



THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BAND

Commander Kenneth W. Megan, Director



WINTER 2011

www.uscg.mil/band

BEHIND THE SCENES

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

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A Different Musical Tack: The United States Coast Guard Chamber Players

The United States Coast Guard Band has been performing monthly concerts at its home in Leamy Hall at the Coast Guard Academy for decades. Generations of concert goers have enjoyed the variety and quality of these performances by the professionals in the premier musical representative of the Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security. The region is truly fortunate to have one of the finest military musical groups in the world based at the Coast Guard Academy, and the Coast Guard Band itself is similarly blessed with a faithful audience and a fitting home on the grounds of this historic institution. Yet many are surprised to learn about the 33 year history of chamber music at the Academy.

The United States Coast Guard Chamber Players Recital Series was established in 1977 to present classic to contemporary chamber music performed by members of the United States Coast Guard Band. The evolution of the series clearly shows the versatility of the unit in responding to its needs and resources. With each passing audition, new members brought with them new ideas and abilities. As the group's membership evolved, so did the possibility of an exciting new concert series. Suddenly a new kind of music was being heard in Leamy Hall Auditorium. The Coast Guard Band could now offer great masterworks of the chamber music repertory to its audience.

The recital series is conceived as both an artistic outlet for the players and a community outreach for the Band. Performing is voluntary and flexible—given time constraints, anyone or any group from the Band's ranks can play any piece. The concerts are free and no tickets are required, just like Coast Guard Band events. Frequently, performances include guest artists and accompanists from all around New England, and sometimes visiting artists from abroad as well. The arrangement is reminiscent of the way Marlboro Music was envisioned: whatever music was ready for public performance went on stage that weekend. The Coast Guard series is somewhat more planned, but the spirit of freedom and flexibility exists none the less as an integral part of the experience.

The Chamber Players have presented several special programs featuring internationally known guest conductors. James Sinclair is the founder and conductor of Orchestra New England, and acknowledged as one of the world's most prominent scholars on the music of Charles Ives. He led a program of music by Igor Stravinsky that included *L'Histoire du Soldat*, Peter Sacco, violin soloist, and the *Concerto for Piano and Wind Instruments* with Gary Chapman, piano soloist. Richard Pittman, founder and conductor of Boston Musica Viva, conducted a performance of *Oiseaux exotiques* by Olivier Messiaen. Tibor Puzstai directed a remarkable concert of antiphonal music by Giovanni Gabrieli and Henri Tomasi that featured the tour de force for brass and percussion, *Fanfare Liturgiques*. Paul Phillips led an unforgettable performance of serenades:

the Divertimento in F by Franz Joseph Haydn, and the Serenade, op. 44, by Antonín Dvořák. Antonio Pappano, music director for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, conducted soloist Brian Sparks in Arnold Franchetti's *Concerto for Saxophone and Winds*.

For several years the annual Jazz in April concert showcased the remarkable arranging and improvisatory skills of Coast Guard Band members, and featured such spectacular guest artists as Slide Hampton, Frank Vardaros, Jeff Holmes, Greg Utzig, Cecil Bridgewater, and Chris Vadala. Vocalist Tracy Thomas and pianist Nathan Thomas presented an afternoon of great Jazz standards. The series has included solo recitals by the United States Coast Guard Woodwind Quintet, a survey of great works for harp and winds called New Horizons featuring harpist Megan Sesma, and unforgettable performances by the folk music ensembles Amizade and A Different Village. The Chamber Players celebrated Mozart's anniversary year with an extensive concert of serenades and arias featuring soprano Lisa Williamson in the ballroom of Leamy Hall. (The room's huge picture windows frame one of the most beautiful views of the Thames River in the region.) Many Coast Guard Band members have presented solo recitals under the auspices of the series, and several have conducted large chamber music ensembles as part of the Band's Conducting Laboratory program.

Today the Chamber Players bring their long tradition of concertizing to new spaces. Leamy Hall is currently undergoing renovations, so the series has come to several wonderful venues for the first time. Performances have been held at Evans Hall and Harkness Chapel at Connecticut College and St. John's Church in Niantic in past years; the Chamber Players have recently performed at Noank Baptist Church, von der Mehden Recital Hall at the University of Connecticut, Thorpe Hall at Central Connecticut University, and the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival at the Battell Stoeckel Estate in Norfolk. The 2010-2011 season marks the first performances at "The Kate", the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center in Old Saybrook, and at the New London Custom House Maritime Museum. The Chamber Players wish to express sincere thanks and appreciation to Paul Hayes and the congregation of the Noank Baptist Church, to Chuck Still and the staff of the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, and to Susan Tamulevich and the New London Maritime Society for their gracious assistance during the 2010-2011 concert season.

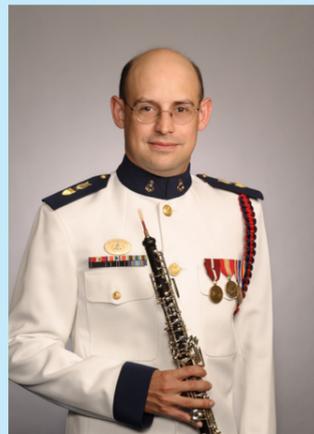
With dramatic performances of masterworks by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, and Brahms, and exciting explorations of the works of today's composers, the United States Coast Guard Band Chamber Players bring great music to life.

-MUC Stephen Wade

ON THE COVER: MUC Adam Williamson conducts the Serenade, K. 361, "Grand Partita", by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, in the Music Shed at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival.

