



# TUMB

# Notes

The Newsletter of the Tulane University Marching Band

Vol. 13 - Summer 2017



**UP IN LIGHTS!** Thanks to the ingenuity of Tulane students and the support of faculty and donors, the TUMB brightened up Mardi Gras in a whole new way. Vibration sensitive lights, mounted on the drums, enhanced the beat and the mood of band members and audience alike. *Read more on page 8.*

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# SEASON IN REVIEW

**PRE-PARADE** There's a lot that goes into a TUMB presentation, especially for the specifics of performing for a Mardi Gras parade. The spring semester starts with rehearsals of new music, teaching parade protocol, learning dance routines, and building up endurance for the physical challenges that parades present. Once the band arrives for each parade line up, a routine of musical and physical warm-up and stretching takes place. This is critical for a successful performance, just like any other athletic and artistic endeavor. Drum majors and section leaders set the routine, and everyone double-checks their instruments and uniforms to make sure they are in optimal condition and ready to go. Of course, taking in the carnival scene and being "in the moment" are what make it all so special. Sharing the experience with friends in the band creates memories that last a lifetime.

Green Wave Athletic Director Troy Dannen and his wife Amy, "disguised" in Mardi Gras masks (*bottom left*), stopped by to visit the TUMB just before the step-off for the Krewe of Nyx. "Sophie" the 1961 VW Transporter (*near, right*) carries water and other vital supplies during parades. And a substantial krewe of Green Wave volunteers, band parents and friends accompany the TUMB for every parade, making sure that our students are safe, well-hydrated, and able to perform at their best.



## IN PARADE

The TUMB experienced a Mardi Gras season like never before, appearing for the first time with the krewes of **Nyx**, **Endymion** and **Orpheus**, a lineup of all evening parades. In addition to developing traditional marching band skills, TUMB members take great pride in strutting their unique abilities to spin and dance their way down St. Charles Avenue. Another hallmark of “the TUMB way” is the direct and spontaneous crowd interaction, creating unforgettable moments for students and fans alike.

Mardi Gras parades are among the great highlights of life in the TUMB. It is unique among all college bands, drawing our students from all corners of the country to participate, and leaves indelible memories that last a lifetime. The TUMB blends the discipline of military units with the authenticity of traditional NOLA bands. We perform the widest range of traditional and contemporary repertoire, making a one-of-a-kind presentation for our fans on the streets.



## ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Although the academic year ended in mid-May, a select group from the TUMB sprang into action in June for the opportunity to help celebrate Summer Lyric Theatre's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season gala. Band members performed on the Dixon Hall stage alongside the chorus, orchestra and dancers for a rendition of *76 Trombones* from *The Music Man* - of course there had to be a marching band!!!! Thanks to the Summer Lyric staff for the invitation.

This was not the first time that the TUMB has contributed to a theatrical event. We also provided a marching band for the scene at the end of act one of *La Boheme* in McAlister Auditorium with the New Orleans Lyric Opera.

## PRE-CONCERT PREPARATIONS

Before the doors of Dixon Hall open to the audience, band members are warming up on stage and receiving final instructions for the spring concert. It is an opportunity to block out the distractions of the day to focus on the finer points of the music, and balancing and blending with fellow musicians. Individuals may have their own preparation routines, but bringing it all together requires selflessness and dedication to each other. Final inspection of instruments, oiling of valves, adjustments to reeds and drum heads, and ensemble tuning all go towards the best possible performance, to transmit the composers' intent to our receptive audience.



## TEAMMATES

Band members witness every play of a football game, from opening kickoff to the final whistle. However, football players spend pregame and halftime in the locker room, so they never get to see the band perform on the field. Tulane's Athletic Department has made a concerted effort to reciprocate by encouraging their student athletes to go out and support other organizations all across campus. The result of this outreach has been obvious and very much appreciated by band students, as their athletic counterparts have attended our spring concert in large numbers for the past two years. Members of the Green Wave football team gathered for a photo-op with director of bands Barry Spanier, in front of Dixon Hall (at right), just prior to the start of the concert.



