

Sounds from the Hudson

Volume 15 Issue 2

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy J. Holtan, Commander/Conductor

190 Years of Outdoor Summer Concerts

Documented as early as 1817, crowded ships from New York to Poughkeepsie would drop anchor at West Point to give their passengers an opportunity to listen to Richard Willis and his famous West Point Band. Mr. Willis was the first Teacher of Music at West Point and he established patriotic summer concerts as outdoor musical traditions at Trophy Point and the ruins of Fort Putnam. He even organized boat/barge concerts on the Hudson. The Academy Band has performed outdoor summer concerts for the length of its 190-year designation.

You can witness this wonderful tradition starting on June 10th at West Point's scenic Trophy Point Amphitheatre (see schedule on page 3). Concerts are free and open to the public and performed every weekend through Labor Day. Listeners enjoy light classics, opera overtures, John Philip Sousa marches, Broadway hits and movie soundtracks of the Concert Band as well as the Big Band standards and new popular works performed by the Jazz Knights. Bring a picnic and enjoy the live music at a beautiful, historic venue.

“Music Under the Stars” 2007 Guest Artists



Vadala July 29th

This summer's guest artists range from the massive 200-piece Cadet Alumni Choir to world class jazz artists, the American Belles and popular Broadway giant George Dvorsky.

Chris Vadala is one of the country's foremost woodwind artists, and Director of Jazz Studies and Saxophone at the University of Maryland. Mr. Vadala's performing career has been highlighted by a long tenure as standout woodwind artist with the internationally recognized Chuck Mangione Quartet.

Lynn Seaton has had a stellar career as a jazz bassist performing with such notables as Woody Herman and the Count Basie Orchestra. He teaches at the



Seaton August 5th

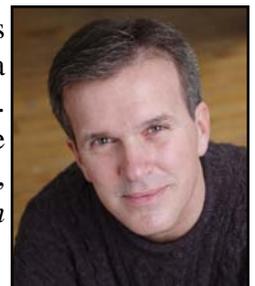


Wiest August 26th

University of North Texas and is on over 100 recordings, including the Grammy winning *Diane Schuur and the Count Basie Orchestra* compact disc.

Steve Wiest is in great demand as a featured trombone soloist, composer/arranger and clinician. He has performed with Maynard Ferguson's Band and the Doc Severinsen Big Band. Steve is now teaching jazz composition and jazz trombone at The University of North Texas.

George Dvorsky frequents the stages of Broadway, Chautauqua and The Covent Garden in London. His studio recordings include Disney's *Beauty and The Beast*, *Broadway Showstoppers*, *Brigadoon* and *The Jerome Kern Treasury*.



Dvorsky Sept. 1st



Cadet Glee Club Alumni Chorus - distinguished Academy graduates return for the first time in a chorus of over 200 people July 22nd.



The American Belles return to West Point to pay tribute to the Andrews Sisters on August 12th.



Keith Brion (left) led the U.S. Military Academy Concert Band in an extremely popular *Stars, Stripes and Sousa* concert. Marni Nixon with Lt. Col. Holtan (above) performed her noted works from *West Side Story*, *The King and I* and *My Fair Lady*.



Jazz legend Jon Faddis (left) literally blew the audience away as he led and performed with the Jazz Knights at the West Point Trumpet Conference. David Bilger (right), principal trumpet of the Philadelphia Orchestra, performed Bert Truax's *Fantasy* with the Concert Band as part of the concert finale.



Staff Sgt. Derrick James (left) works with a student woodwind section during the Jazz Knights Workshop. The USMA Concert Band (right) performs a joint concert with the New York Staff Band of the Salvation Army.

USMA Concert Schedule BAND

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS



“Celebrations!” Concert Band: Sunday, June 10, 7:30 p.m.; Trophy Point, West Point, New York.

Concert Band: Wednesday, June 13, 7:00 p.m.; Vanderbilt Mansion, Hyde Park, New York.

