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#### **Richards Instrumental Music Fund**

In memory of Gertrude and Huldric Richards, and honoring Nori and Ray Richards for their support of Caltech's Instrumental Music Program. Interest generated by the Richards Fund will be used at the discretion of Bill and Delores Bing, or those who may succeed them in guiding the Caltech Instrumental Music Program.

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

##### **Caltech Chamber Music Marathon**

Sunday, May 16 - 2:00pm - 6:00pm - Dabney Lounge

Arrive when you can, and stay as long as you can. Music will range from endelssohn's remarkable Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, to a setting of folk songs by Gustav Holst, a string quartet by Brahms, the great E-flat Piano trio by Schubert, and some delightful music for woodwinds..

##### **Caltech Chamber Music Ensembles**

Sunday, May 23 - 3:30pm - Dabney Lounge

We end the spring series with music by Bach, Dvorak, Beethoven, a tango for two flutes and more.

##### **Caltech Glee Clubs and Caltech Orchestra featuring Haydn Mass in D Minor "Lord Nelson"**

Friday, May 21—8:00 pm - Ramo Auditorium  
Saturday, May 22 - 8:00pm - Ramo Auditorium

**Admission to all music performances is free of charge, no tickets required**

# The 30th annual BANDORAMA

Directed by William Bing  
"A Tribute to our Alumni"

Monday Jazz Band  
Thursday Jazz Band  
Caltech – Occidental Concert Band

featuring

**Paul Asimow**  
**Kjerstin Williams**  
**Melson Varsovia**

Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15  
8:00 pm  
Ramo Auditorium, Caltech

# Program

## Caltech-Occidental Concert Band

Poet and Peasant Overture

Franz von Suppé  
arranged by Henry Fillmore

*Paul Asimow, conducting*

Lincolnshire Posy

Percy Grainger

Lisbon (Sailor's Song)

Horkstow Grange

The Brisk Young Sailor

The Lost Lady Found

Opening Night on Broadway

arranged by Michael Brown

*Melson Varsovia, conducting*

Caltech Medley

Frank Wiegand and Manton M. Barnes

Arranged by Raymond Burkhart

Lead Us On, Our Fighting Beavers

Hail, All Hail

Fight, Men of California Tech

Gnome Sweetheart Song

Hail, C.I.T. (Caltech Alma Mater)

The Throop Institute March

E. C. Kammermeyer

Arranged by Raymond Burkhart

**INTERMISSION**

## Friends of Caltech Instrumental Music

We would like to thank the Friends of Caltech Instrumental Music, whose support is essential to the Caltech-Occidental Concert Band, Caltech Jazz Bands and Chamber Music Ensembles, and the Caltech-Occidental Orchestra.

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\*In memory of Conrad Josias

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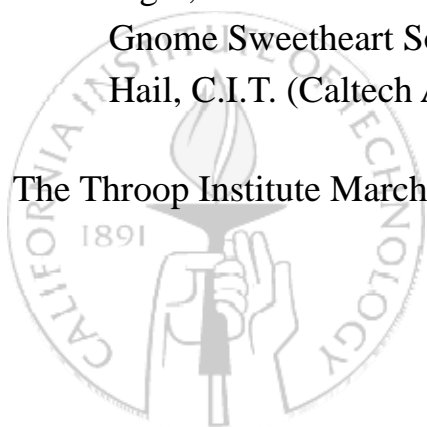
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Performing and Visual Arts at Caltech,

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**Victor A.J. Van Lint:**

I really enjoyed playing in the Caltech band and orchestra for the 8 years I studied there. I remember especially playing in the Rose Bowl, not on Jan. 1 but when the Caltech football team played to a very sparse audience. Our director was also the director of the Pasadena Junior College (later PCC) band and the Tournament of Roses Band. He invited us to participate in the Jan. 1 festivities, but I regret not taking advantage of it.

I went on to become an instructor at Princeton University, but was soon drafted. After two years in the Army we moved to San Diego and have stayed here almost full time since. I still try my flute once in a while, but I've lost the lip for the piccolo.

We're looking forward to the alumni reunion weekend.

**Robert West:**

Hi Bill,

My first year as a Caltech undergrad was 1969-1970. After Caltech I obtained a PhD in Planetary Sciences at the University of Arizona. My first job was with the University of Colorado for six and a half years. In 1984 I took a job at JPL and I have been here ever since, now a Senior Research Scientist with the Cassini mission which is orbiting Saturn.

Cheers,  
Bob

**Martin Zimmerman:**

Hi Bill,

Can't be in town I'm afraid. Otherwise it would be fun to see.

After getting my BS at Caltech in 1987, I went to the University of Illinois to get my MS and PhD in Electrical Engineering. While there I participated in the U of I Department of Bands program. I spent 4 years in the Concert Bands (including two years in the #2 (of 6) bands) and also participated in the Clarinet Choir one semester. That was probably the peak in my musical abilities. After living in other locations in the Midwest, I have been in my hometown of Chicago for 11 years. I am married with a stepson (now in college) and work as an Engineering Manager at a telecommunications hardware provider. I don't play much anymore but I still appreciate listening to music.