# ¡Música del Mundo Latino!

## IN CONCERT

Each spring, the Tulane Concert Band presents a program of repertoire with a special focus. On April 26 we featured “¡Música del Mundo Latino!” - Music of the Latin World. As part of a new initiative to foster collaborative efforts across the university, the evening was co-sponsored by the Roger Thayer Stone Center

for Latin American Studies and also the Office of Multicultural Affairs. We were pleased to broaden our audience through community outreach and advertising, and honored to have Mayra Pineda, director of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana, in attendance, among others who enjoyed the spring concert for the first time. Faculty colleague Dr. Ana Sanchez-Rojo, assistant professor of musicology, added great knowledge and depth to the collaborative effort by providing an introduction to the concert program, and through her gracious and insightful welcome to guests at the pre-concert Friends of the Band dinner.

Concert repertoire included selections primarily by Spanish or Latin American composers, as well as pieces by musicians of other countries who were inspired by Hispanic culture. Featured music included traditional favorites such as *Malagueña*, *Amporita Roca*, *La Virgen de la Macarena*, and *Mambo* from *West Side Story*, plus a selection by former Tulane band director John Morrissey (1939-1969) entitled *Puebla de Los Angeles*. Other compositions showcased classical symphonic masterpieces *Danzon No. 2* by Arturo Marquez and Maurice Ravel's passionate *Bolero*. One of the great highlights of the evening featured the percussion section performing a traditional Brazilian *Samba Batacuda*, a musical staple of the Rio Carnival culture. Special thanks to guest artist/instructor Curtis Pierre, who worked with our students to

prepare and lead them in this segment from the back of the auditorium through the audience (at left).



Next year's spring concert will be in April 2018, celebrating New Orleans' 300th Birthday. The music will present a unique prism through which to explore some of the history and context of our own home town. We hope to see you in Dixon Hall.





# ALUMNI

## PRE-CONCERT DINNER

Our spring concert is always preceded by our annual Friends of the Band spring dinner. The guest list includes all band alumni, Tulane Emeritus members and Tulane Associates, band donors, band parents and special guests who help the band program in many ways throughout the year. Also sharing the evening were representatives from our co-sponsoring organizations: the Stone Center for Latin American Studies and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The evening reconnects friends and colleagues, and welcomes new friends to the band community. In keeping with the musical theme of the concert, the dinner menu, room decor and table decorations reflected the diversity and beauty of Latin influences from around the world. Thanks to the Office of Development for coordinating and co-sponsoring this annual dinner.

*¡Música del  
Mundo Latina!*




PLAN AHEAD FOR **HOMECOMING 11-04-17** Details on back page.

## TO BE and ALMOST-TO-BE ALUMNI

Our annual end-of-year crawfish boil in front of Newcomb Hall celebrates our graduating seniors, as they wear their official alumni band Hawaiian shirts for the first time (*below left*). Recent band alumni (*right*) enjoy mini-reunions at concerts and receptions. Following their final performances, Harpist Mary Katherine Koch reflected on the past four years with her mother and grandmother (*bottom center*), while oboeist Alyssa Cruze celebrated with all of her band directors (*bottom right*), from left to right: Tulane director of bands Barry Spanier, Tim Robichaux from E. D. White Catholic High, and James Rodrigue from St. Joseph Catholic Elementary. Mary Katherine will be continuing on to law school and Alyssa to medical school. We wish them great success, and hope that they will continue to share their fine musical artistry with many future audiences.





## STUDENT AWARDS

Since our beginning in 2005, the student experience has been central to our efforts. Developing student leadership is a big part of the process for a great program, and it starts with retaining students for all four years of their college careers. Skills and knowledge gained each year by individuals allows them to grow as performers and leaders, setting the example for the younger members. The collective impact is a more cohesive ensemble, more embedded traditions and deeper connections, both within the band and to the university. In recognition of our students' efforts, the TUMB presents dedication awards to deserving band members. For this past spring, 27 awards were provided through our TUMB Endowment Fund. Thanks to all who have donated to the Endowment in recent years. Your gifts will continue to provide funding for the mission of the TUMB, and toward needed expenses in the future.