“Hello and Goodbye” Jazz Knights: Sunday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.; Trophy Point, West Point, New York.

“Live at WAMC’s Performing Arts Studio” Concert Band: Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.; Albany, New York.

“Alumni Showcase” Hellcats, Jazz Knights and Concert Band: Sunday, June 24, 6:30 p.m.; Trophy Point (Inclement site Eisenhower Hall), West Point, New York.

“Great American Classics” Concert Band with Joe Alessi, principal trombonist of the New York Philharmonic: Sunday, July 1, 7:30 p.m.; Trophy Point, West Point, New York.

“Independence Day Concert” Concert Band: Saturday, July 7 (Rain date on July 8), 8:00 p.m.; Trophy Point, West Point, New York.

Concert Band: Friday, July 13, 7:30 p.m.; Valley Stream Band Shell, Valley Stream, New York.

“A Night at the Movies” Concert Band: Sunday, July 15, 7:30 p.m.; Trophy Point, West Point, New York.

“Celebrating West Point with the Alumni of the Cadet Glee Club” Concert Band: Sunday, July 22, 7:30 p.m.; Trophy Point (Inclement site Eisenhower Hall), West Point, New York.



The Hellcats Celebrate July 4th at the Blossom Music Festival

On July 3rd and 4th, the Hellcats will be performing at the Blossom Music Festival, the summer home of the Cleveland Orchestra. The Hellcats will present their entertaining show, comprising many patriotic and West Point selections.

Jazz Knights with Guest Saxophonist Chris Vadala: Sunday, July 29, 7:30 p.m.; Trophy Point (Inclement site Eisenhower Hall), West Point, New York.

Jazz Knights: Thursday, August 2, 8:00 p.m.; Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts, Westport, Connecticut.

Jazz Knights with Guest Bassist Lynn Seaton: Sunday, August 5, 7:30 p.m.; Trophy Point (Inclement site Eisenhower Hall), West Point, New York.

“Down Memory Lane with the Andrews Sisters” Concert Band featuring patriotic show troupe the American Belles: Friday, August 10, 6:30 p.m.; Veteran’s Memorial Park, Ridgefield, Connecticut.

“Down Memory Lane with the Andrews Sisters” Concert Band featuring patriotic show troupe the American Belles: Sunday, August 12, 7:30 p.m.; Trophy Point, West Point, New York.

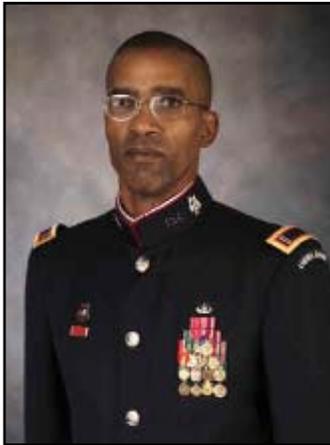
Jazz Knights; Sunday, August 12, 6:00 p.m.; Thomas Felten Memorial Park, Modena, New York.

“Dancing Under the Stars” Concert Band: Sunday, August 19, 7:30 p.m.; Trophy Point, West Point, New York.

Jazz Knights with Guest Trombonist Steve Wiest: Sunday, August 26, 7:30 p.m.; Trophy Point (Inclement site Eisenhower Hall), West Point, New York.

“1812 Overture Concert” Jazz Knights, Concert Band, Fireworks and Cannon: September 1 (Rain date on September 2); 6:00 p.m.; Trophy Point, West Point, New York.

For concert information, cancellations and updates call the Concert Information Hotline (845) 938-2617. All performances by the U.S. Military Academy Band are free and open to the public. Check www.usma.edu/band for the latest news, photos, concert events and highlights.



