- 2009 -
ANOTHER YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE
HARDEST WORKING BAND IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE

It wasn’t just another busy year for The Spirit of Troy, it was also a momentous one; one that began with its acclaimed performance on the Grammys (see page 27 for the reviews) and ended with the commencement of a year of celebration for Dr. Bartner’s 40 years as director. Along the way were recording sessions, summer nights at the Bowl, dances with celebrities, soggy bowl games, and all of its customary duties for the Trojan Family. Join the TMB for a pictorial journey through what was a particularly hectic and landmark 2009 for the Hardest Working Band in the History of the Universe.

THE AWARDS CIRCUIT
Rocking the Grammys with Radiohead (above) and, two weeks later, backing up Beyoncé and Hugh Jackman on the Academy Awards (left).

RECORDING ARTISTS
In April, band members crowded into Bovard Auditorium (below) to record the band’s newest CD. This double album features 40 tracks for Dr. Bartner’s 40 years as director. It was released in November.

SUMMER TIME
The band continued its traditional slate of summer engagements: the 4th of July parade on Catalina Island, August’s Northern Nevada SCend-Off at Lake Tahoe, and the Tchaikovsky Spectacular with the L.A. Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl (above). The band has performed at each event for over two decades.

TROJAN FAMILY TALK
After debuting its YouTube channel in 2008, the TMB expanded its presence on the web in 2009 with a Twitter account (twitter.com/usctmb) and a page on Facebook (facebook.com/usctmb). More than 3000 fans follow the band in one of these ways.
Top 40

The 2009 football season was Dr. Bartner’s 40th as director of the band. It commenced a yearlong celebration of his career. He threw out the first pitch at a Dodgers game, directed the band for the national anthem at a Lakers game, was interviewed by numerous media outlets, and was honored at pregame of the Arizona game by the L.A. City Council. The celebration culminates on May 1, 2010 with a gala concert at the Galen Center and release of a commemorative hardcover book.

Going Long

Dr. Bartner’s 40th football season was one of many milestones. The band traveled to Notre Dame for the 19th consecutive time and played for one of its largest crowds ever (106,333) at Ohio State. By the end of the season and the band’s first (rainy) Emerald Bowl appearance, the band had notched its 284th consecutive USC game. Of course, no season is complete without a guest star and, at the Arizona game, the band welcomed WAR to perform with them along with guest conductor George Lopez (right).

The Spirit of Troy

Never limiting itself to just football, the TMB continued to support 14 other Trojan sports. They traveled with the men’s volleyball team to the Final Four in Provo, Utah, followed men’s basketball to the Pac-10 Championship and NCAA tourney in Minneapolis, and saluted the national champion men’s water polo team at LAX.

On Set

Band members didn’t just live the glamorous life of the Hollywood award scene, they also were busy working on location. Appearances included How I Met Your Mother, The Tonight Show with Conan O’Brien, The Jay Leno Show, Wipeout, Disney Parks Christmas Day Parade, and Good Day L.A. The TMB also had the honor of opening the first SportsCenter broadcast from L.A., reopening the Universal Studios backlot, and surprising the cast of House for a Fox April Fools Day promo. The highlight of the year, though, was the band’s appearance on Dancing with the Stars where, after receiving makeup (above), the band performed “Get Down Tonight” for a Macy’s Stars of Dance segment.

Gigging It

As usual, there were plenty of “gigs” outside of USC Athletics to keep the TMB busy. The 10-Piece band handled the bulk, heading to 43 weddings, 23 birthdays, and 240 other events in the community. Major events included the Farmer’s Market 75th Anniversary (below left), the debut of The Simpsons USPS stamps, and backing The Roots at the Hollywood Bowl. Celebrating a special anniversary was the TMB’s own Laker Band, which ended its 30th season of supporting the purple and gold by leading the victory parade down Figurerao (below right).