the USCG Band. After my enlistment in the Air Force and before joining the Coast Guard Band, I returned to school and eventually started working in Las Vegas. A few years later, the casinos started cutting back on musicians and I found out that the USCG Band was auditioning for a trumpet player. I remembered what CWO Hale had once told me so I applied for the USCG Band audition.

I have always known about the Coast Guard Band. Growing up in the Washington DC area, I had the opportunity to hear many of the premier US military bands, and knew that the USCG had one as well. I became much more acutely aware as a graduate student of trumpet performance. At the time, I was taking many auditions (military and orchestral), and once the Coast Guard trumpet vacancy was announced, I knew it was something that I would be taking very seriously.

What was your audition experience like?

My audition experience was pleasant and business like. It was not a cattle call. I do not know how many other people were auditioning for that position.

It was a very well-attended audition, probably even more so than normal because there were actually two trumpet vacancies at the time. It was a "cattle call" audition, and I have been told that there were well over 300 resumes sent. I believe that about 150 people were supposed to show up, and I think somewhere around 115 actually made it to the audition.

How was your adjustment from civilian to military life?

My adjustment to military from civilian life was not difficult as I had previously completed six years with the USAF Band. There, I was a member of the 536th AF Band (1960-1965) stationed at Patrick AFB. This ceremonial unit had the primary function of providing military honors for the Space Program at (then) Cape Canaveral, which was re-named Cape Kennedy after the President's assassination. Before joining the Air Force, I was enrolled part time at Texas Western College of Mines, now named The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). At this time, I received a draft notice and immediately went to the Air Force recruiting office and applied for an audition. I discovered that they were assembling a special ceremonial unit for the upcoming space program. It was initially located at Holloman Air Force Base with ceremonial functions at White Sands Missile Range, and would eventually be transferred to Patrick AFB.

Adjusting to military life was not quite as difficult as I had thought it might be. The training program for new band members at Cape May, NJ certainly helped. It is always interesting to hear people react to the fact that new band members start off as an E6, a rank that can take quite a while for the average member of the military to attain. My family members in the military usually said things like "What?! It took me 11 years to make E6!" It is a nice benefit—but such a specialized position requires a certain amount of expertise, and for most of us (myself included) that means a massive amount of student loan debt from multiple college degrees...so I think it evens out. Being an E6 right away is a big deal, though, and the transition to military life becomes a bit more complicated when you immediately wear a rank that typically means many years of experience. I took it a lot more seriously because of that. It was also difficult for me to cut my hair—which was long and shaggy throughout high school, college, grad school, and post-grad! The jury is still out on which one looks better...

Where were you living before joining the Band? Was it a big culture shock moving from your hometown/home state to Southeastern Connecticut?

I was living and playing in Las Vegas before joining the USCG Band and in that respect, it was somewhat of a culture shock moving to Southeastern Connecticut.

I joined the Band straight from school, so I was used to moving states every couple of years. I grew up in a suburb of Washington, DC (Herndon, VA), spent my undergraduate years at the University of South Carolina, and did my graduate studies at Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. All were located in fairly decent-sized metropolitan areas, so I had to adjust to the more rural feel of many of the towns in Southeastern Connecticut. Other than that, and I know it's probably a more boring answer, but Southeastern Connecticut really isn't that much of a culture shock for me. There is not really much here that is altogether new to me.

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

www.uscg.mil/band

Concert Band

Exciting New Artists

Sunday, June 3—2 p.m. Leamy Concert Hall
Winners of the annual Young Artist Competition, Kaitlin Pet and Samantha Lake, are featured along with members of the Band's Conducting Apprentice Program, Chief Musician Brooke Allen and Musician 1st Class Noel Marcano.

Music at the Park

Sunday, September 2—3 p.m. Fort Trumbull, New London, CT
Send summer out with a bang with our traditional Labor Day concert at Fort Trumbull featuring Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture. The Coast Guard Band provides the music and the Newport Artillery Company brings the firepower.

Chamber Players

May 20, 2012—2 p.m. Leamy Concert Hall
BEETHOVEN: Quintet in E Flat for oboe, bassoon and three horns, Hess 19
BRAHMS: Clarinet Quintet in B Minor, op. 115

June 24, 2012—2 p.m. Noank Baptist Church, Noank, CT
Including music of Kevin Murphy and Michael Kibbe

Big Band Jazz

Sunday, July 29—2 p.m. Leamy Concert Hall
Keep your summer "cool" with this concert of Jazz at the Coast Guard Academy.

Leamy Concert Hall
The United States Coast Guard Academy
15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320

Fort Trumbull State Park
90 Wallbach St.
New London, CT 06320
860.444.7591

Noank Baptist Church
18 Cathedral Heights
Groton, CT 06340
860.536.7129

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.

AWARDS

Congratulations to recipients of the . . .

Coast Guard Achievement Medal

MUCS Brian Nichols for performing around the world as the Band's principal French horn player, resourcefully arranging accommodations as tour logistics coordinator, and selflessly volunteering with organizations in Southeastern Connecticut

MUC Kuljit Rehncy for being a driving force during the renovation of Leamy Concert Hall, ensuring excellence in the refurbishment of the stage, the overhaul of the acoustics, and the transformation of the sound system

MUC Brooke Allen for notable ceremonial performances as bassoonist with the woodwind quintet and the woodwind trio, volunteering in New London public schools, and showing extensive initiative and responsibility as a member of the public affairs team

MUCS Joel Flunker for notable performances as trumpet soloist and leader of the Masters of Swing, laudable accomplishments as the Band's graphic designer, and completion of the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Connecticut

Coast Guard Commendation Medal

MUC Leah Abbott for displaying extraordinary enterprise and exceptional responsibility in her collateral duty as Assistant Chief of Public Affairs

Colonel Finley R. Hamilton Outstanding Military Musician Award

MU1 Laura Pirruccello for exhibiting exceptional musical and leadership qualities and for demonstrating great potential for continued outstanding military service

Sam Hasty Award for Service in the Coast Guard Band

MU1 Bonnie Denton for demonstrating outstanding musical contributions in the service of the US Coast Guard Band and for promoting growth in the organization by fostering enjoyment, pride, purpose, community, and achievement