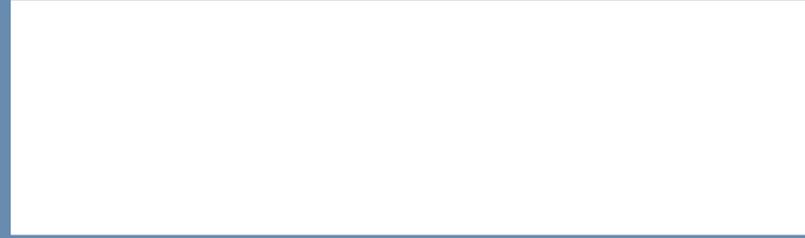




THE UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD BAND
Lieutenant Commander Adam R. Williamson, Director

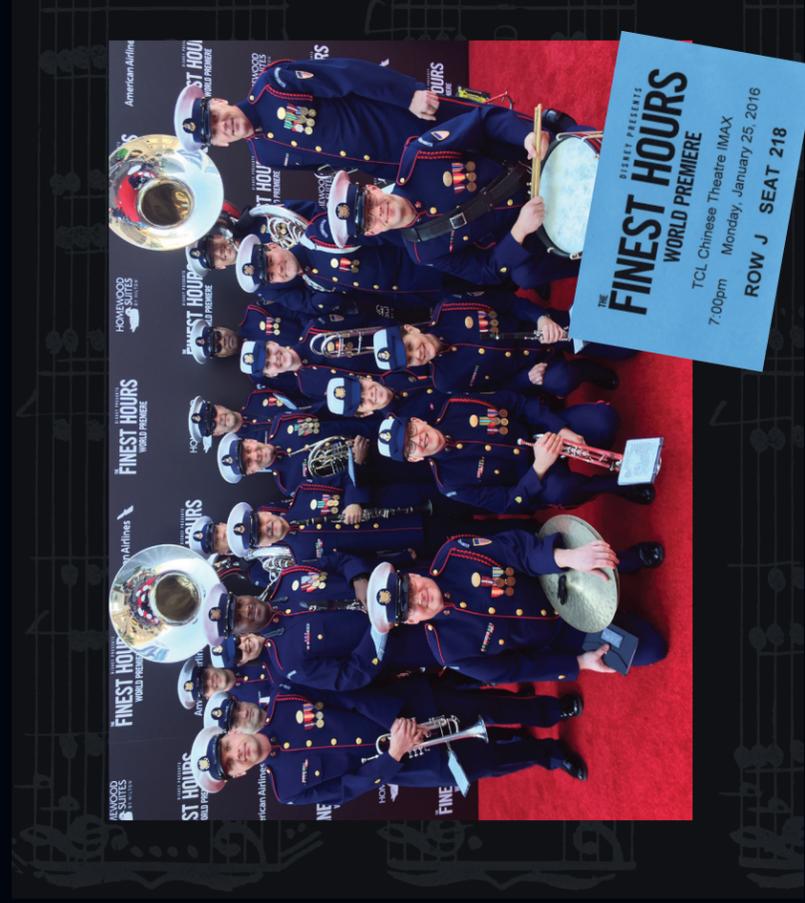


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SUMMER 2016

www.uscg.mil/band

SPOTLIGHT

ON THE COVER - Members of the Band pose on the red carpet at the Hollywood premiere of the feature film *The Finest Hours*

THE FINEST HOURS

Amidst the glamour of Hollywood Boulevard, a contingent of the Coast Guard Band marched down the gleaming red carpet at the Los Angeles premiere of *The Finest Hours*. A wall of media and flash bulbs, cast and crew, and representatives from every echelon of the Coast Guard assembled on the evening of January 25th for this unforgettable event.

My experience began on the way to Universal City, California with *Military Spouse* magazine's 2015 Armed Forces Insurance Coast Guard Spouse of the Year, Stacey Benson. Her creativity and drive have contributed to her personal success in challenging conditions, and her gifts as a leader have enabled other military spouses to thrive in their communities as they move from duty station to duty station. As she shared memories of her husband's multiple deployments as a former member of the Army's Special Forces and his transition to the Coast Guard, I realized she and her husband were the type of citizen celebrated in the film: ordinary people doing extraordinary things. It was a pleasure to share with her the Band's varied contributions to the Coast Guard, and connect with an outstanding advocate for the service.