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



Chief Musician Barrett Seals, English horn, has been featured as a soloist on numerous occasions since joining the Coast Guard Band in 2000. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree in oboe performance from the University of Alabama in 1996, graduating cum laude from the Honors Program. In 1999, he received a Master of Music degree from the University of North Texas, where he performed and recorded regularly with the Wind Symphony, was a teaching fellow, and was a member of the Wind Dances fellowship quintet. As English horn soloist, he gave the world premiere performance of Ivan Tcherepnin's Triple Concerto for English Horn, Bass Clarinet and Bass Trombone. He was featured in the American Wind Symphony Orchestra's 2007 recording *Reflections* in the premier recording of Amparo Angel's Adagio for English Horn and Wind Symphony. Barrett was a member of the Garland, Las Colinas, Irving, and Sherman Symphonies in Texas, and the Tuscaloosa Symphony in Alabama. He has performed with the Montgomery and Alabama Symphonies as well as the Dallas Bach Society.

When did you begin to play the oboe? Is this the instrument you started with?

I actually started studying the violin in the second grade, and switched to the oboe in seventh grade when I was given a choice between it and the euphonium.

Was there someone who encouraged your musical abilities?

The first big influences in my musical life came from my first violin teacher in fourth grade, Irene Miller, and my grandmother who diligently drove me to violin lessons every week. Both of my parents were supportive of my musical abilities while I was growing up.

When did you decide to become a musician?

During my freshman year at Alabama, I knew that music would always be an important part of my life, but during that time I also explored studying engineering and mathematics as a double major. I quickly learned that music took all of my energies and I would compromise my chance of success if I double majored.

In addition to playing oboe, you are the Band's audition coordinator. What is that like?

The audition coordinator job is a great deal of fun. I work directly with people who are interested in joining our organization and convey to them what a great job it is, as well as explain all of the perks that go with the job. I also really enjoy conversing with people who are just coming out of school and keeping strong ties with the university community through our recruitment efforts. The most difficult part about the job, though, is when we have an audition and can only accept one person. It's always hard to give the disappointing news to everyone else.

Along with ten other Band members, you volunteered in the clean-up effort following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in August 2010. This is rather different from your daily duties in Leamy Hall. Can you briefly describe what you did? How did you feel about it?

Most of us that went down to the Gulf were originally assigned to vessel decontaminations, VESDCON. I was assigned to a tugboat off of the Alabama coastline where I inspected vessels coming back from working the oil spill. Offshore oil containment was decreasing at that point though, and after the first week I was reassigned to the Orange Beach, Alabama, Branch Command. While with that group I was assigned the role of supervisor of night operations. My team and I would patrol about 30 miles of beach through the night and monitor the cleanup crews that were cleaning the beaches. Being down there was difficult, not just because of the physical hard work and being away from home for a month, but also to see how difficult the situation is for the people living in the Gulf Coast region. I spent most of my childhood growing up in that area and the oil spill has had a huge negative impact on everyone.

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

I really enjoy cooking and working on my house, but a great deal of my free time is spent volunteering at the Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration. I've been volunteering there since 2001 and primarily work with the Beluga whales, assisting the trainers with everything from preparing fish for the animals and scrubbing buckets to actually training the whales new behaviors. When I'm not at the aquarium I try to spend as much time as possible with my fiancé Sara who is an assistant minister in Stamford.

Concert Band at the Garde Arts Center

Sunday, January 23—2 p.m.

Movie Madness XV! The Band performs favorite film scores in its fifteenth iteration of this annual event.

Sunday, February 13—2 p.m.

In honor of **President's Day**, the Band plays selections to include *The Shining City*, a musical setting of the writings and speeches of Ronald Reagan, in celebration of his 100th birthday.

Sunday, March 13—2 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day may not be an official national holiday, but it is a spirited one! Hear music inspired by the rich cultural heritage of the Irish.

Sunday, April 3—2 p.m.

Spectacular Soloists abound in the Coast Guard Band. Hear tubist MUC Adam Crowe and trumpeter MU1 Tom Brown in a new composition by the retired director of the Coast Guard Band, CAPT Lewis Buckley. Also featured is the talented bassoonist MU1 Brooke Allen.

Garde Arts Center
325 State Street
New London, CT 06320
860.444.7373
www.gardearts.org

All performances are free and open to the public. 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.

Chamber Players

Sunday, January 16—2 p.m. Noank Baptist Church, Groton, CT

Sunday, February 6—2 p.m. Hepburn Arts Center, Old Saybrook, CT

There is no charge for this performance, but required tickets are available at www.katharinehepburntheater.org or by calling The Kate's box office at 860.510.0473.

Sunday, March 20—2 p.m. Noank Baptist Church, Groton, CT

Chamber Players Venues

Noank Baptist Church
18 Cathedral Heights
Groton, CT 06340
860.536.7129

The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center
300 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860.510.0473

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Young Artists Solo Competition

The Band's fifth annual Young Artists Solo Competition auditions will be held on Saturday, February 26, 2011, (snow date: Saturday, March 5) at the United States Coast Guard Chapel on the grounds of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. Eligible students must be attending high school in the following Connecticut counties: New London, New London, Middlesex, New Haven, Hartford, Tolland, and Windham. Candidates must choose their repertoire from the list of solo works found on the Band's website, www.uscg.mil/band. The selected finalist will perform with the Band on Sunday, March 13, at the Garde Arts Center. Please contact MUC Aimee Page at 860.701.6836 or aimee.d.page@uscg.mil with any questions.