

# UCLA BRUIN MARCHING BAND

*"The Solid Gold Sound"*

Official Press Kit • 2017-18



# UCLA BRUIN MARCHING BAND

## *“The Solid Gold Sound”*

Fifty members of the Band and Spirit Squad travelled to Taiwan in May 2016, to perform at the Taoyuan International Band Festival. Other recent international trips for the Band have included the Hong Kong Chinese New Year Night Parade in 2006 and 2008, and the Ekitopia Festival Parade in Nagoya, Japan in 2010.

Forty members of the UCLA Bruin Marching Band charged onto the set of “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” on January 20, 2016, to help celebrate “halftime” of the show’s thirteenth season. The Band played “The Mighty Bruins,” and “Bang Bang” as Ellen played along on a pair of cymbals. The Band also appeared in three videos with Ellen that appeared on NBC throughout the summer of 2014 to promote the premiere of her new fall season.

In 2014, 200 members of the UCLA Bruin Marching Band appeared in the opening segment of “The Amazing Race” Season 24 premiere episode. In addition to performing the show’s theme song, the band members played an integral role in the contestants’ first challenge. In 2015, the UCLA Band helped to recreate the parade scene from the movie *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off* on the ABC TV hit series “The Goldbergs.”

The UCLA Bruin Marching Band opened for The Rolling Stones’ “50 & Counting Tour” at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on May 3, 2013. Fifty-four members of the Band surprised the audience of 19,000 by marching into the arena playing a version of “Satisfaction” that was called “remarkably funky” in a Rolling Stone Magazine review of the concert.

In 1969, the UCLA Bruin Marching Band became the first college marching band to perform on stage during the television broadcast of the Academy Awards Show. The Band played “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang,” which had been nominated for Best Song.

Film appearances for the Band, either on screen or on the soundtrack, include *Elmer Gantry* (1960), *Hello*

*Dolly* (1969), *To Be Or Not To Be* (1983), *In the Line of Fire* (1993), *Legends of the Fall* (1994), *Jingle All the Way* (1996), *The Waterboy* (1998), *Road Trip* (2000), *Don’t Say A Word* (2001), *First Daughter* (2004), *Click* (2006), *500 Days of Summer* (2009), and *Silver Linings Playbook* (2012).

Television appearances for the Band have included “The New Steve Allen Show” (1961), “Here’s Lucy” (1971), “The Gong Show” (1977), “Private Benjamin” (1981), “The Love Boat” (1982), “Hollywood Squares” (1988), “Hull High” (1990), “Jeopardy” (1990 and 2001), “E-Ring” (2005), “The CBS Early Show” (2007), NBC’s “Today Show” (2007), “The Super Bowl Pregame Show” (2008), “The Video Music Awards Red Carpet Pre-Show” (2014), “Lip Sync Battle” (2016), and the soundtrack of “Imaginary Mary” (2017). The Band has also appeared in com-

mercials for Macy’s, FedEx, Pepsi, Wendy’s, McDonald’s, Honda, and Doritos.

The UCLA Bruin Marching Band was the 1993 recipient of the Louis B. Sudler Trophy, which is presented by the John Philip Sousa Foundation in recog-

nition of the band’s tradition of excellence and innovation. UCLA is the first band on the West Coast to receive this award.

The UCLA Bruin Marching Band has over 260 members. More than 40 different majors are represented in the Band.

The first director of the UCLA Marching Band was Benjamin Laietsky, a violinist who was a former member of the John Philip Sousa Band. Professor Gordon Henderson is currently in his 36th year as director, and he also serves as Director of Bands and Vice Chair of the Department of Music.

One of the Band’s fight songs, “The Mighty Bruins,” was composed in 1984 by Academy Award winning composer Bill Conti.



## Gordon Henderson

Director of Bands and  
Director of the Bruin Marching Band at UCLA



Professor Henderson has served as the Director of the Bruin Marching Band and the Varsity Band since 1982. In 1993, The UCLA Bruin Marching Band received the prestigious Sudler Trophy, presented each year by the John Philip Sousa Foundation to recognize excellence and innovation.

Under Henderson's direction, the Bruin Marching Band has appeared at five Rose Bowls, four Sun Bowls, three Las Vegas Bowls, two Cotton Bowls, the Aloha Bowl, the Freedom Bowl, the Holiday Bowl, the Fiesta Bowl, and four bowls in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Professor Henderson served as Head Horn Instructor or Brass Arranger for three Drum Corps International Champions: the Santa Clara (CA) Vanguard in 1989 and 1999, and the 1992 Cavaliers from Rosemont, Illinois. He has also instructed other drum and bugle corps including The Cadets from Allentown, PA, the Troopers from Casper, WY, Pacific Crest from Diamond Bar, CA, the Academy from Tempe, AZ, and the Colts from Dubuque, IA.

