Dr. Bartner’s goal of endowing every member of The Spirit of Troy took its first, big step in 2012. Thanks to many generous donors, $1 million was raised during the inaugural year of the Trojan Marching Band Member Endowment drive. This new fundraising effort will ensure that every band member is rewarded for the countless hours of energy and spirit invested in The Spirit of Troy each year.

This five-year effort is part of a $5 million campaign that includes the TMB Travel Fund and a fund-raising initiative for a new home for the band. It’s an ambitious goal but, as we can all agree, there are no more deserving beneficiaries than the students who are the Spirit of Troy. As you see regularly on the pages of this newsletter, no one works harder each year representing the university than these dedicated Trojans.

Beyond the time spent on the field and supporting USC teams, band members have obligations to the university, alumni, the community and Hollywood. That’s a lot of gigs. The Trojan Marching Band Member Endowment will provide a stipend so they can continue to excel both in the classroom and on the field with The Spirit of Troy. If you’ve contributed, turn to the centerfold to see the position in the block band you’ve endowed. If you’d like to give, you can see where we still need help. Contributions can be made online at www.uscband.com or by calling 213-740-7879. Turn to Page 4

With more medals won than any other university and all but ten countries, the 2012 Summer Olympics were USC’s most successful Games ever. The Trojan Marching Band members who performed in London last May would like to think it was because they warmed the city up for the Trojan Olympians. Either way, the band continued its own association with the Olympic Movement that dates back to the 1932 L.A. Games.

That year, Trojans formed the core of the 10th Olympic Band that was led by the USC Band’s legendary director, Harold Roberts. When the Olympics returned to Southern California in 1984, the band and its director were ready once again. Dr. Bartner’s 800-piece Olympic All-American Marching Band wowed audiences with its spectacular “Music of America” segment of the Opening Ceremony. Of course, 130 Trojans made up the backbone of the group.

Fast forward to 2012 and the sounds of the Trojan Marching Band still rang out at the Olympics. Well, at least on TV. During weekend coverage of the beach volleyball tournament, NBC cued up “Tribute to Troy” for the USC alumnae duo of April Ross and Jennifer Kessy who went on to earn silver medals.

After the Trojans triumphant return home, the band led 11 Trojan Olympians into Los Angeles City Council chambers – playing “Tribute to Troy” of course – to be honored by the city on November 9. On what was dubbed “USC Olympic Champions Day” in the city, Mayor Villaraigosa and Councilwoman Jan Perry gave speeches saluting the Trojans and afterward band members got to meet the athletes.

The next day at Homecoming, the band took its turn honoring the Olympians at half-

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time. It was a special show that brought together members of the greatest marching band ever assembled – the 1984 Olympic All-American Marching Band – and the greatest group of USC athletes to represent the university on the world stage.

More than 30 members of the '84 Olympic Band reunited on the same field where 28 years before they'd performed for a billion people around the world. They joined the Trojan Marching Band and alumni drummers and tubas for a performance of “Sing, Sing, Sing” (which was part of the “Swing Era Medley” played at the Opening Ceremony).

Then, the Trojan Marching Band played the most iconic song from 1984: John Williams’ regal “Olympic Fanfare & Theme.” Led by the drum major, 24 Trojan Olympians, smiling proudly, took the field waving the flags of their respective countries. As the staccato strains of Williams’ anthem ended, the athletes held the flags at their side and their victory signs in the air. Like the members of The Spirit of Troy who have proudly represented USC at the Olympics, they shared a common bond. They are Trojans.

-Olympians

-Spring Events

Fresh off their first bowl game appearance in over two years, The Spirit of Troy has full-blown spring fever!

After last Spring’s hugely successful Garden Party hosted by Dann and Jo Jeanne Angeloff, the Trojan Marching Band will be performing at another private event. “An Afternoon on the Greens with the Trojan Marching Band” will be held at the McKeever residence on Sunday, March 3, from 2-5pm.

Marlin, Jr. and Maureen McKeever, the son and daughter-in-law of Spirit of Troy Board Member Sue McKeever, are the owners of an award-winning home in the Madison Country Club. Overlooking an 18-hole golf course, their spectacular estate will play host to the Trojan Marching Band and Dr. Bartner for a 3pm performance.