Chief Warrant Officer Douglas Hammond joined the staff of the U.S. Military Academy Band in May of 2004 as Associate Bandmaster and director of the Jazz Knights. Prior to enlisting in the Army, he attended the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida,

majoring in music theory and composition with an emphasis on conducting. CW4 Hammond has served in the Army Band program for over 30 years, first as a tuba player, pianist and arranger before being accepted into the Warrant Officer program in 1992. He was most recently commander of the 113th Army Band at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Also known as “The Dragoons,” this band has a rich history as the 2nd oldest U.S. Army Band. He has also commanded the 82nd Airborne Division Band at Fort Bragg and the 10th Mountain Division Band at Fort Drum. CW4 Hammond’s last concert will be the “Hello and Goodbye” concert presented by the Jazz Knights on June 17th, 7:30 p.m. at the Trophy Point Amphitheatre. CW4 Hammond will continue his service as a faculty member at the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, Virginia.



Sergeant Major Rick Gerard from Los Gatos, California joined the U.S. Military Academy Band in 1973 as a tuba player. He left the band in 1976 to pursue a Bachelor of Music from San Jose State University and to perform as principal tuba with the San Jose Symphony. He returned to West Point in

1981 as a member of the Concert Band and also performed in several chamber music ensembles. Sergeant Major Gerard has served as the band’s primary announcer since 1981. He was appointed to the position of Band Sergeant Major in September of 2002. He will retire after 29½ years of service. After retirement, Sergeant Major Gerard plans to enjoy some time off with his wife and family while he works towards a new career in the voice-over business.



Master Sergeant Gregory Alley, trumpet, will retire from the USMA band after 23 years of service. Prior to arriving at the band, Greg earned degrees from Cornerstone University and Michigan State University. One of the highlights of his career was performing as a founding member of the Regimental Brass Quintet,

an activity which provided him the opportunity to tour the country as well as travel to Norway to perform. Greg's fondest memories of the band include interacting with the distinguished alumni of the band at the annual alumni concert. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Greg is proud to have raised his four daughters in the West Point community with his wife, Deb. The Alley family will be relocating to Hudsonville, Michigan, where Greg will be an adjunct music professor and private trumpet instructor.

Sounds from the Hudson

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 CPT Treg Ancelet - Deputy Commander
 CW4 Douglas Hammond - Associate Bandmaster
 SGM James Gerard - Band Sergeant Major
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Chief Warrant Officer Matthew C. Morse was born in Phoenix, Arizona in December 1967. After moving around the country, his family settled in Bloomington, Minnesota, where he graduated high school in 1986. That same year, he enlisted in the United States Army, and went on to serve with the 4th Infantry Division Band, Fort Carson, Colorado until 1990 and then with the 296th Army Band, Camp Zama, Japan. In 1993, CW3 Morse returned to Fort Carson, Colorado, and the 4th Infantry Division Band. After the band's inactivation in 1996, he rejoined the 296th Army Band in Japan. During his tours in Colorado and Japan, CW3 Morse served as euphonium player, trombone player, percussionist, bass guitarist, flutist, drum major, vocalist, sound reinforcement/recording technician, Operations Noncommissioned Officer and Administrative Noncommissioned Officer.

In 1997, CW3 Morse was selected for training as a warrant officer bandmaster, and attended Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Upon graduation, he was recognized on the Commandant's List for academic excellence. He went on to the Army Warrant Officer Bandmaster course at the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, Virginia, and graduated in June of 1998. Prior to his assignment to West Point, CW3 Morse's duties included staff officer with the Directorate of Training and Doctrine, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division Band and command staff of the 1st Armored Division Band. In July of 2005, he assumed duties as commander of the 282nd Army Band, Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. CW3 Morse arrived at the U.S. Military Academy Band in May of 2007 to assume the duties as Associate Bandmaster. In response to his new position, CW3 Morse stated, "My family and I are ecstatic about our assignment to West Point and the USMA Band. It is a great opportunity for me to be associated with such fine musicians and to be a part of the rich history and tradition of the USMA Band and of the Academy."

