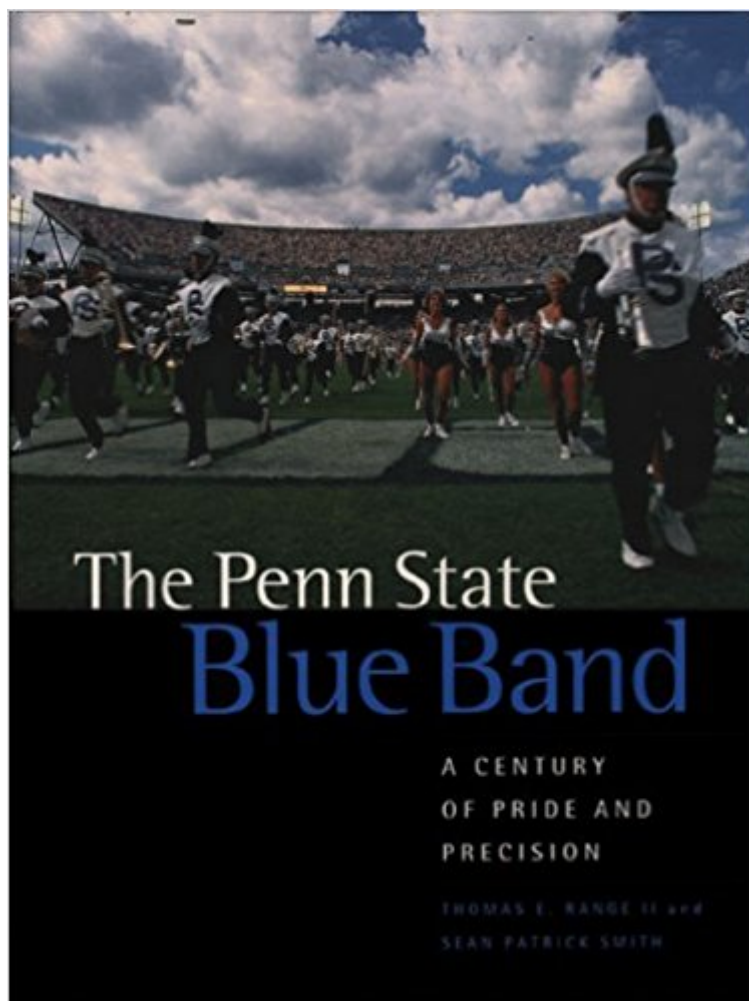


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# The Penn State Blue Band: A Century Of Pride And Precision





## Synopsis

From the Preface: "A hush falls over the 95,000 people in attendance as drum taps measure the seconds in the middle of the field. A whistle blows once, then four times rapidly, and suddenly the drums thunder in a staccato fury. Up from the depths of Beaver Stadium storm the 275 members of The Pennsylvania State University Marching Blue Band as they triple-time onto the field. The only thing louder than the fight song they play is the roar of thousands of football fans cheering them on. The excitement, the pride, and the tradition of the Blue Band have been experienced by generations of Nittany Lion fans for 100 years. . . . As the band finishes its first century, those memories, stories, and traditions must be preserved for future generations to enjoy. This book attempts to do just that." This history opens with the story of how marching bands came to be so popular in America, from their early nineteenth-century beginnings at West Point to the tremendous growth of their appeal into the present day. The story continues by explaining how that popularity and the importance of music in student military training at Penn State eventually led to establishment of the Cadet Bugle Corps, the Blue Band's precursor, in 1899. Ten chapters follow, each devoted to a single decade covering the major events in the band's development over the next hundred years, such as the adoption of the name "Blue Band" in 1923. Interspersed throughout are biographies of its five past and present directors, as well as "Spotlights" that focus on special aspects of the band, including fight songs, marching style, majorettes, silks, "flipping" drum majors, and various band traditions. Also included is a comparison with other prominent collegiate marching bands today. Illustrations from the band's early history to the present enrich the story throughout.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“As someone who has witnessed a lot of band performances in five decades around Penn State football, I can say without equivocation that the Blue Band’s musical and marching precision are unmatched anywhere. . . . The Blue Band never gets credit for a touchdown or a goal, but the enthusiasm its members have generated at Beaver Stadium and other athletic venues . . . has carried from the stands to the playing field, fortifying every athlete wearing Blue and White.” Joe Paterno, from the Foreword  
“In my opinion, yours was the finest marching band on television over this current holiday season. Congratulations for a quality performance that will make me think of the Pennsylvania State Marching Band as one of the best in the country.” Dr. William Moody, Director of Bands, University of Texas, 1967  
“The Blue Band is among the nation’s top marching bands, certainly one of the top musical organizations in the country.” Bill Fleming, ABC Network Commentator, 1978

Thomas E. Range II, Class of 1989, teaches computer science at Ewing High School in New Jersey and is also an Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at The College of New Jersey. He is President of the Penn State Alumni Blue Band. Sean Patrick Smith, Class of 1990, is a computer consultant for Lezzer Lumber in Curwensville, Pennsylvania. He is Chairman of the Historical Committee of the Penn State Alumni Blue Band.

I was very satisfied with this product and found it most interesting. One of the directors came from this area of Pennsylvania which added to my interest as well as the fact that I work with, on a volunteer basis, with the uncle of one of the authors. Five out of six immediate family members are Penn State graduates.

This is a great march through the history of the best band in the land. I thoroughly enjoyed the book.

Very interesting book...enjoyable. I liked the rhythm of the book and the history of how the band changed through the years.

This book really captures the spirit and essence of what is the Penn State Blue Band. I’ve marched in the band for 3 seasons and have, at times, tried to describe the exhilaration of the pregame show,



or the dedication and pride I felt when I donned the uniform. This book does that perfectly. As years pass, and my memories fade of my experiences in The Blue Band, I will have this book to call upon, and help relive some of those moments.

A fascinating and easy to read history of the Penn State Blue Band. There are some truly amazing photographs. I highly recommend this book!

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