Our contribution to the bustling scene began in the basement of the historic El Capitan Theatre, one of three theme theaters built in the mid 1920's by visionaries Sid Grauman and Charles Toberman. Once dubbed "Hollywood's First Home of Spoken Drama," El Capitan has a rich resume, including being chosen by Orson Welles for the premiere of *Citizen Kane* in 1941. Soon, it was show time and our ceremonial unit marched down the red carpet, recorded by media outlets from around the world. *Semper Paratus* rang proudly off the walls of the courtyard below the iconic pagoda of the Chinese Theatre. It was an unparalleled experience to perform while standing on the hand prints of the Marx Brothers, Gene Kelly, and Optimus Prime as the cast and other celebrities filed into the theater, their eyes adjusting from the recent barrage of flash bulbs. Another important component of the event was the recognition of veterans whose presence at the screening was facilitated in part by the Gary Sinise Foundation.

Master Chief Musician and Drum Major Jonathan Towne, resplendent in his ceremonial bearskin hat.



The film is a depiction of the heroic actions of BM1 Bernard Webber and his crew of three on the night of February 18, 1952. From Station Chatham, Massachusetts, Webber piloted a 36-foot wooden motorized lifeboat through 60 foot seas to the stern of the SS Pendleton after the tanker had broken in half in a violent winter gale. Webber's selfless actions and expert control of his vessel through life threatening conditions resulted in the rescue of 32 crew members from Pendleton's stern. The crew of the CG-36500 each received the Gold Lifesaving Medal for their heroism.

An after party, held at the Hard Rock Cafe, was a fantastic and unusual conclusion to a Coast Guard Band job. It was an extraordinary chance to rub shoulders with the stars and honored military guests, and was an impressive ending to an evening spent on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. As a drummer, I especially enjoyed meeting Andy Zildjian of the famed cymbal-making family!

My presence at the premiere of *The Finest Hours* was a unique opportunity to foster my connection to the Coast Guard and its superlative members who serve with distinction on a daily basis. I was honored to play for the commissioning of the USCGC Bernard C. Webber in Miami in 2012 and proud to help commemorate his "finest hour" in Los Angeles. Both were events that I will not soon forget.

-MU1 Nathan Lassell



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If so, please visit our website, www.uscg.mil/band and click on the "Join Our Email List" link toward the bottom of the page. In doing so, you are helping reduce our paper usage and mailing costs - thank you!

Senior Chief Musician Joel Flunker will be retiring this Spring after a long and...lengthy career of 21 years.



When did you begin playing trumpet? Was it your first instrument?

I started piano lessons with my mother, who was also the organist at our church, when I was quite young. My study of the trumpet began in fifth grade when my parents begged me to "pick something other than drums. Anything."

When did music become more than a hobby?

When I spent all my high school study halls practicing the trumpet or the TapMaster® Rhythm Trainer instead of doing my homework, which served to narrow my career options somewhat.

What factors led you to audition for the Coast Guard Band? How many auditions did you take before winning a job?

After college, I was employed teaching high school and elementary band, which I enjoyed, but seldom did a trumpet touch my lips, which I did not enjoy. I saw a sign stapled to a telephone pole: "Help Wanted: trumpet player. Specialist in neither classical nor jazz." My first (and last successful) professional audition.

What was your most memorable experience with the Band?

Our tour of Japan, including a week of being free to roam about Tokyo until mid-afternoon every day.

What does life after a 21 year career in the Band hold for you and your family?

We're moving "home" to Wisconsin, where I'm going to teach at Marquette University in Milwaukee, help out Mom and Dad in Neenah, and perhaps sub occasionally with the Chipper Cheeseheads Polka Band.

CONCERT BAND SCHEDULE

ACADEMY CONCERT SERIES

MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 8, 2016, 2pm - Leamy Concert Hall, New London, CT

We bid farewell to Senior Chief Musician Joel Flunker as he shares his virtuosic artistry as trumpet soloist in his final Coast Guard Academy performance with the Coast Guard Band.

