

Rhode Island's Lafayette Band Celebrates America's 400th North Kingstown, Rhode Island

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The Lafayette Band, based in North Kingstown, RI performed in a gala entertainment festival on July 30, 2006 in Newport, RI, in conjunction with the visit of the replica of the ship Godspeed, which landed at Jamestown, Virginia, 400 years ago. The band entertained the audience with several selections from its eclectic repertoire of show tunes, jazz, and patriotic and march music. The festival was held in sight of the Godspeed, bobbing on a sparkling Summertime Narragansett Bay, at the Festival Shell of the Newport Yachting Center. This rich opportunity was only made possible by the band's membership in ACB. Prosody Creative Services Inc, the promoters of the 400th celebration, contacted ACB to locate a Rhode Island band and ACB referred the Lafayette Band.

Originally formed by the workers in the town's Lafayette Mills, the Lafayette Band is marking 125 years of continuous music making! The band's current members are drawn from twelve communities in the State. The volunteer musicians enjoy bringing to residents of the area the unique opportunity to enjoy listening to a variety of wonderful live music in parks, schools, libraries, nursing homes and parades.

Joseph Pelosi, a professional trumpet player and retired high school band director, has directed the Lafayette Band for the past 49 years! Joe is a graduate of the Boston Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor and Master of Music Education degree. In addition to his school music teaching and ensemble directing, Joe pioneered the State's scholastic jazz festival in Rhode Island.

America's 400th Anniversary was celebrated in several Eastern Seaboard cities with port visits by the tall ship Godspeed, a replica of one of the ships that brought America's first permanent English settlers to Jamestown, Virginia in 1607.

A Landing Party Festival featured live music, family entertainment, and interactive exhibits that gave a glimpse into early 17th century life and America's legacies of democracy, cultural diversity, free enterprise and exploration, as they continue today. The Festivals were open free daily during each port visit. For details, visit www.Americas400thanniversary.com.

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