My main memory from Caltech is playing Mozart's Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in A as part of the Chamber Music program. I'm reminded of that performance every time I hear this piece of music.

Sincerely,  
Marty

(Music to be chosen from the following selections.)

## **Monday Jazz Band**

Chattanooga Choo Choo

Harry Warren  
arranged by Jeff Hest

*Sarvesh Garmella, trumpet*

Blue Bones

Dominic Spera

*featuring the trombone section*

Get it On

Bill Chase and Terry Richards  
arranged by Leonard Moss

*featuring the trumpet section*

Cute

Neal Hefti

*Marcus Lucas, drums*

Li'l Darling

Neal Hefti

## **Thursday Jazz Band**

The Joy of Sax

Les Deutsch

Basie's Back in Town

Ernie Wilkins  
arranged by Nat Pierce

The Nearness of You

Hoagy Carmichael  
arranged by Elliot Deutsch

*Kjerstin Williams, vocalist*

Gaviota

Clare Fischer  
arranged by Dirk Fischer

It Could Happen to You

James Van Heusen  
arranged by George Stone

# Personnel

## Caltech-Occidental Concert Band

### Flute

Brianne Blakesley (Jr., Chemistry)  
Patrick Chapman (Community)  
Mary Davis (CT Community)  
Amber Fandel (Oxy Sr., Biology)  
Kelly Guan (Fr., Chem. Eng.)  
Mythili Iyer (Soph., Chem. Eng.) \* \*\*  
Cecilie Kern (Oxy, Soph., DWA/Span)  
Chethana Kulkarni (GS, Chemistry)  
Stephanie Kwan (Fr., Biology)  
Joyce Lee (Fr., undeclared)  
Shiyi Liu (Fr., Physics)  
Anastasia Markovtsova (Fr., Bioeng.)  
Chihiro Saegusa (Visitor, Bio)

### Piccolo

Zhaoying Xian (Fr., Chemistry)

### Oboes

Susan Dittmer (Jr., Physics) \*  
Talia Weiss (Jr., Bioengineering) \*\*

### Clarinet

Marissa Barrientos (Soph., Chemistry)  
Suzanne Birner (Soph., Geology)  
Carly Bond (Fr., Chem. Eng.)  
Patti Brugman (Oxy Alumna)  
Alison Cheung (JPL)  
Remi Cornaggia (Visitor, Mech. Eng.)  
Christine Fuller (Jr., Mech. Eng.)  
Chris Kolner (Fr., EE) \*  
Dongkook Lim (Jr., Biology)

### Clarinet (cont'd)

Jeffrey Lin (Soph.)  
Christine Loza (GS, Chem. Eng.) \*\*  
Brad Nitta (Oxy, Sr, Biochem.) \*\*  
Thomas Ruchti (GS, Soc. Science)  
Stan Sander (JPL, CT Alumnus)  
Nicole Thadani (Soph., Bioeng.) \*\*  
Sean Wakayama (CT Alumnus)  
Catherine Bingchan Xie (Fr., Bioeng.)

### E Flat Clarinet

Lynne Snyder (CT Music Staff)

### Alto Clarinet

Trudi Anderson (Community)

### Bass Clarinet

Jessica Davis (Soph., Astrophysics)  
Jeremy Yager (JPL) \*

### Contra Bass Clarinet

Jeremy Yager \*

### Bassoon

Alex Ramussen (Soph., Physics)  
Donmelson Varsovia (Oxy Alum)

### Alto Saxophone

Jack Cochran (Sr., Eng. And App. Sci.) \*  
Kent Koyanagi (Soph., Mech. Eng.)

### Tenor Saxophone

Chris Berlind (Jr., Comp. Sci.)

### **Donald Simons:**

Hi, Bill—

I haven't been in the same job since 1970 like you (40 years!?) but only 31, now the 4<sup>th</sup> different company name (after 2 acquisitions and one divestiture), but it's the same work on the same contract for the same defense department customer. Musically, I'm now a harpsichord player. I own 3, and mostly just go to summer workshops (every year since about 1987, this summer to Vancouver) and produce a chamber concert in my house every spring. But occasionally I play in a "real" concert, most recently last August in a 2-harpsichord concert in Austin, TX (sample, a Buxtehude Ciacona which I arranged for 2 harpsichords: <http://www.icking-music-archiv.org/scores/buxtehude/BuxWV160/buxia.mp3>)

I also publish some Baroque chamber music, using a program I wrote myself to do the typesetting: [www.pchpublish.com](http://www.pchpublish.com)

I may come by in 2 weeks if I'm not tied up.

--Don Simons

### **Michael Sponsler:**

Dear Bill,

So good to hear from you!

Michael Sponsler, Ph.D. Chemistry, 1987: "The Caltech Wind Ensemble was a wonderful way for me to stay active with my French horn through graduate school. I remember with great fondness playing for graduation each year. I also remember a couple Pig-Outs at Bill's house, complete with guest pigs (one quite small and manageable, the other not so much). I have been on the faculty at Syracuse University for 21 years and have played the entire time with the Syracuse University Brass Ensemble (subrass.com)."