**TUMB Endowment  
surpasses  
\$125,000  
creating  
permanent  
annual funding  
for  
vital expenditures**

## **BIGGER BAND = BIGGER NEEDS IT'S A GREAT PROBLEM TO HAVE!**

We are very proud to announce that the TUMB membership has grown by more than 25% over the past two years, bringing the total number of students to more than 100 members for the first time ever, heading into the upcoming fall season! This new level of success in recruitment and retention brings with it new financial responsibilities. For instance, the TUMB now requires an additional bus for road trips and Mardi Gras parades, increasing our transportation costs by 33%. Purchase of new instruments and uniforms are needed to outfit everyone in the band, and expenses for band camp and special events have also increased accordingly. If you have considered a donation to the TUMB in the past but have been waiting for the right time, Fall 2017 presents a perfect opportunity to match need with resources. Please consider a donation to our annual fund, to support the program and our dedicated students, for operational needs in this new academic year.

Visit  
[tulaneband.org/donate](http://tulaneband.org/donate)  
to make your  
tax-deductible donation  
today!

**SUPPORT  
THE TUMB!**





## SHINING BRIGHTLY

The TUMB took a big, innovative step forward this year for Mardi Gras. To enhance the audience experience and the joy of performing, a set of custom drum lights were installed to trigger the lights when the drum heads are struck. The result is a spectacular light show that is in time with the music. The design, construction and implementation of these lights was done by Tulane student Ben Lewson, a TUMB drumline alumnus who has been working in Tulane's MakerSpace.

Standing proudly (*below right, at left*) as the TUMB drumline participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new MakerSpace for its grand opening in April, Ben described his process: "The lights use a digital logic controller, called an Arduino, to sense when and how hard the drums are hit. Whenever a hit is detected, LED strip lights are switched on with a random Mardi Gras color, and fade away quickly to match the sound of the drums with a sharp start and slower decay. Everything is run by a small but dense battery, and the whole thing is kept safe and secure in a 3D printed case. The tech is simple, but the challenge came from making them light, easy to build, and inexpensive. Luckily, the MakerSpace not only provided all the tools necessary, but also the input and advice from its multidisciplinary group of users and staff. No matter what stage of the process I was in, there was always an electronics guru, musician, designer, or engineer around to give me a second pair of eyes and some fresh ideas."

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Dean Nicholas Altiero of the School of Science and Engineering added: "Tulane MakerSpace is one of only a handful of university makerspaces that are open to the entire campus. The reason for doing this is obviously to stimulate collaborations across virtually all disciplines. But who would have guessed that would include the marching band! The drummers lighting the way into the MakerSpace for attendees at the grand opening was the highlight of the event."

Special thanks also to Maker-In-Chief and Professor Emeritus of Biomedical Engineering Cedric Walker for his guidance and enthusiasm!



## THE SUMMER CORPS EXPERIENCE

Some of our dedicated members audition and prepare for the most intense of all marching arts experiences, the summer drum corps season. This year band members Ted Hoeller and Dane Castillo are participating in DCI programs. And TUMB Color Guard instructor Jakki Kalogridis is teaching a DCI group, pictured in rehearsal action (*bottom, left*):



"2017 marks my second year as a member of the Louisiana Stars Drum and Bugle Corps colorguard staff. It has been a delight to work with some of the best marching arts educators this region has to offer. What I have learned from my colleagues and from my students has been invaluable as I continue to grow as a teacher. I look forward to sharing much of that knowledge with the TUMB colorguard when I return to instruct them in the coming year!" - Jakki