This event is geared toward our Trojan Family out in the desert and will be an introduction to our Trojan Marching Band Member Endowment. The goal of this fundraising effort is to provide each band member with financial support for his or her fervor and dedication to The Spirit of Troy. For more information regarding An Afternoon on the Greens with the Trojan Marching Band, please contact us at 213-740-6317 or at tmb@usc.edu.

On Sunday, April 14, The Spirit of Troy will present its annual spring concert on the Bovard Auditorium stage. This year’s program explores the relationship between the visual and performing arts inspired by Modest Mussorgsky’s grandiose Pictures at an Exhibition accompanied by digital projections of artwork to enhance the aural experience. The musical journey also includes American composer Norman Dello Joio’s Scenes from the Louvre, music from the timeless Broadway classic Les Misérables, and a special Tony Fox arrangement of the music of Duke Ellington. In true Spirit of Troy fashion, the concert will conclude with a classic Sousa march and the rousing cries of “Conquest!” As an added bonus, the band’s official artist Robert W. Jensen will supply original artwork for the occasion. Concert and ticket information will be available at www.uscband.com or by phone at 213-740-6317.

-Spring Events
Band Tailgates

They appear overnight—thousands of red and gold tents creating a festival of spirit large enough to rival the Los Angeles cityscape to the north. The campus is full of excitement. Beers are opened, food is shared, and Trojan pride is set ablaze. Game day at the University of Southern California is unlike any event known to man. Nestled amongst the thousands of die-hard fans lies the heart of the Trojan Spirit: the Trojan Marching Band Tailgate.

The tailgate is filled with alumni, family and friends of the TMB, along with delicious food and exciting performances by band members in preparation for the forthcoming battle at the Coliseum. Founded by Sandy and Rex Johnston in 2006, these festive and exciting gatherings of TMB supporters aim to raise money for the band’s travel fund. The funds raised at tailgates are applied toward transporting the Spirit of Troy to away games like the class trips and Notre Dame. The tailgates raise around forty thousand dollars annually, which since 2006, has amounted to over a quarter of a million dollars for the TMB.

Special guests at this past season’s tailgates included the Stanley Cup Champion LA Kings and the USC sports teams such as Women’s Volleyball and Baseball.

At the end of each season, the tailgates go out with a bang as Bosko’s Barbeque precedes in the last home game of the year. This exciting tailgate was founded over twenty years ago by John Boskovich, and includes delicious barbeque, a special performance by the entire Trojan Marching Band, and hours of fun for all TMB supporters.

Looking forward to next season, supporters of the USC Trojans, its spirit, and good food will be able to enjoy a tailgate at each Saturday home game.

-Lindsay Lundeen

Los Angeles Kings’ players stop by the tailgate party. Photo by Cynthia Wiese

Australian comedian Rove McManus interviews tuba Dan Caputo for his show Rove LA.

The band was on hand to celebrate as the Men’s Water Polo team beat UCLA en route to a record setting National Championship.

No unveiling, such as this one for USC’s new John McKay Center, is complete with confetti and The Greatest Marching Band in the History of the Universe.

Making the Rounds
Photos by Brett Padelford
Arthur Bartner, the University of Southern California’s marching band director of 42 years, favors classical music and big-band jazz. He has no idea who the 23-year-old Swedish DJ Avicii is, let alone how to pronounce the artist’s name.

Arthur Bartner on the field. He encourages band members to run instead of walk and to yell during rehearsals.

But if a penalty is called against Georgia Tech Monday when its Yellow Jackets play USC’s Trojans in the Sun Bowl, fans will hear a few bars of Avicii’s hit song “Levels” while band members pump their fists in the air.

“I don’t listen to this stuff, but you catch on to one idea—the really catchy thing. Forget the other four minutes and find the excerpt,” said the 72-year-old Mr. Bartner recently, conducting the jazzy sequence with his arms in the air. “There’s this great bridge—it’s just contagious.”

USC’s marching band, which has played at presidential inaugurations, Los Angeles Lakers games, Hollywood awards ceremonies and Fleetwood Mac concerts, is widely considered one of the most innovative bands in college sports. Instead of rehearsing traditional favorites on game days, Mr. Bartner and his colleagues select and arrange more than 30 mostly contemporary songs to add to their repertoire each season. They plot a different halftime show for each home game (this year’s themes included “Club Night” and “Ladies of Pop”) and assign a unique tune for every possible occurrence on the football field, so that a fan listening to the band alone could follow the action. “Students become your assistant coaches, and you divide bands into sections—your offensive line and defensive line. The correlation is amazing,” said Mr. Bartner, who encourages stretching before practice, yelling in the middle of rehearsals, running instead of walking and “brainwashing” freshman band members into believing they are “Trojans for life.” He also organizes pregame “jock rallies” where players high-five the band members and sing the school’s fight song (albeit in “lousy” voices) before the football coach speaks to the whole group.

