

1970

Bands of the World - Brownsville High School Band snippet

Al G. Wright

Stanley Newcomb

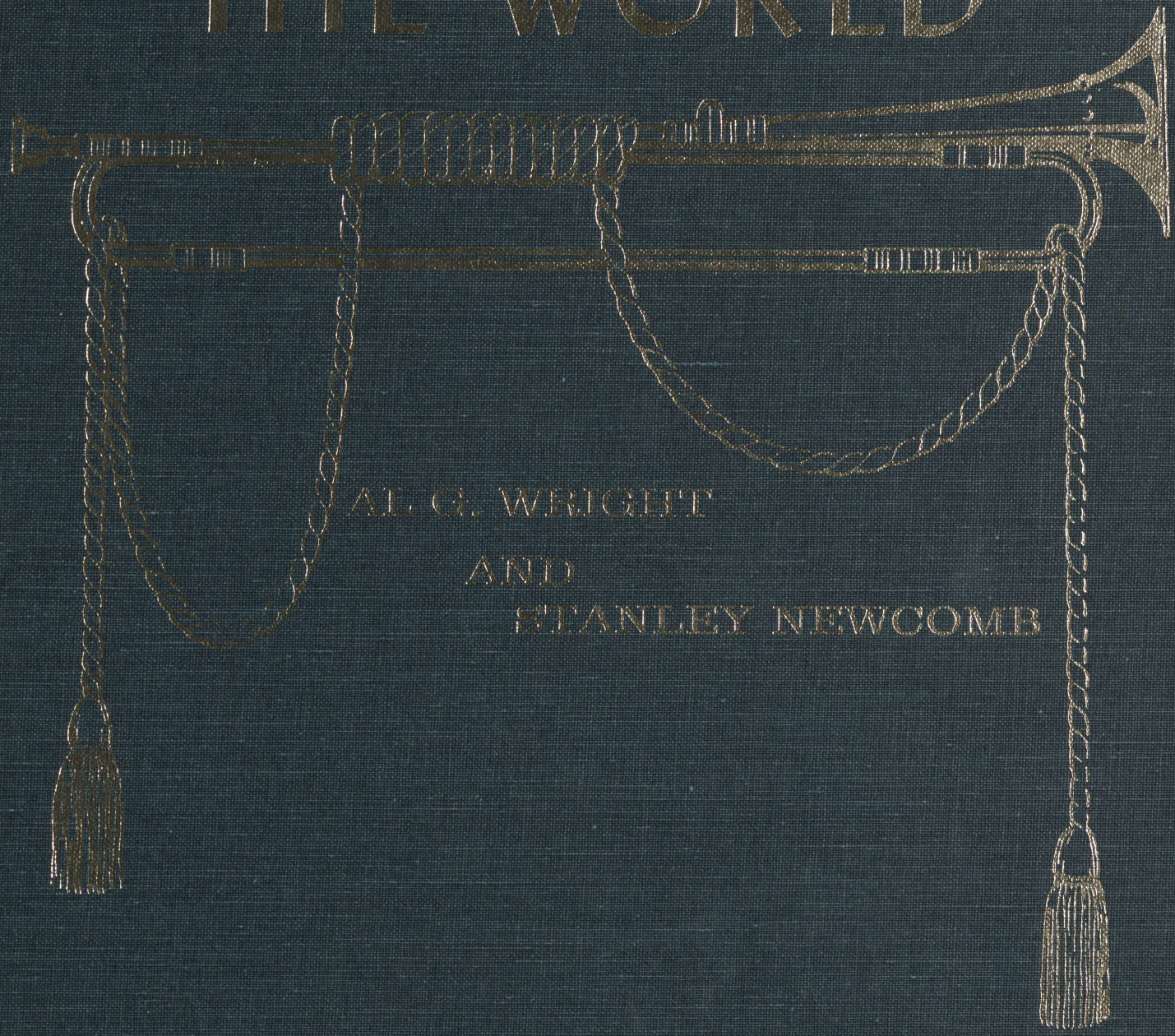
