



THE SPIRIT OF CAL BAND

TRANSCENDS BEYOND ANY OF US. IT IS SOMETHING THAT
CONNECTS US, THE CULMINATION BETWEEN

CAL BAND PAST AND PRESENT

WHILE SOME COME FOR THE MUSIC OR THE FRIENDS,
WE LEAVE WITH A PROFOUND UNDERSTANDING OF THE
UNDYING PRIDE OF

CALIFORNIA'

-ALYSSA RANSOM,

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR, SENIOR 'PHONEZ' (ALTO SAXOPHONE)



THE PRIDE OF CALIFORNIA

PHOTO ALEXANDER WONG STORY EIMI OLSON-KIKUCHI DESIGN ANDREA CHAU

Whether we have that one friend who wakes up early every Game Day, or we've seen them perform a rally on Sproul while walking to class, Cal Band has touched every one of us Bears one way or another. Apart from performing at every halftime show and impressing incoming freshmen at CalSO, Cal Band is also involved in many other aspects of our campus community, most often via Cal Band's alter ego: the Straw Hat Band. This ensemble features Band members in self-decorated straw hats, blue jeans, button-clad vests, and Oski-printed ties. While known mostly for pumping up noon rallies and athletic functions, this season the Straw Hat Band also performed at the Chronicle, Pier 39, Pixar Studios, on a cable car in San Francisco, and even at your average lectures.

As a student-run organization founded in 1891, Cal Band offers its members a variety of leadership positions. From contributing to the creations of half-time shows to running 11 hours of rehearsals every week, student officers actively seek input from other members in order to stay true to its student-run philosophy. And just like other student organizations, Cal Band offers its members more than just a way to spend an afternoon. Each section has

about a dozen annual traditions—some dating back more than 30 years. Kasey Mitchell, a junior in the tenor saxophone section, reveals, "Most of our traditions revolve around eating really good food and enjoying each other's company. Some cool traditions include our all-you-can-eat sushi bonding and TTT bonding—where we get together with the Trombones and Tenor drums to eat Tacos and play Twister." It is no surprise then, that in these traditions, bonding events, and the many hours spent rehearsing, Cal Band offers its members something invaluable: a family.

Every year, new members are recruited and trained to be a part of the family, but 2016 is a special year for Cal Band; not only does it mark its 125th anniversary—which it celebrated by completing its 2016 Asia Tour—but is also the year it hit 241 members: the biggest and strongest the band has been since the members could remember. For over a century, Cal Band has graced the Bay Area community with its boundless energy, dedicated to spreading the spirit of California through its music and, of course, its famous high-step. So next time you see Cal Band perform, let them know loud and clear, as the chant goes: Cal Band Great!



CAL
BAND
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