Regards,  
Mike

### **Dawn Sumner:**

Hi Bill,

It's nice to hear from you!

I am now a professor of geology at University of California, Davis. My research focuses on interpreting microbial processes early in earth's history as well as mars exploration. I am no longer playing flute, but my memories of playing in the Caltech Concert Band are still vivid. The regular rehearsals and the need to practice provided an excellent counterpart to the academic rigors of undergraduate life. They provided necessary and greatly appreciated balance.

Cheers  
Dawn

### **Gregory Ojakangas:**

Bill – So glad you are still doing your thing there at Caltech. I loved being in the jazz band while a grad student there. It really helped to keep me sane – to the extent that that statement has any meaning for me – I was a bit insane in the first place. Wish I could be there on 5/14 and 5/15. Does Les Deutsch still play with you? Someday I will get back there, and I will try to look you up. I am playing occasionally in the jazz band at Drury University, where I teach physics. I have started to develop a website at [www2.drury.edu/gojakangas](http://www2.drury.edu/gojakangas), if you have any interest or time to see what I have been up to lately. Best wishes and God bless you!

Greg

### **Lawrence Oliver:**

Dear Bill,

The first two things I noted about the video were: 1) the band is dressed a lot better now than in 1965, and 2) it reminded me that CalTech was still all-male in 1965. So that's two improvements I saw immediately. Our jazz band was a rag-tag group of guys that sometimes practiced, sometimes not, and I don't believe we gave any concerts. In typical male fashion, we were always intruding on other's solos. At that time, one of the band's responsibilities - either a chore or a pleasure, depending on one's own interest - was the twice a year trip to perform at Disneyland. We had to remind everyone to wear black socks for the trip, to attempt to look professional. And our marching was a riot! Mickey Mouse and Goofy often followed along, and were more in step than we were. We knew the mathematics of chord structure, but couldn't stay in tune while walking down Main Street in Disneyland.

I managed the band for the last two years I was there, and enjoyed it throughly. It was an early experience in asking for money from administration, and I took the tack of "loading" the budget requests, and vigorously defending some items that we didn't really need. Rather than getting the budget cut, like was promised, we ended up with a substantial increase. I have no idea if the band was looked on favorably after my tenure. I probably irritated some folks.

My career, fortunately for the music world, stayed in science and medicine and I did not play an instrument after leaving CalTech. My retirement is coming very soon from directing clinical trials and the cardiovascular lab here at the Mayo Clinic. While jazz is still my favorite genre, I am now only in the audience, not on stage.

Hope the concerts go well.

Larry Oliver, BS 1965

### **George Preston:**

I played in the Caltech Band 1960-1963 under John Deichman. We rehearsed in Culbertson Hall, in those pre-Beckman days the Institute's only performance and practice venue. I used to tell my two sons and their friends that I "played in the Rose Bowl" - Caltech's "home" stadium for night football games, since there were no lights at the Tournament Park field. I played horn in the band but sousaphone for the games. Often the band outnumbered Caltech's rooters.

I am retired, live in Auburn CA and remain quite active musically in the Sacramento area, playing euphonium in two community bands, Raspberry Jam Band ragtime group, and Toot Sweet Brass Co., a quintet that I founded.

--

George Preston  
BSChE 1964

### **Baritone Sax**

Vishnu Manoranjan (Fr., Biology)

### **Horn**

Matthew Diamond (Fr., Applied Physics)\*

Eduardo González (Jr., Chem. Eng.)

Otfried Liepack (JPL)

Patrick Shopbell (CT Staff)

Christine Viveiros

### **Cornet and Trumpet**

Meredith Berbée, (Community)

John Brugman (Community)

Les Deutsch (CT Alum, JPL)

Sarvesh Garimella (Jr., Plan. Sci/ESE.)

Ran Huo (Jr., Physics)

Joshua Hutchins (Sr.,Mech. Eng.)

David Lu (Soph., App. Phys.) \*

Marcus Maciejewski (Community)

John Maciejewski (JPL)

Duane Marsteller (Community)

Matthew Sprague (GS, Chem.)

Brett Teeple (GS, Physics)

Irving Zeidner (Community)

### **Trombone**

Rae Millikan (Fr., Mech. Eng.)

Roger Northrop (Community)

Andy Richards (GS, Mech. Eng.)

Jeffrey Thompson (G2, Geology)\*

Catherine Wehrey (Oxy, Alumna)

### **Baritone**

Aaron Eichelberger (CT Alumnus) \*

### **Tuba**

Paul Asimow (Faculty) \*

Peter Buhler (Soph., Geology)

Alex Rider (Fr., undeclared)

Jimmy Scott (Fr., Physics)

### **Percussion**

Scott Babcock (CT Music Staff) \*

Joe Jewell (Alumnus GS., Aero)

Daniel Kolodrubetz (Jr. , Physics)

Eric Olmon (GS, Chemistry )

Gregory Simonian (Fr., Astrophysics)

Heather Widgren (Sr., Chemistry)

### **Manager**

Jack Cochran

### **Assistant Managers**

Jessica Davis

Sarvesh Garimella

Eduardo Gonzalez

Nicole Thadani

\* principal player

\*\* band council member



# Personnel

## Monday Jazz Band

### Alto Saxophone

Jack Cochran (Sr., Aero) \*

Vishnu Manorianian (Fr., Biology )

### Tenor Saxophone

Jim Anderson (Soph., App. Physics)

Ilya Nepomnyashchiy (Fr., CS)

### Baritone Saxophone

Steven Okai (Fr., Elec. Eng.)

