



S P R I N G
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For the first time in over a half-century, a new director led the Trojan Marching Band at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum last fall. Jacob Vogel, who took the helm of the organization in January 2021 succeeded Dr. Bartner, who led The Spirit of Troy from 1970 to 2020.



Vogel was previously Associate Director and Arranger for the program, working his way up from Teaching Assistant in 2009. But the new Trojan Marching Band director's journey at USC began during his undergraduate years at Chapman University in Orange, CA when he was tasked with forming a pep band from scratch with a stack of uninspiring music arrangements. "We played just the goofiest music that was in the library. It was 'Wipeout,' it was 'Twist and Shout,' 'Louie, Louie,' like all of just the standards that every band played for years and years," says Vogel. "And so they were fine, but they were boring, so I started writing my own and my own arrangements were not much better. They weren't very good."

In the nascent Chapman pep band was an alto saxophone player named Jessica Bogenreif who caught Vogel's eye. They began dating and she soon transferred to USC and joined the Trojan Marching Band. She suggested he get

help on writing music for the pep band from the USC Band's long-time arranger Tony Fox. "I remember being so nervous the first time, like oh my gosh, I'm going to USC, this is huge, this is major," says Vogel. "And so I wore my nicest clothes that I had as a college student, I borrowed a car – I didn't own a car, so I borrowed a friend's car – drive up the freeway, park at the University Village, back at the old village, walk across the street, go down into the basement and there in all his glory, Bermuda shorts, New Balance sneakers and a Hawaiian shirt was Tony Fox, and I thought to myself like, 'Okay, I can work with this guy, this guy's great.'"

Fox generously helped Vogel out on his arrangements for Chapman, meeting every week to break down the intricacies of orchestrating music. Meanwhile, Vogel attended USC Football games both to watch his girlfriend perform and to take mental notes on how to run a marching band by watching Bartner direct the organization. "So Tony introduced me to Dr. Bartner, and we were approaching the fall after I finished my undergrad degree, he's like, 'You have to come here,' and so USC was the only grad school I applied to," Vogel says. He was accepted and arrived at the university full time in 2009. As Vogel worked on a master's degree and doctorate in music education, he progressed through the program from Teaching Assistant to Assistant Director, while arranging music for the band

Continued on Page 3

A SOPHOMORE'S FIRST BAND CAMP

Returning in person as a sophomore was very exciting and a bit of a culture shock. I was completely new to this program (since I had no alumni family or prior Trojan experience), and the idea of being a part of The Spirit of Troy was foreign to me — and after my freshman year on Zoom, it still was. We came out of my freshman year not really knowing each other or the band. There was a lack of participation during my freshman year that came from various personal reasons and simply the gravity of a different online world.

Coming back into the swing of things, we experienced a lot of firsts in terms of TMB. Coming into new a group with a bunch of acquaintances was challenging because a handful of us came into the activity with no real “friends.” The drive that people had to be social and participate in random traditions stemmed from the spirit that the older members gave us and that the section leaders really helped facilitate. I felt that my first in-person college experience was defined by my involvement in the TMB and I take pride in that. From the Hollywood Bowl to seeing the Coliseum for the first time to going to Notre Dame, all the way to banquet, I felt like I was with the right group and I never felt alone.

Speaking as a person who came from a lot of different programs in the marching arts, The Spirit of Troy IS The Greatest Marching Band in the History of the Universe (Ever!). The technical side of the band is so unique in its silly, unorthodox mannerisms that it gives the participants reason to keep marching. Coming from my freshman year, very little was established in terms of our marching style. The way in which we learned music also changed because in sectionals online, all we could do was review music with a fine-tooth comb.

With all this being said, coming into band camp as sophomores, there was a lot of work to do. It was evident early on that everyone needed to work a lot harder to achieve a quality performance. The pride of the unique chair style marching was finally taught to us in full. Essential classic charts were being lost in time but they were revived and taught to us along with fresh new charts. The Spirit of Troy is not complete without these essential pieces. It was a lot to take in at first with a new way of marching and a list of rock charts almost double in size to memorize, but we took our Fight On spirit and did exactly that. I just can't wait to see what next season has in store for us.

-Jacobo Herrera

thank you



First, we would like to recognize the late Betty Fouce (pictured *left* in the middle, holding the sword), who in 2020 made a generous donation to the TMB for the purchase of new instruments, after 15 years of wear and tear on our previous equipment. Her legacy and contribution to The Spirit of Troy will leave a lasting impact on our program for years to come and the Trojan Marching Band gives its condolences to the Fouce Family.