Sergeant Major Cal Christensen was appointed to the position of Band Sergeant Major in June of 2007. Originally from Browns Valley, Minnesota, he attended the band instrument repair course at Red Wing Vocational Institute in Red Wing, Minnesota in 1979. At the conclusion of his training in 1980, he was employed by Cassinat's Music in Riverton, Wyoming as their repair technician.

Sergeant Major Christensen joined the Military Academy Band in 1988 as a repair technician. He has held many additional duties including Reception Day NCOIC for Thayer Hall in-processing and Egner Hall Facilities Manager. In 2005, he became the Support Staff group leader and was assigned the additional duty position of Logistics & Resource Management Division Sergeant Major in 2006.

Sergeant Major Christensen's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Army Achievement Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters.





Staff Sergeant Eric Ordway, trombone, grew up in Northeast Harbor, Maine and joined the Jazz Knights in the Spring of 2007. After graduation from high school, he enlisted and reported to the Navy Band in New Orleans. Awarded the Stan Kenton Scholarship to attend the University of North Texas, Staff Sgt. Ordway left the Navy to pursue a jazz studies degree. While in Texas, he began to freelance throughout the Dallas area performing with such groups as the Dallas Jazz Orchestra. He rejoined the Navy Band Northwest, where he was the leader of the Dixieland Band and Musical Director of "Cascade Big Band." Staff Sgt. Ordway has also been a two-time finalist in the Eastern Trombone Jazz Competition.



Staff Sergeant Dan Pierce, trombone, a native of Slingerlands, New York and Pepper Pike, Ohio, joined the Jazz Knights in Fall of 2006. He earned a Bachelor of Music from the Eastman School of Music and a Master of Music from DePaul University. As a four-year member of the Eastman Jazz Ensemble, he had the privilege to perform with guest artists including Maria Schneider, Bobby McFerrin, Vince Mendoza, Toots Thielmans, Tim Hagans, Bill Holman and Clare Fischer. Staff Sgt. Pierce has studied with Paul Ferguson, John Marcellus, Mark Kellogg, Mark Fisher and Charles Vernon. His performing credits include the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Pops Series with Doc Severinsen, Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, Dave Rivello Ensemble, Bob Perna and Persistence, and Cunard Cruise Lines.



Staff Sergeant Jeff Prosperie, percussion, joined the Hellcats in December of 2006. Before coming to West Point, Staff Sgt. Prosperie served as director of percussion studies at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette where he taught lessons, percussion ensemble and drum-line. He received his Bachelor's in Music Education from Louisiana State University, Master of Music from the University of North Texas, and has completed all course work for the Doctor of Music Arts from the University of North Texas. In addition to performing with the Baton Rouge Symphony, Acadiana Symphony, Natchez Opera, Los Colinas Symphony and the Dallas Symphony. Staff Sgt. Prosperie is a former World Snare Drum Champion having won the Drum Corps International, Percussive Arts Society International and Drum Corps Mid-West Individual solo competitions. Staff Sgt. Prosperie is a former percussion arranger and caption head for the DCI World Champion Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps and currently serves as a championship level adjudicator for DCI and the Percussive Arts Society. Staff Sgt. Prosperie's DVD/book *Aptitude: A Conversation in Snare Soloing* received the rare highest ranking of perfect "10" from *Modern Drummer* magazine.

USMA BAND RECORDING IS "OUT OF THIS WORLD!"



Col. Williams presents Lt. Col. Holtan with the Hellcats recording flown to and played on the International Space Station.

On April 17th, Astronaut Jeff Williams returned a Hellcats CD which flew with him during his six-month stay at the International Space Station. Col. Williams, a USMA Class of 1980 graduate, also graciously gave the band a lecture about his space travels. The event was a culmination of a relationship between the USMA Band and NASA that began at the 2005 Army vs. Navy game, where bandsmen Sgt. 1st Class Deric Milligan and Staff Sgt. Eric Miller devised a halftime show that honored West Point astronauts.



In addition to the Hellcat CD, the plaque presented by Col. Williams includes authentication and various photos from his mission.