“The Trojan band is more into the team than any other band,” said Mr. Bartner.

That enthusiasm, he said, is what fuels the band’s collective creative process, which begins each year in April when he solicits feedback and fresh ideas for tunes, cheers and half-time shows from his 300-plus student musicians.

Over the next four months, Mr. Bartner and six colleagues meet regularly around a table in his office to sift through the hundreds of suggested songs, paying special attention to the ones recommended by several students and hunting for the catchiest bits in each. “We’ll go, ‘What do you think? You like it? Take it out and arrange it,’” said Mr. Bartner. They continue to noodle with the tunes after the band members arrive on campus in August and give their input.

Making sure each tune resonates with the entire student body is essential, Mr. Bartner said. Ideas that fizzle at games are whisked back to the drawing board.

Despite the extensive vetting, some tunes never catch on with the spectators, such as one a few years ago written by USC alumnus Dexter Holland, frontman of the punk rock group the Offspring. “It was like a chant, but I couldn’t get the student body to go, ‘Ahhhh,’” recalled Mr. Bartner.

Sometimes Mr. Bartner exercises his veto power if a song seems likely to elicit dirty words or mean-spirited chants, though that can be hard to predict for him, he said, “being 70 years old.” For example, he thought Cee Lo Green’s song “Forget You,” was a “great tune, but ‘forget you’ turned into...wow, it was bad,” he said.

(“Forget You” is the radio-friendly version of the song; the original has an expletive in the title and lyrics.)

Quarterbacks are also a source of inspiration. Quarterback Matt Barkley, who wears the number seven, sparked the idea to play “Seven Nation Army” by the White Stripes. Former quarterback Mark Sanchez, who now plays for New York Jets, chose “El Matador” by Los Fabulosos Cadillacs, which Mr. Bartner thought was “really cool.” Mr. Sanchez’s predecessor, John David Booty, inspired a rousing rendition of “Ms. New Booty” by Bubba Sparxxx.

“Don’t ask me to sing it to you,” said Mr. Bartner.

-Hannah Karp
Happy New Year! As 2013 begins, we thought it would be a good time to reflect on the 2012 Marching Season. First off, we want to say “Thank you” to those of you that came out and supported “The Greatest Marching Band in the History of the Universe” this season. It was amazing to have such a great group of parents at all of our events, from the “Welcome Back” reception in August, the Parents’ Reception on Trojan Family Weekend and all of the Tailgate Parties at our home football games to name but a few. We had a very busy fall and were successful because of your support and enthusiasm.

Although marching season is over, the Trojan Marching Band continues to be active on campus and off, supporting our athletic teams and representing USC at many different functions. We encourage all parents to attend the annual Spring Concert. Join Dr. Arthur C. Bartner and the USC Concert Band on a journey through the worlds of fine art and great music as they present *Pictures at an Exhibition* on Sunday, April 14 at 3:00 p.m. at Bovard Auditorium on the USC University Park Campus. This multimedia concert will pair classical pieces with classic artworks curated by the master himself, Dr. Bartner. The grand finale will once again feature The Spirit of Troy on stage with the Concert Band. Members of the Concert Band and the Marching Band receive complimentary tickets to this event so be sure to talk to your band student. This concert is always a very special event, so mark the date on your calendars now and watch for more details in the future.

Once again, thank you so much for all of your hard work at the tailgates, your enthusiasm for the TMB and your support of the Trojan Marching Band! We look forward to continuing to work together now and in the future. If you have any questions or concerns please don’t hesitate to contact us at 949-496-0968 (Home) 714-287-3834 (Cell) or bsuffridge@gmail.com.

Fight On!!!

**Bonnie Suffridge and Mindy Pharris**

Co-Chairpersons
Trojan Marching Band Parent’s Association
the itinerary

Sunday, March 3
An Afternoon on the Greens with the Trojan Marching Band
Concert at the McKeever Residence
2-5 p.m.

Sunday, April 14
Pictures at an Exhibition
Concert at Bovard Auditorium
3 p.m.