Next, we would like to give a huge thank you to Steve Bothwell. In 2019, Steve (pictured *right* in the Hawaiian shirt) made the seed donation for the purchase of new uniforms in spring 2020. These uniforms were debuted by The Spirit of Troy this past fall.

We would also like to give a big thank you to Marty and Donna Lichtmann for their generous contribution to the TMB Travel Endowment. Their gift will launch this year's Day of SCUpport on May 4 to endow the biennial UCLA game at the Rose Bowl.



Marty and Donna (pictured *left*), as well as their son and daughter-in-law, are all “Sword of Troy” Donors. Both couples met in the band!



Thanks to the generosity of over 200 Trojans, the Trojan Marching Band experienced their 25th consecutive USC vs. Notre Dame game in South Bend. This trip was especially meaningful as it was Professor Vogel's first trip to Notre Dame as director of the Trojan Marching Band.

-BP

under Fox's watchful eye. During this time, he married Bogenreif. When Fox retired in 2016, Vogel began to arrange for the band full time.

As Bartner's new Associate Director, Vogel reinvigorated the band's halftime entertainment with the staging of popular "picture shows" for the big home games against Notre Dame and UCLA. For these shows, the band performed music tailored to a particular theme while creating recognizable images on the field, like the Death Star for the 2015 Star Wars show and Baby Groot for a *Guardians of the Galaxy* show in 2017. He worked with big-name talent like Angelina Jolie, Mark Hamill, and Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige to have them appear on the Coliseum's vision board to deliver taped introductions to the extravaganzas. Vogel arranged music for the band's appearance at Coachella with Coheed and Cambria in 2010 and the 2016 *Games of the Thrones* concert series with composer Raman Djawadi. He also worked closely with composer Alan Silvestri to bring the music of *The Avengers* to the field for "The Infinity Saga" show in 2019. Silvestri guest conducted the Trojan Marching Band at that game.

Along with updating the band's music repertoire to play modern charts from popular artists, Vogel took over directing the band at the Explore USC events and the annual Fourth of July performance on Catalina Island. He also replaced Fox as director of the men's basketball band at every home game. Here he worked directly with

the band's musicians and developed his student-centered approach to leadership. "I feel a tremendous responsibility to the students," says Vogel. "You know, a lot of them have been very supportive of me in this venture and they've been very willing to have conversations. I want to make sure that they continue in a program that they love and they feel that 'this is the place for me.'" To this end, Vogel helped create two student-run committees within the band. The Creativity and Fan Experience Committee works on selecting music, designing halftime shows, and finding new ways for the band to engage with the Trojan Family. He also stewarded the formation of the Trojan Marching Band Equity and Inclusion Committee, a student effort to develop a more accepting band culture and create a support system to meet the needs of band members.

In March 2020 when band members went home during the pandemic, Vogel led the band staff in adapting the marching band to a virtual environment. To keep "The Spirit of Troy" alive, he coordinated the difficult task of bringing together students thousands of miles apart for online meetings and rehearsals. This included

a full virtual band camp in August 2020, a regular fall rehearsal schedule, and new musical arrangements that band members filmed music videos for at home. During this time, the university conducted a seven-month search to replace Bartner, who had announced his retirement for December 2020.

Candidates from marching band programs across the country applied for the job but Vogel came out on top. His first months as director involved transitioning the band back to campus and producing Bartner's virtual farewell concert, "The Golden Legacy." At the event, Bartner ceremonially turned the band over to Vogel.

Vogel has a clear picture of what it means to lead such a storied organization. "The TMB has a long-standing reputation of being one of the most definitive bands in college sports," he says. "It is important to me to create a positive student experience and maintain the traditions of the university without sacrificing innovation." Last season, the Trojan Family saw the culmination of Vogel's journey to becoming director of the program and the beginning of the future of the Trojan Marching Band.

-Brett Padelford



Tony Fox, Jacob Vogel, Jessica Vogel, and Dr. Bartner at Tony's Final Spring Concert



Jacob and Jessica marching together in the TMB





It was an event 50 years in the making. All right now (pun intended), let's be honest – 51 years. But not even a once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic could conquer a once-in-a-lifetime tribute to honor Dr. Arthur C. Bartner as he officially concluded 50-plus-one years as the The Man on the Ladder leading the Spirit of Troy.