Since 1990, he has served as the Arranger for the Tenrikyo Aimachi Marching Band in Nagoya, Japan, the ten-time All-Japan National Champions, and he has worked with several championship-winning bands in Thailand. During the summers of 2009 and 2013, Henderson served as an adjudicator for the quadrennial World Music Contest held in Kerkrade, the Netherlands. Henderson also served as an adjudicator at the Kuala Lumpur International Marching Band Competition in 2009, and in 2012 and 2013 he served as an adjudicator for the Thailand Royal Cups Concert Band and Marching Band Competition in Bangkok.

Henderson has composed and/or arranged band music for several major motion pictures including *In the Line of Fire*, *Little Nikita*, *Fatal Instinct*, *Legends of the Fall*, *Don't Say A Word*, *First Daughter*, *Road Trip*, *Click*, and *Struck By Lightning*.

## Ken Fisher

Assistant Director of the  
Bruin Marching Band at UCLA



Ken Fisher is in his third year as the Assistant Director of the Bruin Marching Band. Ken received both his Bachelor of Arts degree in Clarinet/Saxophone Performance and Master of Music degree in Bassoon Performance from UCLA. He was a member of the Bruin Marching Band in

1990 and 1991, and later served as the Band Camp Woodwind Clinician, as well as Teaching Assistant for the UCLA Wind Ensemble from 2011-2013.

Ken's professional performance experiences include a year-long tour with the World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra, and three years performing in show bands with Royal Caribbean International and Carnival Cruise Lines on tours throughout Europe, the Caribbean and the United States. As a bassoonist, he spent seven years living in Mexico as a member of the Orquesta Filarmónica de Jalisco in Guadalajara, and the Orquesta Sinfónica Sinaloa de las Artes in Culiacán.

Since returning to Los Angeles in 2008, Ken has re-immersed himself in the local freelance scene, performing regularly with Broadway musicals, symphony orchestras, big bands, Latin/World Music groups, and has participated in over 100 recording sessions for albums, movies, and television.

He has performed with Joe Williams, Tony Bennett, Diane Schuur, Dianne Reeves, Shirley Horne, and Mary Wilson, and under the direction of Gustavo Dudamel, Plácido Domingo, John Williams, Quincy Jones, Jerry Goldsmith, Gunther Schuller, Marvin Hamlisch, Elmer Bernstein, Bruce Broughton and Gerald Wilson.

Deeply committed to music education in underserved areas, Ken Fisher has been involved with Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA) since its inception, first as Program Manager, then Teaching Artist for the past six years at the YOLA @ EXPO site. He also designed and taught Symphony 101, a bilingual Music Appreciation Class for the student's parents.

## UCLA Bruin Marching Band Sets Musical Pace for Globe-Spanning Race

Before contestants in the season premiere of “The Amazing Race” began their chaotic, hyper-speed journey around the world in pursuit of \$1 million in prize money, they received a rousing send-off by some folks who are well known to UCLA sports fans, students and alumni.

The UCLA Bruin Marching Band was selected to open the 10-time Emmy-award-winning series when it aired on February 23, 2014, on CBS. In addition to performing the show’s theme song, the band members played an integral role in the contestants’ first challenge.

Incorporating a marching band into the critically acclaimed show is something that series executive producer and co-creator Bertram van Munster has wanted to do for many years. “I’ve been fascinated with drum bands and marching bands, the choreography and the expertise with which they play their instruments, ever since moving to the U.S. from Holland. So then at one point, I said, ‘Let’s just call these guys and see if they’re willing to work with us.’”

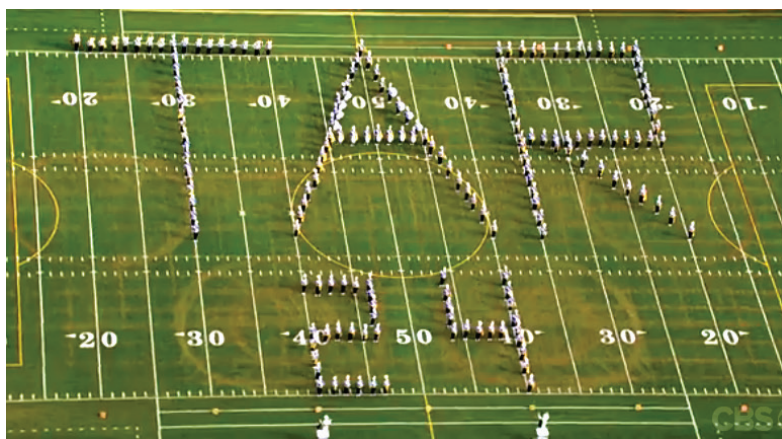
The UCLA Bruin Marching Band’s track record made selecting the Bruin musicians an easy one, he said. “It was a straight shot because you guys are indeed really well-known,” he said. Van Munster was also impressed by the skill and experience demonstrated by band director Gordon Henderson.