### Trumpets

Sarvesh Garimella (Jr., Planetary Science/ESE) \*

David Lu (Soph. App. Physics)

Priyam Patel (Soph., App. Physics)

Sam Jones (Fr., Elec. Eng.)

### Trombones

Kristen Holtz (Fr., Chemistry )

Rae Millikan (Fr., Mech. Eng.)

Shannon Mohler \* (Soph., Chem. Eng.)

### Bass Trombone

Alex Rasmussen (Soph., Physics)

### Piano

Paul Anzel (GS. App. Phy.)

### Bass

John Dundas III (CT Staff)

### Drums

Marcus Lucas (Soph., Mech. Eng.)

### Guitar

Daniil Kitchaev (Soph., Chem. Eng.)

### **Mark McAdon:**

Bill - - congratulations on 40 years. Wow! In college and graduate school, I've played with quite a few groups and under a variety of directors. Bill rehearsed the band once or twice a week whether we needed it or not, and believe me, we needed it. Both the rehearsal, and the break from the daily grind. We played challenging pieces, no junk. Maybe not always quite full tempo, but close enough. Each year Bill would bring in some top talent to play with the band. Once we a surprise rehearsal with the band director from USC. Bill gave us a top-quality experience. And a lot of love and kindness. Thanks for the memories.

Mark McAdon, Ph. D., 1988.

### **Marcus Mendenhall:**

Bill:

Great to hear from you!

I am now an electrical engineering faculty member at Vanderbilt University. I have a small, mostly renaissance music, band called 'Mon Ami' which performs a couple of times a year in Nashville. Since we are in Tennessee, though, I have arranged a set of dances ranging from the 13th century to the 17th century which are interwoven with 'Rocky Top'. You aren't permitted to have a band in this state which cannot play 'Rocky Top', I think. The performance of it results also in what I suspect is the only instance on the planet of 'Rocky Top' being played on a baroque rankett. My son, Michael, is now also a grad student in physics at Caltech, and likely has been showing up for some of your events.

Marcus Mendenhall

### **Eric Moore:**

Hello, Bill! Great to hear from you. Since leaving Caltech, I've been working in the chemical industry, first with Amoco outside of Chicago, then BP (when Amoco and BP merged) and now INEOS (when BP spun-off a large part of its chemical assets to a privately held company, now the world's third largest chemical company). My positions have continued in research during this entire time, so I spend much of day "inventing" things. My main claim to fame is the "new and improved" disposable diaper which utilizes a novel plastic which I helped to develop.

On the music side, I have been playing with a local community orchestra, the DuPage Symphony (as tubist), since I arrived in the Chicago Suburbs in 1985. So, since I started playing in the 3rd grade, my tuba career has spanned over 43 years. Interestingly, one of my old tuba instructors from my L.A. days (Gene Porkorny) is now the principal tubist with the Chicago Symphony. My three kids are musically inclined as well (trumpet, violin and piano) and my wife is a clarinetist. Besides the orchestra gig, I also play in two local brass ensembles, so I'm actually playing now more than I have since high school.

I certainly remember my band days at Caltech and the several ensembles that I played in. I was always amazed at the quality of the musicians, given that their main focus was science and not music. Nevertheless, I have found over the years that science and music seem to go hand in hand and some of the most talented scientists that I have run across are also very active in music. The music opportunities at Caltech seemed to provide a nice "pressure relief" from the stress of doctoral studies in the chemistry labs - something I will always be grateful for.

Hope all is well with you. It's wonderful that the music tradition at Caltech continues. If you ever pass through Chicago, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

All the best,  
Eric

**Lisa Henderson:**

Hi Bill,

Congratulations on your longevity!

I played flute in the band 1982-86 or so, and also played in the chamber music program. My main memory (besides how nice it was to be able to play music at a science place like Caltech) was the last concert my senior year. I was band president, but had totally forgotten this fact, because as you may remember, it wasn't a very high stress position and I had done exactly nothing all year. You had a plaque for me, thanking me for my leadership, and I had nothing for you to thank you for your work in leading us. I was mortified, as I had done nothing, and you had been a great director all year. Hopefully you have forgiven me by now!

I have not played the flute much lately, but my oldest daughter does, and we play duets from time to time. I translated my musical skills to community choirs about 15 years ago, and enjoy singing when work allows it.

I hope you are well, and enjoy the concerts.

Lisa Henderson  
Class of 1986

**Tom Holm:**

Hi Bill,

Caltech was a high-pressure place for me, but the bands provided an opportunity to relax. Some of my fondest memories of Caltech are of performing and rehearsing with the concert band, jazz band, brass ensemble, and dixieland band.