While the Golden Legacy Halftime show was delayed a year, it did not diminish the drive, determination and spirit of the musicians, alumni, silks (or flags, depending on your generation), drum majors, staff and prop crew who joined with the current TMB to reconnect, relive and revive a half-century of memories. For some alums, the performance took on added significance, giving them the opportunity to march with their kids who were current band members. Together, they all teamed to perform Greatest and Largest Halftime Show in the History of the Universe. Estimates of the number of participants ranged up to 1,250, depending on who was doing the counting.

Pulling off an event of this magnitude was an effort in itself, with the Trojan Marching Band Alumni Association providing planning, logistical and financial support along the way, including hosting the all-alumni reception, obtaining credentials and providing lunch for all band members after the Saturday rehearsal. Jan Berkeley, TMBA homecoming chair, said planning began two years earlier, before the pandemic put everyday life on hold. And for the first time ever, this halftime show featured the current band performing a charted show with alums. Despite the uncertainty, band staff, TMBA members, and volunteers worked together throughout, coordinating registration, obtaining instruments, distributing music, rehearsing, feeding, and designing and distributing collectible shirts, jerseys and caps. And getting some 900 alums from USC to the Coliseum.

Alums assembled to rehearse the show on a warm Friday night on Cromwell Field just 24 hours before game time in a scene that would make herding cats look organized. With the help of current band members, they found a way to make it work. Friday night confusion gave way to Saturday morning confidence as the show was polished to the perfection that Dr. Bartner always pursued. Practice ended on an emotional high note as Prof. Jacob Vogel ceremonially turned the baton over to Dr. Bartner to rehearse "All Hail."

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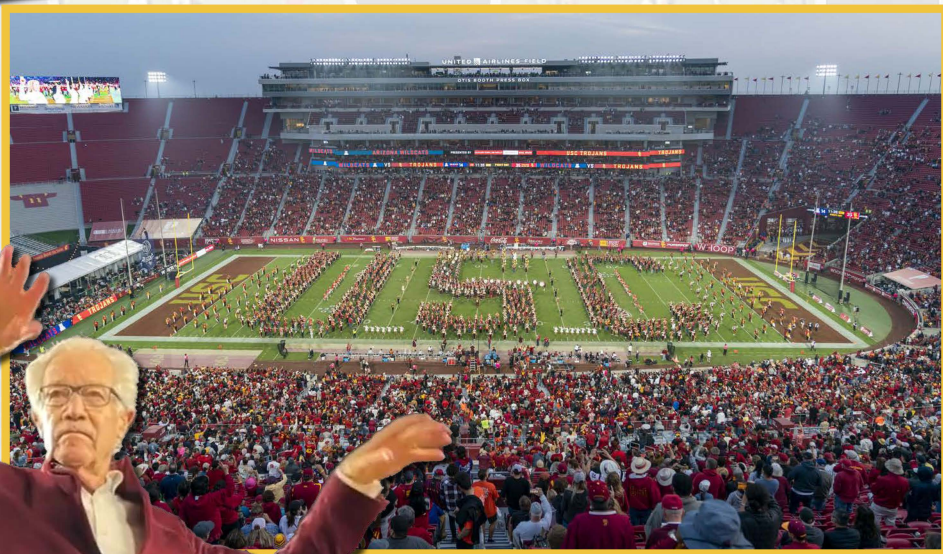
"I've played that song countless times over 50 years," said TMBA President Rick Nordin. "Seeing the band come together as one, playing it as a tribute to Dr. Bartner, I've never heard it played with such respect and emotion. It brought a tear to my eye. And I know I wasn't alone." Later that evening, the largest TMB in USC's history repeated the moment at halftime, taking the field to honor Dr. Bartner's final appearance atop the ladder.

"Conducting the Alma Mater at homecoming was a thrill of a lifetime," Bartner said. "It's right up there with the recording of Tusk and the 1984 Olympic opening show." And if the song seemed longer than usual, it was by design. Bartner previously said he would hold all the fermatas to test band members' lungs and extend his time on the ladder. "I didn't want the moment to end for me and the crowd," he recalled. "It added a little drama to the performance."

As if it needed it.

