

The Winds of Freedom Blow!

News for Alumni and Supporters of the
Leland Stanford Junior University Marching Band

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TAKIN' IT TO THE STREETS

by Joel Knudson, '02, MA'11

Ah, summer...that wonderfully relaxing time of year when we delude ourselves into thinking fall quarter will be a walk in the park. This year was no different, as the Band kicked things off with what seems to be an emerging tradition of playing with Tower of Power at the San Mateo County Fair, then running through our typical lineup of the San Francisco AIDS Walk, the Redwood City Fourth of July Parade, and a late summer trip to Lake Tahoe. An alumni barbeque at the end of August gave us an opportunity to wrap up shop, see some of your grizzled faces, and hear a bit about the glorious days when *you* were in Band.

Football season started innocently enough. We couldn't scratch together the cash to send a whole crew to Durham, but we did manage to send the Tree out to Duke. A week later, a busload of Band folks made the trek down to Tucson to play as the football team dismantled Arizona. With a jump start on 10 weeks of accumulating sleep debt, the Band returned to campus for the start of fall quarter.

Just when it seemed that we were hitting our groove, a wave of freshmen ravaged the Shak. The firehose-like supply of new blood has resulted in a turnout that tests the strength of the seats in the southwest corner of Stanford stadium. Roughly 200 bandies have marched in each of the home games this fall, and the same number filled four buses on a drive to LA, where we resumed our biennial Make a Trojan Cry Tour. The Coliseum feels a little more cozy every year. Throw in a pair of College GameDay appearances and some fresh media attention, and folks are feeling as self-important as any deluded young adult ought to.

But that wasn't enough. We decided we wanted to do a little work for ourselves and set out to add to the Band catalog with a stack of new tunes. Read on to get the slant on the new album from this year's drum major, Juicebox.

The BCS man behind the curtain has yet to inform us of our holiday destination, but we look forward to descending on a new locale and taking it by storm. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, no wrap-up is complete without an expression of gratitude. For the San Jose State and Notre Dame football games and other events throughout the fall, your remarkably lifelike bodies have enabled the Band to do what it does best. Financial support has also allowed events like the Arizona bus trip to take place and keep us moving. We may have failed to protect your livers like the NFL fails to protect athletes' brains, but we're deeply appreciative that you continue to give back anyway.



Happiness or delirium? You decide.

Photo: Robby Beyers

ALL OF THE LIGHTS

LSJUMB Plugs in to Put New Tracks on Wax

by Joe "Juicebox" Adelson, '11

For those of you who forgot, it's been four years since we recorded *The One, The Only*, which means it's time for another LSJUMB album.¹ We set aside the weekend of November 4-6 for album recording. It was a new experience for the leadership involved and we had to deal with a couple logistical curveballs, but it was fun for everybody and leaves me feeling great about the trajectory of future band recordings and albums.

I've never done this before, but I imagine that this album process is quite different than the few previous ones. Most notably, Fabio (Scott McKissen, '97), who has brilliantly engineered the last four albums, was not working directly with us this year, which sent us back to the drawing board.

We took this opportunity to change some things.

First off, we decided to purchase the LSJUMB its very own professional quality recording equipment. With this we hope to be make tracks of publishable quality far more frequently than once every four years. Personally, I think this is one of the best investments band has ever made. Recording is super fun and is

something Band genuinely enjoys doing.² This also gives the Drum Major great leverage to convince Band to learn lots of new songs more frequently and keep the folder fresh and sounding good.

The second big change is that we did not record in Frost Amphitheater. Heavy machinery noises from construction of the new Bing Performance Hall pretty much ruined that location for us. After some time thinking that we would be recording in the football stadium,³ we ended up recording in the lawn in front of Chuck Taylor Grove, right outside Shak—an incredibly convenient but frustratingly windy setting.

In my mind, the biggest difference is the personnel in charge and the associated learning curve. The burden of establishing our sound falls squarely on Mike "PoTak" Repper's very capable shoulders. PoTak is one of band's few music majors and heavily involved at Stanford's Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA.) With the help of frosh Sadie "TF" Meyer, he has been running the show from the technical end of things.⁴



Two turntables and a microphone

Photo: Yanessa Lasley

¹ Title: **Blackout Funk**

² This is actually true only part of the time. The football team is too good and distracting. Band literally cheered when they found out it was raining so we had to delay, because it allowed them to watch the Oregon State game.

³ The football stadium seemed like a good choice in terms of isolation but we had some big concerns regarding the echo. At

the last moment, however, we found out that Band was not allowed to use the football field because the grass was dying, as evident to those of us who watched our team slip n' slide all over the place against Oregon.

⁴ Although it took him a couple days to figure out Chuck Taylor, PoTak created a setup that legitimately sounds good. I'm still pretty surprised by this.

SAVE THE DATE!

*The LSJUMB Celebrates the 50 Year Anniversary of the Revolution
October 2013*

So how with all these changes how did things go? Well, it depends upon how you look at it. As a metaphor for this, I'm going to "Tarantino"⁵ my story to give you a sense of what happened.

It's 3:00 PM on Sunday. There is still plenty of light outside. Band sounds great. But it's too damn windy for the mics and the weather report is bad. Album recording is over for the weekend. Bummer.

It's 10:00 PM on Friday. PoTak, Sam "Sambox" Wright, and Garrett "Cock Rock Disco" Schlesinger, and I are in the office listening to *Foreplay/Knights*.⁶ The sound quality and balance aren't quite right, but it's promising and Band sounds badass.