Regards,  
Tom

**David Keezer:**

Bill,

Its good to hear from you. I was a student at Caltech around 1980, and took trumpet lessons from you and played in the Jazz band. I'm now a Professor of Computer Engineering at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, and continue to play trumpet, semi-professionally (although mostly as a hobby). Actually I've kept up the trumpet very actively, and play lead in a big band (The Sentimental Journey Orchestra, thesjo.com), in the local town band (Alpharetta, GA), in an orchestra (Ludwig Symphony Orch), and regularly at our church (Mount Pisgah United Methodist).

I probably won't be able to attend this upcoming event, but keep in-touch. I do get out to California quite often, but usually San Jose area.

Dave Keezer

## Thursday Jazz Band

### Alto Saxophone

Steve Snyder (JPL) \*

Taylor Martin (Jr., Geobiology)

### Tenor Saxophone

Les Deutsch (Alumnus, JPL)

Max Bryk (Jr., Elec. Eng.)

### Baritone Saxophone

Chris Berlind (Jr., Comp. Sci.)

### Trumpets

Brenda Goforth Adelante (JPL) \*

John Brugman (Community)

Elliot Deutsch (Community)

Patrick Olguin (NASA)

Wil Rose (Community)

### Trombones

Chris Chen (GS, Material Sci.)

Ajay Limaye (GS, GPS)

Jeffrey Thompson (GS, GPS) \*

### Bass Trombone

Eric Wallace (Community)

### Piano

Chad Edwards (Alumnus)

John Schuman (Sr., Physics)

### Bass

Daniel Hurtado (GS, Mech. Eng.)

### Drums

Michael Ferrara (Community)

### Guitar

Laurence Yeung (Alumnus, Chemistry)

### Percussion

Eric Olmon (GS, Chemistry)

# BIOGRAPHIES

The **Caltech-Occidental Concert Band** rehearses one night a week for less than two hours at each rehearsal. That the band members are able to learn a great deal of music in so short a time is a true testament to their hard work and high level of musicianship. Tonight's concert, for example, was prepared in only eight rehearsals of less than two hours each. Former soloists with the ensemble include Allan Vogel (principal oboist with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra), Jim Self (tuba player with the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra), Allen Vizzutti (world renowned trumpet soloist), Loren Marsteller (premiere baritone and trombone soloist with the Marine Band and California Philharmonic), and many others. The band has played in Carnegie Hall and for thousands of people over the years. If you would like to be on the mailing list for future concerts, or you would like to play in the ensemble, please fill out the enclosed form and hand it to an usher. You can also learn more about the band by going to the bands web site:

[www.bands.caltech.edu](http://www.bands.caltech.edu)

**The Caltech Jazz Bands**, under the direction of William Bing, have recorded three CDs, played concerts for thousands of people, and performed with some of the great jazz artists of our time. In addition, they host the Caltech Jazz Festival, which will this year celebrate its tenth anniversary on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Caltech Jazz Bands, who have auditioned and won a spot in these fine groups, have gone on to form their own groups and record their own CDs, which can be heard on radio stations across the country and the internet. There are undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, JPL'ers, and community players in the jazz bands, providing for a wonderful cross section of the Caltech and Pasadena communities. For more information, please go to the band's website at <http://bands.caltech.edu>.

**William Bing**, Director of Bands at Caltech, has been teaching at Caltech for over thirty-five years. During that time, the bands have played many premieres and performed for over ten thousand people. In addition to his work at Caltech, Bill is a busy trumpet player and teacher. Composers he has worked with include Howard Hanson, Roy Harris, Alan Hovanes, Olivier Messiaen, John Adams, John Harbison, Henry Mancini, and John Williams. Bill's trumpet students have performed with the "Red Hot Chili Peppers", "Green Day", "The Duke Ellington Orchestra", "Pancho Sanchez", "Reel Big Fish", the Los Angeles Philharmonic and many other groups and ensembles. Bill and his wife Delores have won many teaching awards including the ASCIT Teaching Award, Pasadena Youth Music Council Teachers of the Year, and most recently Honorary Membership in the Caltech Alumni Association.

## **Kirby Fong:**

I was student band manager at Caltech when Bill Bing (and Roger Greenberg) were hired as assistants. After finishing at Caltech in 1972 I moved to New Mexico to work at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory and played clarinet in the community orchestra in Los Alamos. Returning to California in 1976 to work at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, I continued playing in the San Jose Wind Symphony, a community band, for ten years until work travel got in the way of attending rehearsals regularly. I continued to be interested in bands and band music and have attended the California Band Directors Association All-States every year since 1978. In recent years I have helped them by photographing all the students in all the honor bands. I've also been to two of the conventions that the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles have held in the United States. At their 2009 convention their photographer had to cancel, but since I showed up with my camera, I agreed to photograph all the convention events for them. I'm pleased that some of my photos have been good enough to be published by The Instrumentalist, a magazine for music educators. A few of my photos have even been on the cover.