-Michael Runzler





Season in Review

Taking the field for the first time since 2019, The Spirit of Troy hit the ground running. After a productive band camp, the band got to work and put together our first halftime show of the season, “Halftime and Chill,” which we performed in the



Coliseum for the season opener against San Jose State. This show featured music from a few popular streaming shows, including *Stranger Things*, *The Queen’s Gambit*, *WandaVision*, *Loki*, and *The Mandalorian*. During the last set of the show, we received an enthusiastic roar from the crowd as we navigated the field to form the shape of Baby Yoda from the *Mandalorian* (*upper right*).

Following this exhilarating performance, we got right back to work to prepare more shows for our fans. These shows included “Songs of the Summer,” featuring songs from well-known artists such as Lil Nas X and Olivia Rodrigo, “Olympic Tribute,” which we performed to recognize the 66 USC athletes who competed in the Tokyo Olympics (*upper left*), and “Future Nostalgia,” featuring the music of Dua Lipa.



After receiving much praise from our fans (and from Dua Lipa herself!), we took “Future Nostalgia” to South Bend, Indiana for our rivalry game against Notre Dame. There was no slowing down for The Greatest Marching Band in the History of the Universe (Ever!) after this exciting trip (*at Navy Pier in Chicago above right*), as we immediately got back onto the field to create the largest halftime show in TMB history for USC’s homecoming game against Arizona (*left*).



To cap off the season, the TMB put together two more crowd-pleasing shows: “Coliseum Karaoke,” which we performed as our football team faced off against our crosstown rivals, and “Disney Channel,” featuring songs from our favorite childhood shows (*right*), which we played at our final home game and took up to the Cal stadium for our annual weekender trip (*lower left*).



The Trojan Marching Band also had many performances off the field this fall semester, including volleyball, water polo, and basketball games, as well as some notable events, such as the hiring of our new head football coach, Lincoln Riley (*lower right*). A few of our members even opened for Gwen Stefani at the Spotify Wrapped party and others performed for a promotional video for *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.



-Heyward Bradford

alumni update

Living up to the “Make it Work” motto of The Spirit of Troy, the Trojan Marching Band Alumni Association launched as a global pandemic loomed. Here’s a look at the two-year accomplish-

ments and future plans of USC’s first new alumni association in decades.

Looking back...

- Expanded membership: Attracted more than 500 active members, growing 85 percent from 2020 to 2021.
- Hosted events: Used social media and Zoom to engage members, including a drive-by 80th birthday celebration for Dr. Arthur C. Bartner.
- Funded homecoming: Helped organize and fund The Golden Legacy Halftime and reception, providing a free event for all alums; designed new commemorative merchandise.
- Supported the TMB: Purchased a new, mobile-based marching app; financial assistance for the annual banquet and awards, including jock jackets; provided Spirit Packs and meals for band camp.

Looking forward...

- Expanding membership: Generating \$100,000 annually to support Professor Jacob Vogel’s short and long-term goals.
- Playing again: Supporting plans to create and participate in an alumni band to raise funds and perform at events.
- Building on momentum: Working with Prof. Vogel to further engage alumni, capture the excitement of homecoming and make the experience even better.
- Beat the Irish: Planning the 50th anniversary of the first Notre Dame trip in 1973.

Join or renew TMBAA membership: tmbaa.org/join; tmbaa.org/renew. Also, to purchase commemorative merchandise: uscbookstore.com/usc-tmba

-Michael Runzler

Dear Trojan Marching Band Parents,

Happy New Year! Thank you so much for supporting The Greatest Marching Band in the History of the Universe this fall. Because of your support, the TMB had a very successful year supporting the athletic teams and the university both on campus and at away games. The Homecoming halftime performance alone was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that your students will remember forever. TMB students showed flexibility and resilience during this difficult time that made us all proud.

As the spring semester begins, I am asking you to “Save the Date” for the spring concert on May 1. Details for this event will be forthcoming. In addition to May 1, please stay tuned for opportunities to see your student perform with the TMB this spring. Again, thank you for your support of the TMB and as always, Fight On!!!