It's 5:30 PM on Saturday. We talk to the guys setting up tents and learn that there is going to be a 5k race against pulmonary hypertension.⁷ We won't be able to begin setting up our recording equipment until noon the next day. *What is Hip?* is up next, but Band is losing its chops after a long day in the cold.

It's 3:00 PM on Friday. After sound checking with *She's Not There*, we complete our first take of *Foreplay/Knights* and it is awesome. Yes, the tempo at C in *Knights* falls apart, but Band is packed tightly and sounds better than I have ever heard it before in my life. The nerves for this endeavor being a complete failure are gone. This is going to be a fun weekend.

It's 7:30 AM on Saturday. We've decided to pack band even more tightly together today. It's 38 degrees outside, but there are bagels!

It's 2:15 PM on Sunday. WOOHOO!!! Everyone is listening to the track we just took of ARN. We can hear

2011 Recording Setlist

All Right Now (Victory Mix)
Come Join the Band
Hail, Stanford, Hail
The Star Spangled Banner

16 Military Wives, The Decemberists
All of the Lights, Kanye West
Animal, Neon Trees
Foreplay, Boston
Golgi Apparatus, Phish
Hard to Handle, Otis Redding
Ignorance, Paramore
Knights of Cydonia, Muse
Livin' in the USA, The Steve Miller Band
Na Na Na (Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na)
My Chemical Romance
On My Way, Off by One
Reptilia, The Strokes
Rolling in the Deep, Adele
She's Not There, Santana
Through the Fire and Flames, Dragonforce
Tighten Up, The Black Keys
What is Hip? Tower of Power
Whisper Your Name, Harry Connick, Jr.
Woman, Wolfmother

Peter "Froshpital" Espe faintly yelling, "I'm on fire!!!!"⁸ It's the best I've ever heard ARN sound live.

It's 11:00 PM on Saturday. We're listening to the tracks. The sound is better today, but there is not enough bass, so we decide to place a couple Tööbz closer to the mics tomorrow. Our track of ARN is nearly perfect, but we need to do it again.⁹

It's 2:00 PM on Sunday. I can't believe that the Cal field hockey fans aren't getting picked up on the mics, but it's beginning to get windy¹⁰ as we finish our last take of *Ignorance* and get ready for *Reptilia*.

It's 6:00 PM on Friday. We just plowed through a lot of songs after a sound check that took a good part of the day. I think maybe we should have taken a few more takes, but mainly we're curious to see how we sound.

It's 4:30 PM on Sunday. I'm listening to *Ignorance* and it is the first track that really has the balance down. It sounds good, but I wish we had been able to get more than one usable song completed today. Time to start planning for recording over Thanksgiving break and during winter quarter.

Sorry if that made no sense. The abridged version is that we lost a significant portion of our weekend due to wind, rain, and scheduling of things in Chuck Taylor Grove. We did not come close to finishing our album. But we did come up with a method for recording ourselves, and, since we own the equipment, we have the ability to finish **Blackout Funk** later this year and start a new project next year. I can't wait.

⁵ I do not like Quentin Tarantino because I think he uses cheap tricks to make boring plots seem entertaining, but I'm desperate for something stylistic to make this a less unorthodox read.

⁶ This is the song where we start out playing *Foreplay* from Boston's *Foreplay/Langtime* then switch to Muse's *Knights of Cydonia*.

⁷ The irony of this escapes no one.

⁸ Bone Lick = *Chariots of Fire*.

⁹ Terrible cymbal crash. The cymbals have to get hidden/held hostage from ABF until the guy who actually knows what he's doing shows up.

¹⁰ The lack of isolation is by far the biggest failure of Chuck Taylor Grove as a place to record. With no protection from trees or walls, a little wind can end a day. Now that we own our own equipment, though, hopefully we can find calm days to work.

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Kickin' It

Photo: Seth Snyder

WE LOVE US SOME US

Stalking your favorite band on the internet

Stanford Band Does a Number on the Ordinary

Los Angeles Times

November 2, 2011

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/la-sp-erskine-20111103.0,1580712.column>

Toni Kokenis Dances to Her Own Beat

ESPNW

October 28, 2011

<http://espn.go.com/espnw/college-sports/7156491/total-access-stanford-cardinal-toni-kokenis-dances-own-beat>

ESPN College GameDay Profile of LSJUMB

November 12, 2011

<http://espn.go.com/video/clip?id=7223398>

College GameDay's Lee Corso Dons the Tree

<http://espn.go.com/video/clip?id=7223689>

<http://espn.go.com/video/clip?id=7163917>

"This game has all the best college marching bands, from the precision footwork of Ohio State to the lame dead-on-arrival humor of Stanford."

—Lisa Simpson, playing the "Rock Band" parody video game "Marching Band" on *The Simpsons*

COME OUT AND PLAY

Planning to hang out over winter break? Come join us! We'd love the company, and we could use your chops.

Saturday, December 17

Men's Basketball vs. San Diego

Saturday, December 17

Women's Basketball vs. Princeton

Monday, December 19

Men's Basketball vs. Bethune-Cookman

Tuesday, December 20

Women's Basketball vs. Tennessee

Thursday, December 22

Men's Basketball vs. Butler

Thursday, December 22

Women's Basketball vs. Cal State Bakersfield

Thursday, December 29

Men's Basketball vs. UCLA

Saturday, December 31

Men's Basketball vs. USC

Thursday, January 5

Women's Basketball vs. Utah

Saturday, January 7

Women's Basketball vs. Oregon State