Musician First Class Laura Pirruccello, piccolo, was presented with the 2018 Sam Hasty Award at the Coast Guard Band’s Labor Day concert at Fort Trumbull, CT. This is the only award that is voted on by members of the Coast Guard Band. It is given annually to a Band member who has demonstrated outstanding musical contributions in the service of the Coast Guard Band and promoted growth in the organization by fostering enjoyment, pride, purpose, community, and achievement.

Bravo Zulu, Laura!

**SPOTLIGHT: MU1 LAURA PIRRUCCELLO**

**CELEBRATE 2019!**
Sunday, January 20, 2:00 p.m., Leamy Concert Hall
Please join us as the Coast Guard Band rings in the new year and also celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with musical selections from our great American culture.

**A LITTLE WINTER MUSIC**
Sunday, February 17, 2:00 p.m., Leamy Concert Hall
Warm up in Leamy Hall and chase away the winter blues with an exciting concert that features winter themed selections along with favorite movie music.

**LUCK O’ THE IRISH**
Sunday, March 17, 2:00 p.m., Leamy Concert Hall
LCDR Williamson conducts the Coast Guard Band in a St. Patrick’s Day concert including works by Percy Grainger and Leroy Anderson. New compositions will also be premiered, including MU1 Robert Langslet’s *Parting Glass* and Kenneth Fuchs’ *Concerto for Bass Trombone*, performed by soloist MU1 Wesley Mayhew.

**PERFORMANCE IN NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**
Sunday, March 24, 2:00 p.m.
Zeiterion Performing Arts Center, 684 Purchase Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts
LCDR Williamson conducts the Coast Guard Band in a concert at the historic Zeiterion Performing Arts Center in New Bedford, MA.

**PERFORMANCE IN PLAISTOW, NEW HAMPSHIRE**
Sunday, April 7, 2:00 p.m.
Timberlane Performing Arts Center, 40 Greenough Road, Plaistow, New Hampshire
LCDR Williamson conducts the Coast Guard Band in a concert at the Plaistow Performing Arts Center in Plaistow, NH. Tickets are available by calling (603) 257-5257.

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG!**
Sunday, April 14, 2:00 p.m., Leamy Concert Hall
Spring is in the air as LCDR Williamson conducts the Coast Guard Band in a concert featuring Ingolf Dahl’s masterful *Concerto for Alto Saxophone*, performed by soloist MUC Greg Case.
The Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band will be performing shows featuring traditional Dixieland Jazz music throughout the season. Be sure to catch a show on one or more of these engagements:

**CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT**
Sunday, January 27, 2:00 p.m.
Cheshire Public Library, 104 Main St., Cheshire, Connecticut

**EAST HAMPTON, CONNECTICUT**
Friday, February 1, 6:30 p.m.
Hampton Community Center, 15 North Maple St., East Hampton, Connecticut

**HAMPTON, CONNECTICUT**
Sunday, February 10, 2:30 p.m.
Hampton Winter Fest, Hampton Community Center, 178 Main St., Hampton, Connecticut

From the opening notes of the Kabalevsky Overture through a soaring and beautiful performance of three Aaron Copland songs by Coast Guard Band soprano Musician First Class Megan Weiheerget and into the final powerful chords of the Maslanka, the Sunday afternoon concert was a true journey for those in the audience and onstage. Local school band director Vanessa Wudyka was in the audience for the performance and remarked that “the concert was well-paced and powerful, especially during J.S. Bach’s Come Sweet Death and Symphony No. 4. The emotion of Dr. Miller and the USCG Band resonated throughout the audience.”

When asked what was most memorable about his four days with the Coast Guard Band, Dr. Miller remarked “There are so many memories that will live with me from this past week. Certainly what has imprinted on me for life is our performance of Maslanka 4. The Band played with such depth of soul, commitment, color, and contrast. Although I could never sum it up in words, I know that our time living in the Maslanka will stay with me forever.”

The members of the Coast Guard Band agree with Dr. Miller’s sentiments.

I know that I’m incredibly lucky to be able to feel music so deeply. After working with Dr. Miller this past week and performing with him, I got to experience this music and go to that place that many of us spend a lifetime seeking. Truly, it’s a gem. Thank you for an experience I’ll never forget.

MU1 Joe D’Alelio

Dr. Miller led the Coast Guard Band in three rehearsals to prepare for the concert. The energy onstage was evident from the onset, as the Band dove into a reading of Dmitri Kabalevsky’s fiery Overture to Colas Breugnon. Chief Musician Kelly Hurrell, the Coast Guard Band’s principal clarinetist and concertmaster, noticed an instant chemistry between the ensemble and conductor. “The Band and Dr. Miller meshed immediately, his technical clarity combined with his energy and passion for the music were a perfect match with the Band,” said Hurrell. During the course of the rehearsals, Dr. Miller and the Coast Guard Band worked intensely, developing a strong bond and mutual respect while interpreting and refining the music for the performance. Dr. Miller reflected that the musicians of the Coast Guard Band are “brilliant, kind, and quirky artists who are dedicated to serve and driven toward excellence in all avenues of art and life. The Band exemplifies excellence both in who they are and how they perform.”