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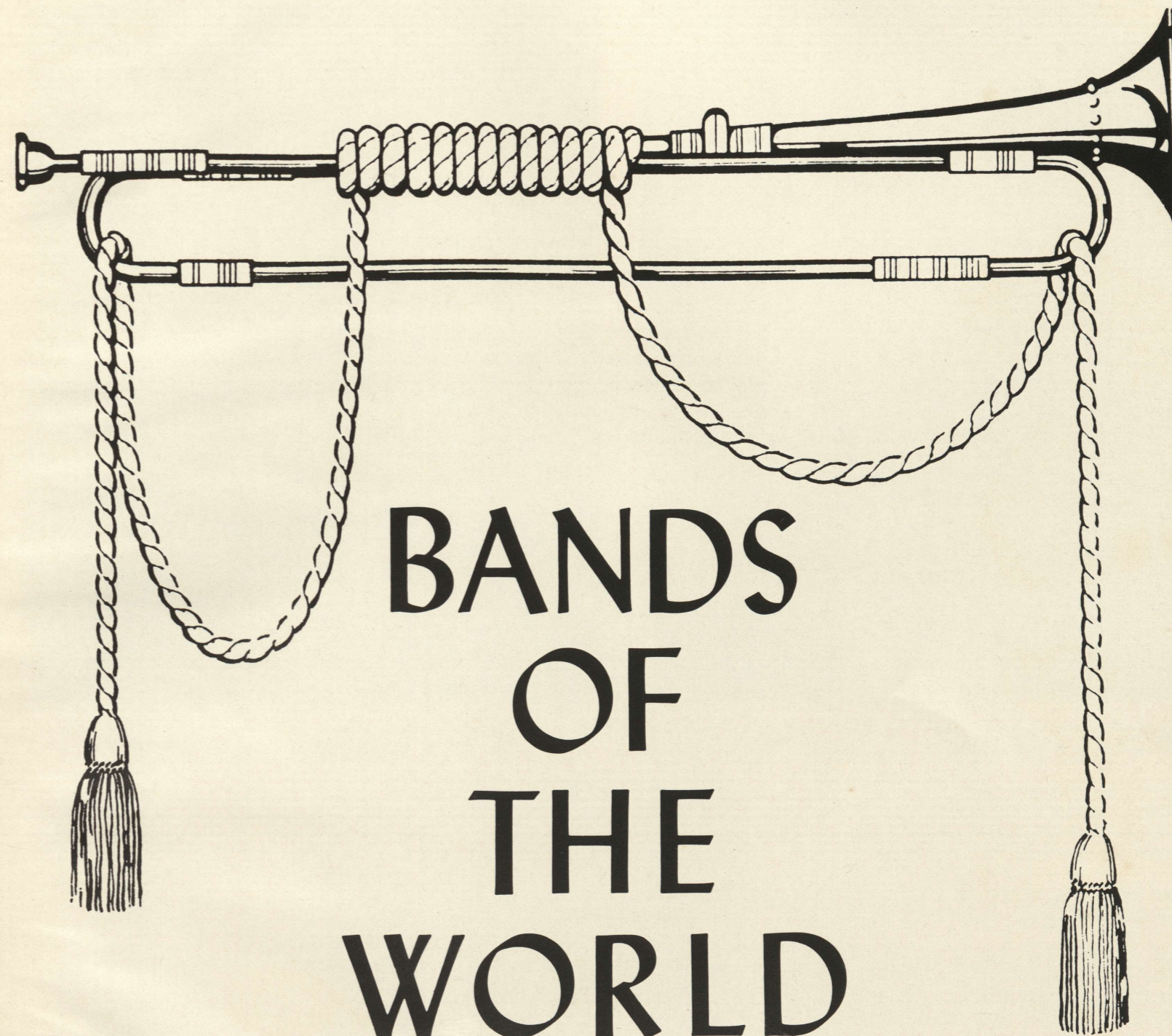
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BANDS
OF
THE WORLD



