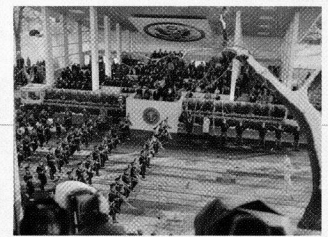


spotlight

Maryland's Musical Ambassadors at 100



Command Performance, 1961
Maryland's marching band was honored with invitations to four inaugural parades for Presidents Woodrow Wilson (1917), Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953), John F. Kennedy (1961, pictured) and Ronald Reagan (1985).

Royal Homecoming, 1957

Queen Elizabeth II took in a football game at Byrd Stadium, where the marching band replicated Her Majesty's crest and later played a traditional salute to her exit, which "delighted and amazed" her. Director Hugh Henderson wrote the arrangement after his Scottish mother-in-law whistled it to him over the phone.



The Beginning, 1908

Bugler L.G. Smith organized the original, 25-member Cadet Band, which, like military bands elsewhere, was used to boost morale.

Beautiful Music Together, 1954-present

After World War II, the university's music program took over band leadership, forming several new bands that flourished and continue to evolve. Maryland currently has nine bands: three jazz, two athletic and four concert bands.

INDIVIDUALLY, THE MEMBERS BLEND into the sea of students walking along McKeldin Mall. Collectively, they are the most diverse student organization at the university. No other group can match the rich history and endless devotion of the School of Music's band program.

Since 1908, Maryland bands have entertained thousands and served as musical ambassadors who raise the university's profile. This month, the university kicked off a celebration of the bands' centennial anniversary.

"The bands provide impact through their pageantry and music and equally through their vocal spirit and loyalty to the university," says Associate Director L. Richmond Sparks, who has been with the music program since 1984. "It's a moving art form."

The bands will host a number of special events throughout the 2008-09 school year, and the marching band will release two commemorative books in the spring. The annual Kaleidoscope concert in December may be the

largest gathering of band alumni ever.

In the meantime, today's members are giving spirited performances here and around the world. In July, the Community Band performed a salute to the 2008 Olympics in Shanghai and Beijing, China, prior to the Olympic Games. Take a look at other historically and culturally significant moments from 100 years of Maryland music. —CW



Coed Drum Majors' Shorts Too Short!

Pioneering Women, 1936

Three women, all trumpet players, were the first coeds to join the university band. Two years later, freshman Dot Arnold and sophomore Shirley Connor were chosen to be the first female majorettes. Shown (above) in costumes they designed, the women's short white skirts and flowing capes outraged dozens of parents and a Washington newspaper.

Their band privileges were immediately suspended until "more suitable attire could be obtained." The redesigned outfits (right) were on display a few weeks later.