At what has since been renamed the Los Alamos National Laboratory, I was involved in the analysis and design of mathematical software for first generation vector supercomputers. At what is now the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory I spent twenty years at the National Energy Research Super-computer center (until it moved to Berkeley) supporting mathematical software and participating with other national laboratories in constructing a library of free mathematical software. I then worked at the National Ignition Facility at LLNL for eight years on their control system software culminating in the software I wrote for the temporal shaping of the laser pulses. NIF is the 192 beam giant laser to be used in studying inertial confinement fusion. My final project before retiring from LLNL was to work on the LLNL part of the collaboration with the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center to provide the x-ray transport, optics, and diagnostics for their x-ray free electron laser. This included doing Monte Carlo simulations of the spontaneous radiation as well as writing control software for the diagnostic instruments that LLNL built. I am now happily retired and devote more attention to growing and showing daffodils which I've been doing since 1990, to learning more about photo and video editing, and to practicing my clarinet.

Kirby Fong

## **Daniel Harris:**

I played timpani in the band from 1956-1961 when I got my degree (PhD in astro). One of my best memories was playing for a graduation (might even have been my own...). In those days, timpani heads were skins, not plastic, and very affected by the humidity. It was rather humid, and we did the Firebird.

Lovely piece, lovely timp part. As we approached the finale and the 7/2 passage, I really got into it! And the final note... I went right through the head! Lucky it was the final note!

cheers, Dan Harris



**Jim Evans:**

I was in the Caltech band from 1963 to 1967. My favorite story was about playing in the Rose Bowl for home football games. It is amazing how empty the place seems with all of 200 people there including both teams and all of the spectators and fans. At half time, the opposing team cheerleaders would come over and dance for our side and we would play "On Wisconsin" for them to dance to. This music is written as a march, but on the second time through, we would change the beat to a waltz by dropping the last beat in each measure. This would throw off their dance routine and they would typically end up just standing there by the time we had finished. We did this at every game every year for the four years I was in the band, and they never seemed to catch on that they were about to be tricked again. Only one time I remember that they were ready for us with a march routine followed by a waltz routine, and were able to keep up with our music. When we finished, the entire Band gave these girls a standing ovation for catching us in our own prank.

Jim Evans,  
BS in Engineering, 1967  
French horn

**Harry Finklea:**

Hi, Bill. I played trombone in the jazz and brass ensembles in 1970. My clearest band memories are not having my music for a Bach brass arrangement during a concert, and playing in the jazz ensemble on the Olive Walk at lunchtime. After 1970, I gave up the trombone, but remained active in the Men's Glee Club during the rest of my PhD pursuit.

My career has been 100% academic, and I am now a Professor in the Chemistry Department at West Virginia University.

Regards,  
Harry Finklea



Regular guest conductor **Paul Asimow** has a lengthy association with the Band going back to 1991 when he started graduate school at Caltech in geology. Having been student conductor of the Harvard University Band, he was excited to continue conducting at Caltech. Now an Associate Professor of Geology and Geochemistry, Paul has conducted and played in the group for over 18 years on piccolo, flute, Bb tuba and his current favorite, the oddball F tuba. In his spare time he recruits band members to major in geology and geology majors to play in the band.

**Melson Varsovia** is extremely humbled and honored to work once more with the Caltech-Occidental Concert Band. A former Occidental student and a graduate of UCLA *magna cum laude*, he is grateful to prime musicians Cyrle Perry, Jeffrey Bernstein, Allen Gross, Bill Bing, Thomas Lee, Don Neuen, and John Steinmetz for their musical tutelage. He is the founder of the Lamorinda Musical Artists, a non-profit group based in the Bay Area which performs benefit concerts, most recently with a homeless shelter in Richmond. He is indebted to Bill Bing and the Band for allowing him to wave his arms frantically every week; it has been an incredible learning experience that he will never forget. Many thanks to Bill and everyone in the band for being so kind; it has been wonderful making so many friends here in sunny Pasadena!

**Kjerstin "KJ" Williams**, self-described jazz singer and robot diva, divides her time between the spotlight and the Applied Minds, Inc. robotics lab. In between gigs, KJ pursued robotics research, receiving her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Caltech, which earned her the nickname "Dr. Diva." She now performs locally with her jazz combo, the Conspirators, and has appeared as a soloist with a variety of Los Angeles area big bands, wind ensembles, and choral groups. A longtime collaborator with the Caltech Bands, she is featured on several of the Caltech Jazz Bands' studio recordings and made her Carnegie Hall debut as a soloist with the Caltech-Occidental Concert Band. You can keep up with her at [www.kjerstin.com](http://www.kjerstin.com).



## Caltech Band Alumni - Where are they now?

### Marc Abel:

Hi Bill,

It's great to hear from you. Ironically enough, I've mentioned the Caltech instrumental music program and its concerts in conversations with other musicians in the past seven days.

Actually it was under you and your lovely wife that I stopped playing at the end of my sophomore year. It wasn't your fault! It's just that ten years of biting through my upper lip was enough for me. But I have fond memories of fellow oboists Rod Kiewiet, who was young enough at the time that he had to tell me he was faculty, and Betty Pun, who was unhappy with my ability to sight read rhythm. The fact I was married by my junior year didn't give me much extra time either.

