

THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BAND

Captain Kenneth W. Megan, Director



CAPTAIN KENNETH W. MEGAN DIRECTOR

Since becoming director in October 2004, Captain Kenneth W. Megan has led the Coast Guard Band on tours throughout the United States, Japan and Taiwan, engaged celebrated soloists, and produced numerous CD releases. In November 2008, the Coast Guard Band became the first premier American military band to perform a concert tour of Japan. In addition, Megan has led several performances of the Band in Carnegie Hall and has conducted at the prestigious Midwest Clinic. Under his direction, the Band has performed with opera superstars Nicole Cabell and Elizabeth Futral, pianist Makoto Ozone, clarinet virtuoso David Shifrin, renowned trumpeter Philip Smith, and principal tubist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Mike Roylance. In addition, he invited legendary conductors Donald Hunsberger, Frank Battisti, H. Robert Reynolds, Leonard Slatkin, and Mallory Thompson to lead the Band in unforgettable performances. Under Megan's stewardship, the Band has released nine critically acclaimed disks: *Strauss to Stravinsky*; *Holiday Fanfare*; *Gershwin Remembered*; *Russian Connection*; *American Landscapes*; *South*; *Baby, It's Cold Outside!*; *Gardens of Stone*; and *Live in Japan*. Connecticut Public Radio regularly broadcasts Band concerts on its Sunday Spotlight series.

Before becoming director, Megan's multi-faceted background within the Coast Guard Band included work as musician, arranger, assistant director, director of public information, and producer of the Band's acclaimed radio broadcast series. His body of work as a composer and arranger includes more than thirty pieces. For eighteen years he served as both assistant director and announcer for each performance. He produced a radio series featuring the Band, which included three complete, internationally broadcast seasons consisting of thirteen hour-long programs. In addition, he has supervised both the Band's popular Young People's Concerts and the Coast Guard Band Recital Series. Over the span of his career, his musical excellence and versatility have earned him two Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation medals, and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal.

Megan has represented the Band as an unofficial ambassador on several occasions. During the Coast Guard Band's visit to the former Soviet Union in June 1989, he served as liaison between the Ministry of Culture in Leningrad, the Soviet Armed Forces, and the American Consulate in Leningrad, coordinating the first tour of an American military band in that country. During the tour, one of Megan's most memorable moments was conducting *The Stars and Stripes Forever* during a joint performance with the Leningrad Military District Band. In January 1993, Megan was the Coast Guard's sole representative in the farewell program "An Armed Forces Salute to President Bush." He represented the Coast Guard twice by serving on the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee for the inaugurations of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Herbert Walker Bush.

A native of Norwood, Massachusetts, Megan began his musical studies on clarinet at age 8, adding saxophone at age 12. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music and has done post-graduate study in composition and conducting at the University of Connecticut, the Hartt School of Music, and Connecticut College. He earned a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in management and organization from the University of New Haven in 1990. Megan joined the U.S. Coast Guard Band in June 1975 and was appointed the Band's assistant director in July 1986.