*“The Amazing Race” All-Stars premiere*



*Host Phil Keoghan introduces the band*



*TAR 24 Formation representing the 24th season of “The Amazing Race”*



*Concluding the introduction*



*Host Phil Keoghan shows the contestants how the challenge will begin*

“It was phenomenal,” said van Munster. “To handle such a large group on such a large field and to have these musicians be so attentive and focused, it was just fantastic. It was fascinating to see. We were blown away by it.”

Because the band is located in Los Angeles and has a strong reputation for excellence and professionalism, UCLA student musicians are frequently asked to participate in these types of major productions, said Henderson. “Our students have opportunities not a lot of others have,” he said, adding that such experiences also elevate on- and off-campus interest in the band and aid in the recruitment of new members. “It’s a cycle of opportunity,” he said. “The more well-known you are in the industry, the more of these kinds of things you get to do, and we’ve been on a roll the last several years.”



UCLA student Brendon, with his wife Rachel, about to begin their second season on “The Amazing Race” as Team Brenchel



Drum Major Adam Fletcher's shako shows the Chinese symbol that the contestants have to find on the band members' uniform

Jet and Cord get on the first flight to China



Dave and Connor find the clue



Contestants look for the first clue





## Band Staff 2017-2018

### Directors

Gordon Henderson, Director  
Ken Fisher, Assistant Director  
Paul Addleman, Administrative Assistant

### Teaching Assistants

Shaun Evans  
Tyler Farrell  
Kelly Flickinger  
Daniel La France

### Clinicians and Instructors

Glen Crosby, Percussion  
Joshua Guzman, Color Guard  
Luis Cardenas Casillas, Brass  
William Plenk, Music and Marching  
Kevin LeBoeuf, Music and Marching  
Aidan Ritchie, Music and Marching

### Drum Majors

Noah Ashman  
Jacob Hambalek  
Lily Krol

### Section Leaders

Tracy Lahey (Flutes)  
Jerry Qi (Clarinets)  
Nathan Cai (Alto Saxes)  
Jordan Tinker (Tenor Saxes)  
Brendan James, John Malchar, Christine Hirata, Matthew Wu (Trumpets)  
Christina Martin (Horns)  
Adam Cobb, Steven King, Sukhi Bassi (Trombones)  
David Egen (Sousaphones)  
Adam Jones (Snare Drums)  
Jared Douglas Brock (Tenor Drums)  
Steven Candelaria (Bass Drums)  
Tanya Alam (Cymbals)  
Sidney Kantono, Mariah Tumbaga (Color Guard)

### Rank Leaders

Hannah Markovic, Christopher O'Connor,  
Justin Wolfman (Woodwinds)  
Melodie Butz, Adam Cobb, Kevin King, Troy Kutch, Laila Sathe (Brass)  
Joey Auer, Harry Mitchell (Sousaphones)

### Feature Twirler

Jade McVay

### Equipment Crew

Christopher O'Connor, Crew Head  
Andy Hsu  
Patrick McGihon  
William Shu  
Michael Stranieri  
Steven King, Truck Driver

### Uniform Crew

Kayleigh Hart, Crew Head  
Laila Sathe  
Cassandra Armstrong  
Tesslyn Knapp  
Kathleen Oliphant

### Library Crew

Patrick Chesnut, Crew Head  
Haley Nelson  
Samantha Ono  
Kaitlyn Watkins

### Recruitment Crew

Patrick Chesnut, Crew Head  
Megan Clark  
Omer Lavian  
Abby McCallum  
Jerry Qi  
Kyle Reidy

### Webmaster

Adam Cobb  
Adam Jones

### Camera Crew

John Soliman

### Announcer

James Coomes

---

## UCLA Band Program

### Gordon Henderson

*Director of Bands  
Director of the Bruin Marching and Varsity Bands*

### Travis J. Cross

*Conductor of the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band*

### Ken Fisher

*Assistant Director of the Bruin Marching and Varsity Bands*

### Paul Addleman

*Administrative Assistant of the Bruin Marching and Varsity Bands*

---

## Bruin Marching Band Online

Website – [www.band.ucla.edu](http://www.band.ucla.edu)  
Web Store – [www.band.ucla.edu/store](http://www.band.ucla.edu/store)  
Facebook – [www.facebook.com/uclabruinband](http://www.facebook.com/uclabruinband)  
YouTube Channel –  
[www.youtube.com/user/UCLABandVideoProject](http://www.youtube.com/user/UCLABandVideoProject)  
Band Alumni –  
[www.facebook.com/groups/244774729005229/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/244774729005229/)  
Instagram – [www.instagram.com/uclaband](http://www.instagram.com/uclaband)