DANCE MIX

Sunday, June 5, 2016, 2pm - Leamy Concert Hall, New London, CT

CWO Richard Wyman leads the Band in an afternoon of music inspired by dance. This concert also features MUC Christopher Howard and MU1 Robert Langslet conducting the Band in the culmination of their studies as apprentices in the Band's Conducting and Leadership Program.

SOUSA SPECTACULAR

Sunday, July 3, 2016, 2pm - Leamy Concert Hall, New London, CT

CWO Richard Wyman conducts this concert celebrating America's independence with music by America's March King, John Philip Sousa!

THE COAST GUARD BAND CELEBRATES THE COAST GUARD'S BIRTHDAY!

Sunday, July 31, 2016, 7pm - Cadet Memorial Field, U.S.C.G. Academy, New London, CT

Come celebrate the Coast Guard's 226th Birthday as the band performs an outdoor concert on Cadet Memorial Field. Please note: all audience members will be required to sit in the bleachers for this concert.

COMMUNITY CONCERTS

MEMORIAL DAY AND LABOR DAY AT FT. TRUMBULL

Sunday, May 29, 2016, 1pm - Ft. Trumbull State Park, New London, CT

Sunday, Sept 4, 2016, 1pm - Ft. Trumbull State Park, New London, CT

Start and end your summer at Ft. Trumbull with the Coast Guard Band! Please note the special concert times. In the event of rain, concerts will be rescheduled to the following day at the same time.

CONNECTICUT'S SUBMARINE CENTURY

Wednesday, June 22, 7pm - Eastern Point Beach

Wednesday, July 6, 7pm - UCONN Avery Point

Wednesday, July 20, 7pm - Eastern Point Beach

Wednesday, August 3, 7pm - UCONN Avery Point

Governor Malloy has designated a year-long celebration to commemorate Groton's centennial anniversary of the Naval Submarine Base and Submarine School. Join us for a series of performances highlighting the special role Groton has played as "The Submarine Capital of the World." In the event of rain, concerts will be rescheduled to the following day at the same time.

NORFOLK CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sunday, August 7, 2016, 4pm

Bring the family and spend the afternoon in Norfolk, CT to celebrate the beautiful Music Shed restoration and its magnificent restored cupola.

SMALL ENSEMBLES

USCG DIXIELAND JAZZ BAND

Saturday, June 18, 2016, 3pm

Osprey Festival at Sound View
42-62 Hartford Ave, Old Lyme, CT

Sunday, June 26, 2016, 3pm

City Pier, New London Waterfront Park
2 State Street, New London, CT

Friday, July 8, 2016, 6pm

Sailfest, New London Waterfront Park
2 State Street, New London, CT

Tuesday, July 12, 2016, 7pm

Mystic River Park, Mystic, CT

Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 7pm

Grassy Strip Music and Arts Series
Madison Beach Hotel, Madison, CT

Thursday, July 14, 2016, 5:30pm

Connecticut River Museum, Essex, CT

Thursday, July 28, 2016, 7pm

Old Lyme Senior Center
26 Town Woods Rd, Old Lyme, CT

LEAMY HALL RECITAL SERIES

Sunday, June 12, 2016, 2pm - Leamy Concert Hall, New London, CT

Members of the USCG Band are featured in smaller chamber and solo works.

U.S. COAST GUARD BAND CHAMBER PLAYERS

NEW AND NEWER

Saturday, June 18, 2016, 2pm - The Kate, Old Saybrook, CT

The US Coast Guard Chamber Players present "New and Newer," featuring two works that sparked the minimalist movement in music in the 1960's; Terry Riley's "in C" and Steve Reich's "Clapping Music," alongside two "newer" (but accessible) works from the 21st Century; Andy Akiho's "NO one To kNOW one" (featuring MU1 Chris Smith on Steel Drums) and Bryce Dessner's "Murder Ballades." Join the Coast Guard Band's Assistant Director CWO Richard Wyman and this group of eight to ten Band musicians and special guests for a fun exploration of modern art music.

CONNECT WITH THE BAND

Please direct comments or questions to:

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