-Bonnie Suffridge

Chairperson, Trojan Marching Band Parent Association
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parents'
corner

THE *SM* STAFF

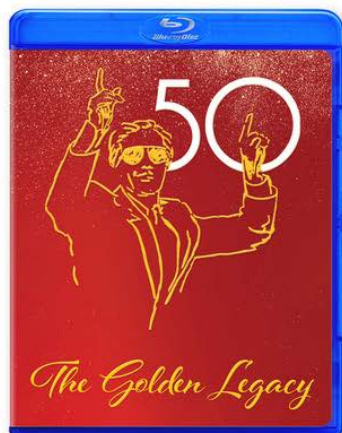
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from the desk of:

The Director of the Trojan Marching Band

Greetings to the Trojan Family! It has been an extraordinary year for both the TMB and me personally. I pen this note to you having completed my first full season as director. Reflecting on what transpired in 2021, I realize that the driving force behind this year and my first football season, was gratitude. I have a lot to be thankful for, and I feel it necessary to let all of you know about the folks who not only helped me succeed in achieving my goals this first year, but ensured the TMB would continue to grow and thrive. First off, I want to thank the students of the Trojan Marching Band, you took a chance on me and continue to demonstrate the power of will that exists in young people. I'm grateful for the Section Leaders, for their tremendous work ethic, patience, and feedback throughout the year. This group holds a special place in my heart, and I will look back on them with the utmost fondness.

To Matt Lucitt and the pavilion staff, thank you for turning around a plan to provide instruments and uniforms to the band with as little time as you had. Your care and thoroughness are impeccable, and I know the members of the TMB appreciate all you do. I want to also thank Niven and Andrés, our General Manager (and Drum Major) and Operations Manager, respectively. These young men stepped up and ensured the TMB continued to run (nearly) flawlessly, and I cannot thank them enough for all they did when we needed them most, thank you.

In 2020, we formed the TMB Café (Creativity and Fan Experience Committee), a group of students who were interested in the creative process of the TMB and offered numerous recommendations for song choices and show concepts. I didn't realize what a blessing this was, until I knew I could trust them to organize and format these shows. I was simply tasked with arranging the music (along with Tad). In particular, Dominic Diaz, Remy Gilboe, Jeremy Rodrigues, Sam Ruzon and Varun Bhajekar; thank you for your insight. Another group of students I want to take a moment to recognize are our Silk section leaders, Ava and Sam, as well as their teaching assistant, Kate. These young ladies not only did tremendous work training and choreographing for the Silk section, but they fostered a culture of success and engagement, and I'm thrilled to see what Ava and Christina, the newly elected section leaders, accomplish this spring.

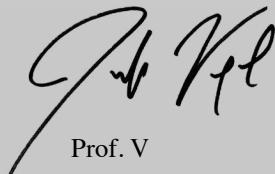
Tradition is incredibly important to the TMB, and experience is crucial to the keeping of the greatest of them. When I knew that Lee Carlson, Ben Chua, and Tad Carpenter would continue working with me this past season, I knew that I had the connective tissue from the past that would help me propel to the future. Gentlemen, you are integral to this program, and I continue to be amazed with your work and support, thank you. I owe a major debt of gratitude to Jeff Collins, Sean Jenkins, and Chris Norton. These gentlemen had my back throughout the season, designing shows, editing drill, creating band camp and running gigs. I only succeed because of their effort, and I cannot express enough how thankful I am to have them on board.

Brett and KC, thank you for working with our great video crew (Woody, Kyle, Zachary, and Patrick) to get our half-time and pregame shows recorded, as well as Christian for doing our editing. This was a tremendous task to take on, and I'm glad I had you at the helm. To our TAs and Student Advocates, thank you for all the wonderful teaching and support you provided to our students and for being by their side through these past couple of years. Thank you to Dr. Jennifer Floyd for joining our crew and hitting the ground running, and to Cynthia for continuing to be the rock of this staff and making the magic happen. To our support groups: the Prop Crew (Anita, Brian, Mark, Alex, India, and Kiki), the parents (led so graciously by Bonnie Suffridge) and the TMBAA (in particular Jan Berkeley and the steering committee – Rick (x2), Marty, Betsey, Michael, KC, Art), thank you for everything you manage behind the scenes to give the TMB it's true Hollywood sheen. Thank you, Richard Vargas, for doing all that you do to help support the TMB, and to Dr. Bartner for having been, and continuing to be, a great mentor as I take up his mantle.

Lastly, I want to express my sincerest gratitude to my wife, Jessica. Without her, I wouldn't even have found my way to USC or have my wonderful family. Thank you, dear, for supporting my dreams and being the greatest spouse/partner/mother in the history of the universe!

I look forward to the coming year and hope to see you all in the Coliseum at our first game!

Best regards,



Prof. V