Though I turned my back on all of you wonderful instrumentalists, my musical experience was only beginning. Four years after graduation I joined the Opera/Columbus chorus in my first paid production. I went on to sing five more operas with them, and six more with Columbus Light Opera, as well as more than 200 paid performances as a church soloist.

My instrumental experience has been indispensable for these, in part because it's not every vocalist who enjoys the gift of perfect pitch.

Later when I got to live out my dream to try urban school teaching, I was a music (primarily) substitute for the Columbus (Ohio) City School District. I taught prekindergarten through twelfth grade vocal and instrumental music, and had the honor of teaching more than 5,000 children in 78 schools.

Two years ago I returned to instrumental music to live another dream, and actually learn to play piano. As I am a very new student, I have very little repertoire that is playable. One of my current projects is Beethoven Piano Sonata 23, which while not playable is at least in places recognizable. Email me a year from now.

Today I am graced with a lot of discretionary time, and I spend about 70% of this time learning ballroom dancing. I'm a serious pupil who is training to become certified as an instructor. In other words, this Caltech graduate is going on to seek an associate's degree.

Love to you both,

Marc Abel

B.S. E&AS 1991

### Cary Davids:

Dear Bill - I got your note about news from band alums. I was at Caltech from 1962-1967 (Ph.D. Physics 1967) and didn't have the opportunity to play in any of your bands. However, I played trumpet in a small band that we formed in the Kellogg Lab from about 1964-1967 that played mostly Dixieland. All the personnel were either from Kellogg or the Physics Department. Prof. Charles Barnes played piano, and postdocs, grad students and staff members were members. Other instruments we had included alto sax, trombone, bass, drums, and guitar. I think Prof. Barnes might still be coming in to his office occasionally. I saw him a few years ago when I came back to Pasadena for a birthday party for him.

We called ourselves the Tandem Accelerators, and during my stay we played at a number of parties, particularly for the Caltech Playreading Group. I remember one party where Richard Feynman sat in on bongo drums. Many of these parties were held at the private home of a Mrs. Knapp, and she kindly donated the use of her home for our own graduation party in the summer of 1967, when 11 of us received our Ph.D.'s. I was jokingly told that, unless I provided a replacement trumpet player, I would not receive my degree. Fortunately, another grad student was available to fill in after I left!

I am doing a lot of playing here, in rehearsal bands and my own small group called the Nuclear Jazz Quartet. We do get some gigs, although it has really dried up since I first came to Chicago in 1974.

I am glad that Caltech has a musical outlet for the students now, since there was none when I was there and music did so much to relieve the constant pressure of studies. For this reason I support your efforts.

Best regards

Cary Davids, Ph.D. Physics 1967

### Jean-Paul Davis:

My strongest memory from Caltech Jazz Bands was playing the final number of a January concert with a latin-jazz trumpeter guest artist, whose name I can't recall at the moment. The tune was called "Descarga de HMA." We really blew the roof off. Our guest musician even had children from the audience on stage playing percussion instruments. I remember feeling more "alive" than I ever had before. It was definitely the highest "high" I've ever experienced playing music, and I didn't even have a solo!

Jean-Paul Davis

lead alto sax, Thursday Jazz Band, fall 1992 - spring 1998

**Mark Cohen:**

Hi Bill,

Its wonderful to hear from you and I am amazed, impressed, and heartened that you are still there. Caltech and its students are incredibly lucky.

Since I graduated with my doctorate back in 1986-87, I first worked at Queens College in NYC doing environmental research with Barry Commoner, a well-known environment scientist. I did work there on waste recycling and incineration, electric cars, and pollution issues related to dioxin, atrazine, and the Great Lakes. For the last ~11 years I've been working at NOAA in the Washington DC area. My primary area of work for many years has been computer modeling of atmospheric pollution. My current focus is on mercury and how it goes from being emitted from sources like coal-fired power plants to being deposited from the atmosphere and then getting into fish. I've been married since 1993. My wife is a social scientist is currently the Director of Research at the American Association of University Women. We don't have any kids of our own but have arranged to live within a few block of siblings with families, so we have a lot of nieces and nephews underfoot. Its great to be able to spoil the kids terribly as an Aunt and Uncle and then give them back to their parents... One of my main hobbies these days is playing table tennis, for fun and competitively in tournaments.

I remember very fondly my many years playing tuba in the Wind Ensemble and also playing in the Brass Quintet with you and others. My academic life at Caltech was very challenging, but these musical experiences helped me keep things in perspective, relax, and have a great time playing wonderful music. I remember vividly how incredibly patient and supportive you were to me and others. We weren't the best musicians and we couldn't always focus on the music and practice as much as we should have. I realize now that it must have been frustrating for you but you *never* let us know that. Given all the academic pressure we all were under, your graciousness was an incredible gift. Since leaving Caltech I have not been able to play the tuba much at all and I really miss it. Hearing from you has inspired me to maybe try to start playing again. Things are going well for me, but I am sure it would do me a world of good!