AL G. WRIGHT
AND
STANLEY NEWCOMB

AL G. WRIGHT AND STANLEY NEWCOMB



BANDS OF THE WORLD

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THE AUTHORS



AL G. WRIGHT

Al G. Wright is head of the Department of Bands with the rank of full professor at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana, USA. Born in London, England he holds the degrees of Bachelor of Science (1937) and Master of Education (1947) from the University of Miami (Florida).

Mr. Wright's professional experience includes more than 25 years of work in the field of music education, conducting concert bands and orchestras, and directing marching bands. He has served as guest conductor of festival bands and orchestras in 43 of the 50 states and in several Canadian provinces. He has appeared as visiting lecturer and clinician in colleges and universities throughout the United States.

From 1937 to 1954 he served as Director of Music and conductor of the band and orchestra at Miami Senior High School, Miami, Florida. Under his direction these groups came to be recognized as one of the outstanding instrumental music programs in the country. Since moving to Purdue University as Director of Bands in 1954, he has brought the Purdue Symphony Band and Marching Band to a standard of excellence which ranks them among the finest university bands in the United States.

Mr. Wright has held a number of state and national offices, including membership on the Board of Directors of the Music Educators National Conference and of the American Bandmasters Association. He has served as president of the National Band Association as well as of several state music education organizations. He is the author of several textbooks and numerous professional magazine articles.



STANLEY NEWCOMB

Stanley Newcomb is senior journalist in the Tourist Promotion Branch of the New Zealand Government Tourist and Publicity Department, editor of the *New Zealand Mouthpiece*, and a member of the Band of the Royal New Zealand Air Force. He is well known as an author, journalist, historian, administrator, and musician.

His early training began as a choir boy and he soon joined bands in the area in which he lived, playing baritone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion.

In 1965 he moved to Wellington, the capital city of New Zealand, where he is currently in the band of the Royal New Zealand Air Force. He plays percussion in the concert band and baritone and euphonium in the marching band. He is also instructor of the Wellington Boys Brigade Band.

Mr. Newcomb is a well-known administrator and executive, having served on various committees and having been secretary of the Taranaki Brass and Pipe Bands' Association, the Eltham Municipal Band, the Eltham and District Highland Pipe Band, and the 1967 New Zealand Championship Band Contest Committee.

Mr. Newcomb is also a prolific writer and a recognized authority on bands and their music. During the past ten years he has had more than 400 articles on music published in many English speaking countries. He has made an exhaustive study of bands throughout the world and is a member of the Military Band Section of the Military Historical Society of Great Britain.

(English horn), 3 bassoons, 1 E♭ clarinet, 18 clarinets, 3 alto clarinets, 3 bass clarinets, 1 E♭ contrabass clarinet, 3 alto saxophones, 2 tenor saxophones, 1 baritone saxophone, 12 cornets, 2 trumpets, 8 French horns, 6 trombones, 3 euphoniums, 6 tubas, 1 string bass and 6 percussion.

Grade and junior high schools bands serve as "feeders" for the senior group. Regular instruction is given during the day to the individual

and to ensemble groups. A large music library encourages a repertoire for all occasions.

The band has broadcasted, recorded and appeared in movies. It also has its own movie equipment from which it studies and criticizes its public appearances. The band has two busses for personnel and one truck for equipment.



Lenoir High School Band

Texas

Brownsville High School Band

The Brownsville High School Band was established in 1936. Its activities were not included in the curriculum for another two years, but it was able to use the school facilities and rehearsed outside of school hours.

The organizing director was Miss Montez Crowe who was succeeded by Kent Stanford (1937), J. R. Walker (1938), G. W. Bodenmiller (1945), James Murphy (1946), Roy Norton (1956) and Robert Vezzetti (1957).

The band has given demonstration concerts at the Mid-West National Band Clinic in Chicago on three occasions, and has been voted the outstanding concert band in national competitions at Enid, Oklahoma and Corpus Christi, Texas.

The band's instrumentation includes 1 piccolo, 10 flutes, 2 oboes, 4 bassoons, 1 E♭ clarinet, 18 clarinets, 3 alto clarinets, 6 bass clari-

nets, 1 contra-alto clarinet, 1 contrabass clarinet, 6 alto saxophones, 4 tenor saxophones, 2 baritone saxophones, 1 bass saxophone, 10 cornets, 8 French horns, 8 trombones, 4 baritones, 7 tubas and 6 percussion.

The band has its own building. Facilities include two rehearsal halls, eight individual practice rooms, director's office, library and storage rooms. The band is a part of the school's education program and is financed with school district tax funds. Additional money for trips, special instruments or uniforms, is raised by a parents' club and by student activities.

The band performs at football games, concerts, service clubs and parades. Brownsville is close to the Mexican border and in conjunction with the International Goodneighbor Council and the Instituto Mexicano-Americano de Relaciones Culturales the band has appeared in several Mexican cities.



Brownsville High School Band

Chapter VII

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY BANDS

Introduction

University and college bands as we know them today, exist as such almost exclusively in the United States. The best of them can be considered among the finest concert and marching bands in the world. Often, most of their musicians are working towards a degree in music which, in one form or another, is to be their career. They spend hours every day for many years studying and rehearsing under some of the most prestigious names to be found in the world of music.

