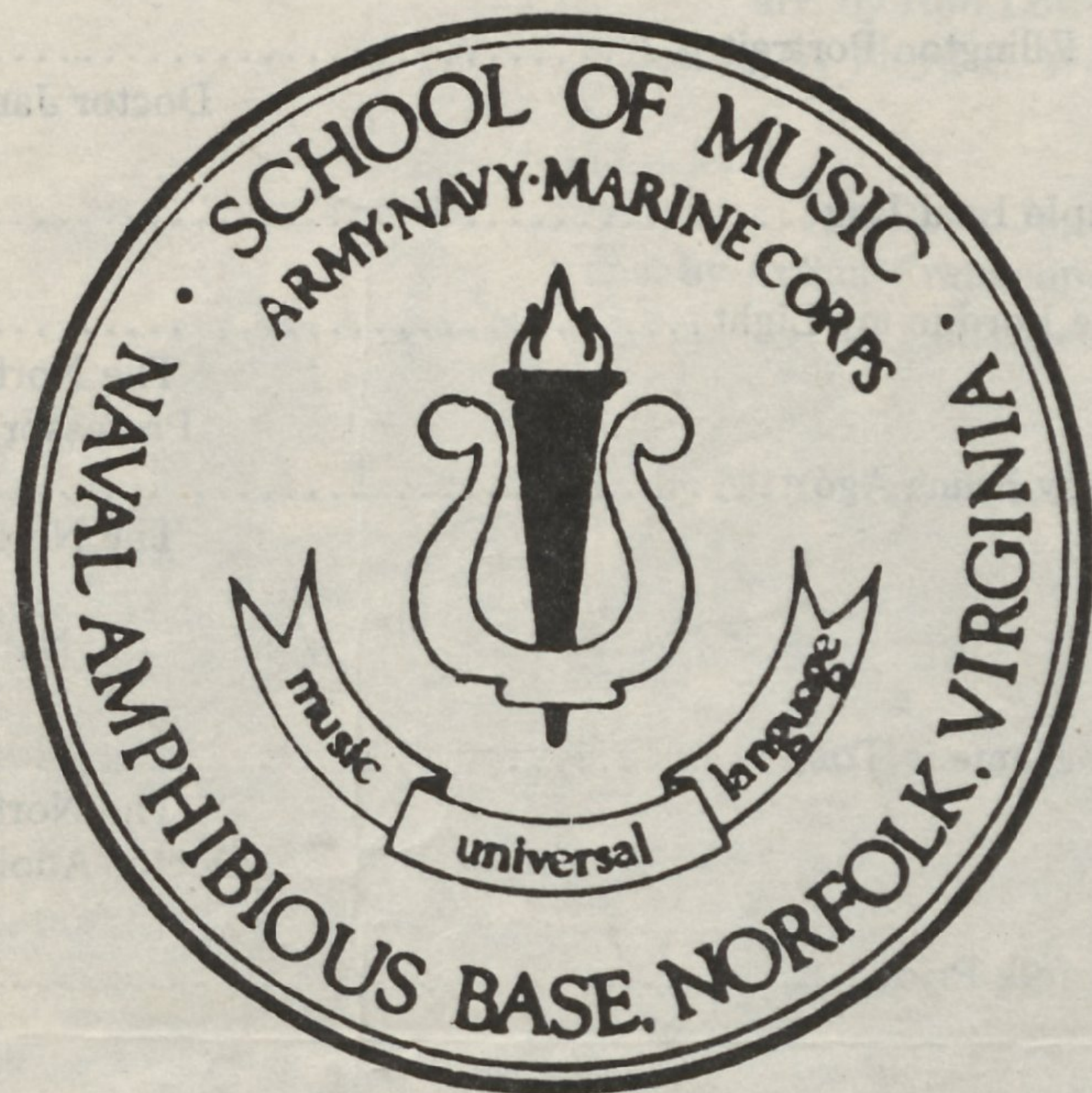


Lieutenant P. D. Clemens, USN  
Commanding Officer



*Special Tidewater Black History Concert*

honoring

Unit Band # 1 and all black musicians

who served in the U.S. Navy in World War II

**Naval Amphibious Base Theater**

Little Creek, Norfolk, Virginia

*Saturday, the Fourteenth of February, 1981*

8:00 P.M.

Eubie ..... by Noble Sissle and Eubie Blake  
arr. by Bob Lowden

An Ellington Portrait ..... Setting by Floyd E. Werle  
Doctor James M. Reeves, Conductor

Maple Leaf Rag ..... Scott Joplin,  
trans. by Arthur Frankenpohl

The Lord is my Light ..... Hank Beebe  
The Norfolk State University Choir  
Professor Glenn L. Hull, Conductor

Many Rains Ago ..... Arr. by MUC Karl Fite, USN  
The Norfolk State University Choir  
Natalie Penn, Soprano Soloist

My Name is Toil ..... Adolphus Hailstork  
The Norfolk State University Choir  
Doctor Adolphus Hailstork, Conductor

Norfolk Pride ..... Adolphus Hailstork

- INTERMISSION -

Saint Louis Blues March ..... W. C. Handy

Tee Pee Time ..... Clark Terry, Arr.  
Clark Terry, Guest Soloist

Sheba ..... Clark Terry, Arr.

Squeeze Me ..... Duke Ellington

Presentation  
Lieutenant Commander P.D. Clemens  
Commanding Officer, School of Music

Anchors Away ..... Charles Zimmerman/Alfred H. Myles

Chief Judge James B. Parsons  
United States District Court, Chicago, Illinois  
Guest Conductor

# HISTORY

The story of the first Black Navy Band of World War II dates back to April of 1942 when plans were being advanced to organize a 44-piece band for the U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School scheduled to be commissioned the following month at Chapel Hill, N.C.

With the aim of creating the band from the best black musicians available in North Carolina, the Navy Department sent Chief Bandmaster C.E. Dudrow, USN (Ret.), to North Carolina to select the bandsmen and supervise their early training.

On May 27, 1942, the selected musicians assembled in Raleigh, N.C., and entrained for Norfolk, VA., and nine weeks of naval indoctrination. It was essentially a college trained group, one-third of them being college graduates, and almost all of the remainder having at least two years of college work to their credit.

Reporting to Chapel Hill on July 31, 1942, Unit Band #1 participated in special assignments during the 21 months of service at the Pre-Flight School which included numerous regimental reviews; war bond rallies and parades in Raleigh and Durham; Army-Navy E-Award presentations; a ship launching in Wilmington. There was a summer concert series, and music at baseball, basketball and football games.

After the tour of duty at Chapel Hill the band was transferred to the U.S. Naval Barracks, Nanana, Hawaii, May 24, 1944, until the end of the war.

In addition to the experiences of Unit Band #1, hundreds of black Navy musicians were stationed at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center during the years of 1942-1945. This Great Lakes Experience was made possible by the manpower shortage and the pervasive discrimination against blacks during World War II. It was these discriminatory policies by the War Department that essentially brought these musicians together into a great musical experience that few would ever forget.

“The Great Lakes Experience, is a significant historical event. It provided opportunities for the musical, personal and educational growth of many blacks. It brought to the attention of the public several outstanding musicians who, otherwise, might not have been known. It opened the United States Navy Music School to black musicians.”

1. Samuel A. Floyd, Jr., “The Great Lakes Experience, 1942-1945.” Southern Illinois University, (1974).