Warmly,  
Mark

**Evan Cromwell:**

Hi Bill,

It's great to hear from you and I'm so glad that the Caltech bands are still going strong. I'm actually working at a place where we have three (3!) Caltech band alums. Myself (Evan Cromwell, '84) Roger Tang ('91), and Mike Youngquist (grad student). We are all working at Molecular Devices making instruments that help biotech and pharmaceutical companies discover the next generation drugs. Unfortunately, I won't be able to make it down to the concert, but best of luck!

Best regards,

Evan

**Robert Anderson:**

Bill --

Thanks for all your years of service! Here are my thoughts to share:

I played trombone in the wind ensemble in the early 80's. I still break out the 'bone every now and then to keep my chops fresh, but I have not been brave enough to join any community bands in the last few years. I have been fortunate enough to have a great career at Raytheon in El Segundo where I design microchips for satellite and ground systems. I always remember my time in the Caltech Bands as being a time of escape. A time to just relax and play beautiful music and get away from the worries of the day.

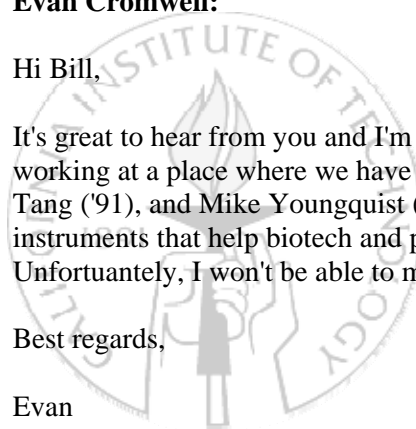
-- Bob Anderson '84

**Paul Asimow:**

Hi Bill,

This is band alum Paul Asimow, Ph.D. 1997. I'm still here, too. Since graduating from Caltech I've mostly been at Caltech. Since graduate school my performance range seems to have dropped about four octaves, but not much else has changed.

:-) -- P



**Brian Belanger:**

**The Caltech Band 1959-1963  
by Brian Belanger – Class of 1963**

I joined the Caltech Band as a freshman in 1959. I had played the trombone since elementary school and looked forward to continuing music while studying electrical engineering. Our band director, John Deichman, was dearly loved by all of us. The band practiced in Culbertson Hall once a week, and as band secretary for a year or two, I often had to go through the student houses putting written band practice reminders into people's mailboxes. (No email in those days.)

Caltech was not a co-ed undergraduate school at the time, so the approximately 35-member band had only one or two female (grad student) band members. I got married between my junior and senior years at Caltech and my wife, Dian, was a bassoon player. At concerts Deichman was fond of saying, "Just to show you how dedicated our band members are, I mentioned last year that the band badly needed a bassoon player, and our trombone player, Brian Belanger, married one just to help out the band." He would ask Dian and me to stand up for applause.

Our Caltech pep band played at football and basketball games. I recall marching with the band during half time when Caltech played games in the Rose Bowl. It was almost spooky to be in that vast deserted stadium with just a handful of spectators on the 50-yard line on one side and an equally small number on the other side. At basketball games the cheerleaders from the other team (e.g., Pomona, Harvey Mudd) would often come over and dance while we played a tune such as "On Wisconsin." Our favorite trick was to seamlessly switch to ¾ time about half way through the song and watch the puzzled expressions on their faces as it gradually dawned on them that something was wrong.

After Caltech I got a PhD at USC and joined the research staff at the GE R&D Center working in the field of superconducting and cryogenic electric power apparatus. From there I went to the Federal Government, and for about a decade prior to my retirement in 2000, I was the deputy director of the Advanced Technology Program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. After retirement, I worked with other antique radio collectors/historians in the area to create the Radio & Television Museum in Bowie, Maryland, where I am (as a volunteer) currently the museum's executive director. The museum was recently named one of the top ten museums in Maryland ([www.radiohistory.org](http://www.radiohistory.org)).

I don't play the trombone anymore, but our son did and now our grandson does. Including my father, that makes four generations of trombone players in the family. Playing in the Caltech Band was a wonderful respite from the stresses of getting through Caltech.

**Clark Brooks:**

Great to hear from you!

I recall with great affection my time in the jazz band :-). Since then I have gone on to become a principal engineer at intel and a soloist trombone with the "Get a Life" Marching Band. We've played at Disneyland, Disneyworld, NAMM, San Francisco's Chinese New Year Parade, the Gasparilla pirate parade, and looking forward to the big one: Mardi Gras 2011 in the Big Easy.

Number one reminisce from the band: Bill Watrous playing "Duty, honor, country"

- Clark

"Don't look at the trombones; it only encourages them" - various attributions

**Gary Cable:**

Bill

I remember the time of the great card section prank (not long after I graduated). Washington was quite frustrated, but it was reported they offered to "call it even" if we had our card section [sic] do a card trick for them at our next game or if our marching band did a formation for them. I laughed, because I remembered playing at our football games. It was really pretty funny, sitting in the Rose Bowl with a small clump on Caltech fans in one area and a small clump of the opponent's fans in another. Marching band? We played for our enjoyment and that of the small clump of people near us. We didn't march. But we did have fun.

I hope this small memory helps. And good luck with your program. (I have one of my own here in New Mexico that weekend.)

Dr Gary Cable  
BS, '69, Physics, Ruddock House