The majority of American universities and colleges maintain both concert and marching bands. Some of the players may belong to both groups. The concert band may range from a 40-piece wind ensemble, often specializing in contemporary works, to a large symphonic band numbering 90 or more players. The marching band appears at its school's athletic events, and since national interest has been aroused by football games, these bands often are seen literally by millions of people on television. Most of the bands of the state supported schools have

their expenses, including the instruments and uniforms, paid for from state taxes.

The bands in this chapter are mostly from the Midwest; it was there they first came into prominence. In this vast agricultural-industrial area there are 10 large universities called the Western Association of Universities, but more familiarly known as the "Big Ten." In this group can be found some of the best bands. Once a band achieves a position among the best, it becomes self-perpetuating; it continuously attracts the best music students from the high schools as a result of tours, recordings, television, and the written and spoken word. An attempt has been made in the selection of bands which follow to provide some geographical representation. The reader must realize that it is impossible in a book of this size, to include all of the meritorious U.S. college and university bands.

California

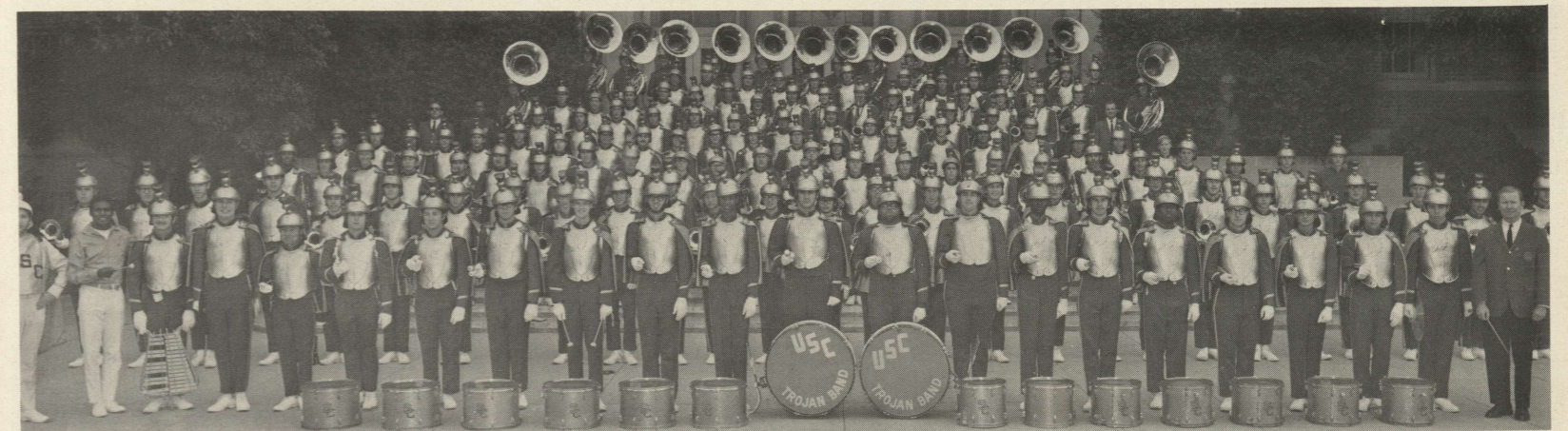
University of Southern California Bands

The marching bands grew in prominence as the football games between the different universities began to attract an ever increasing audience first on radio and then on television. The University of Southern California followed this trend with the establishment of the Trojan Marching Band to perform at its football games. The Trojan Concert Band was formed later and is now known as the USC Wind Orchestra.

The Trojan Marching Band has had several conductors. Among the more colorful was Tommy Walker (1951-54) who had been drum major of the band as an undergraduate and achieved fame as a place kicker

with the football team in his drum major's uniform. Succeeding conductors have been John Green, Gary Garner and Ronald Broadwell (1969).

The concert groups have been conducted by Lucien Cailliet and Clarence Sawhill who is now the Director of Bands at UCLA. William Schaefer, the present director, has conducted the Wind Orchestra since 1952 and has arranged and edited a great deal of band music. Under his leadership the USC Wind Orchestra has established a reputation as one of the finest concert wind groups on the West Coast.



University of Southern California Marching Band