## INSIDE/OUTSIDE

TUMB members can fulfill their service learning requirement by tutoring at Roots of Music, the vibrant community-based marching band for children ages 9 through 14. Teaching music fundamentals helps the young students gain skills and confidence. Just as valuable is the opportunity for our Tulane students getting to know the youngsters of New Orleans, and inspiring them to work toward goals of high achievement and teamwork. During six Saturdays of the spring semester, our TUMB members work in one-on-one and small group settings, and also play side-by-side in full group rehearsals. While most of these activities take place indoors, Roots of Music also marches around the neighborhood to get ready for parades and special events.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS, our TUMB members describe the experience of tutoring for Roots of Music:

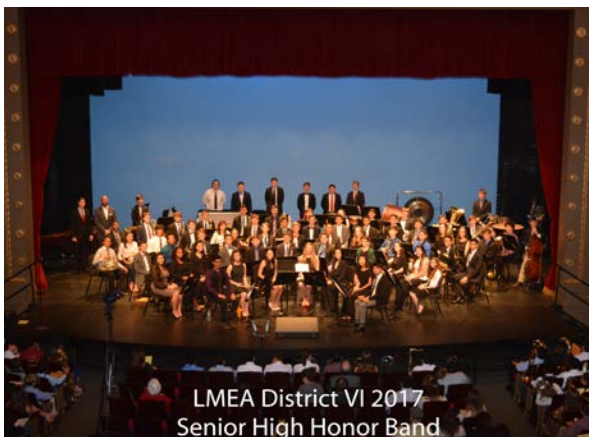
*“After helping explain paradiddles (drumming technique) to a group of kids, it became obvious to me that through this one simple exercise, these young men and I had momentarily broken a barrier. Despite massively different life experiences and a centuries old divide between our skin colors, the simple paradiddle brought us together and helped us communicate. Where previously there had only been awkward glances and mild curiosity, there were now smiles and conversation.”* - Elizabeth Hopmann



*“It was empowering to see the success, and the subsequent excitement, of students that were finally able to play a passage.”* - Pawan Bhat

*“Going to the Roots of Music introduced me once again to one of the reasons I loved marching band in high school, and I felt so proud to see and help kids grow as marchers and musicians. One thing about New Orleans is that music is such an important part of the culture, and it felt almost as if we were helping to shape the upcoming artists of the culture we experience on a daily basis.”* - Angel Carter

*“It was so wonderful to make connections and share music with them. Another great facet of this experience was being able to get out in the community and be a part of a program that aims to improve that community.”*  
- Celeste Pinto



**DISTRICT VI HONOR BAND FESTIVAL** The Tulane Band Program and the Department of Music again hosted the annual DVI Honor Band Festival January 20-22, 2017. The local DVI Band Directors' Association produces the event, featuring the top elementary, junior high and senior high school music students. All three of the honor bands, directed by guest clinicians, rehearsed in Dixon Hall on Friday and Saturday, then performed to the packed theatre on Sunday. Hosting this annual event supports music education in the community, and establishes a Tulane connection with the young musicians and their families. Some of these students will likely choose to attend Tulane and participate in our music ensembles, performing on the same Dixon Hall stage for 4 more years.



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### ***TUMB Fall 2017 Season Highlights:***

**Road Trip: September 15-16 vs. Oklahoma Sooners**

*Big time with the BIG 12!*

**Band Day: September 23 vs. Army**

*LOCAL SCHOOL BANDS perform with the TUMB!*

**Homecoming: November 4 vs. Cincinnati Bearcats**

*TULANE ALUMNI BAND performs!*



## **ENCORE**

upcoming  
fall 2017  
special  
events



**ALUMNI BAND** - Join us for **HOMECOMING 2017**: Afternoon REHEARSAL November 3 and game day PERFORMANCE November 4. REGISTER to participate: contact Patricia McWhorter-Broussard at [patmcwbr@tulane.edu](mailto:patmcwbr@tulane.edu) or 504.314.BAND (2263). Get updates on alumni band planning and social events from TUMBAA at [TULANEBANDALUMNI@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TULANEBANDALUMNI@GMAIL.COM).

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