



UCLA Alumni Band

2025-2026

The Year in Review





Fifty years is both a milestone and a significant accomplishment, as this year marked the fiftieth season of the UCLA Alumni Band. Since its founding in 1976, the UCLA community has wholeheartedly embraced this literal Band of Bruins as an indelible and essential part of Bruin Nation by providing support and spirit to not only the Bruin athletic teams, but to UCLA in general. This 50th anniversary year was a busy one for the Alumni Band as we played for ten Bruin sports teams, all of them appreciating the band immensely.

Dates and Performances

2025-2026

August 16, 2025	Annual Rehearsal/BBQ
August 30, 2025	UCLA Football vs. Utah
September 12, 2025	UCLA Football vs. New Mexico
October 4, 2025	UCLA Football vs. Penn State
October 18, 2025	UCLA Football vs. Maryland
October 25, 2025	UCLA Women's Volleyball vs. Maryland
November 1, 2025	UCLA Men's Water Polo vs. Stanford
November 8, 2025	UCLA Football vs. Nebraska
November 15, 2025	Private Wedding
November 22, 2025	UCLA Football vs. Washington
December 13, 2025	UCLA Gymnastics Meet the Bruins
December 31, 2025	Jim Spitzer Memorial Service Reception
January 17, 2026	UCLA Gymnastics vs. Nebraska
January 30, 2026	UCLA Swimming/Diving vs. u\$¢
January 30, 2026	UCLA Gymnastics vs. Washington
February 14, 2026	UCLA Gymnastics vs. Michigan
February 22, 2026	UCLA Women's Basketball Pregame Concert
March 14, 2026	UCLA Gymnastics vs. Utah
March 28, 2026	UCLA Women's Water Polo vs. ASU
April 4, 2026	UCLA Softball vs. Indiana
April 18, 2026	UCLA Men's Volleyball vs. BYU
April 29, 2026	Private Retirement Party
May 9, 2026	UCLA Baseball vs. Oregon
May 30, 2026	50th Anniversary Gala

Annual Rehearsal & BBQ

August 16, 2025

The Alumni Band began its 50th year with our annual rehearsal at former band president Ed Hirsch's house - "Hirsch Castle" - in Chatsworth. While we practiced and polished new and well-known tunes in what is essentially our "three-hour band camp", the UCLA Gymnastics team provided the day's highlight when they arrived towards the end of the rehearsal and joined the percussion section for a couple of songs. Standout Bruin gymnast Katelyn Rosen conducted the last song before we heard from Head Gymnastics Coach Janelle McDonald and the team, after which everyone enjoyed our traditional post-rehearsal BBQ.



UCLA Football

August – November 2025

UCLA football began its season at the Rose Bowl with a game - and the Alumni Band's first performance of the year - on August 30th vs Utah.

The band continued its longstanding tradition of performing its pregame concert at our tent at Lot H, walking around Lot H playing for the tailgaters during their "Port-A-Sons" beforehand, and playing for the incoming fans at the Court of Champions in front of the Rose Bowl before kick-off, which as always was a huge hit with the fans.

August 30, 2025	UCLA Football vs. Utah
September 12, 2025	UCLA Football vs. New Mexico
October 4, 2025	UCLA Football vs. Penn State
October 18, 2025	UCLA Football vs. Maryland
November 8, 2025	UCLA Football vs. Nebraska
November 22, 2025	UCLA Football vs. Washington

August 30, 2025 vs. Utah



UCLA Football

August – November 2025

September 12, 2025 vs. New Mexico



UCLA Football

August – November 2025



The battle vs top-10 ranked and traditional blue blood Penn State on October 4th, which saw UCLA, a pronounced underdog, shock both the Nittany Lions and the college football world in scoring a 42-37 upset!

October 4, 2025 vs. Penn State



UCLA Football

August – November 2025



The Homecoming Game took place on October 18th, which not only saw the Bruins kick a last second field goal to beat the Terrapins 20-17 but also saw a good-sized number of UCLA Marching Band Alumni join the Alumni Band at our tent in Lot H for a pregame get-together, which was enjoyed by all.

It also saw the Alumni Band be honored at halftime of the game as we were invited onto the field, where a video celebrating the band was played and the Marching Band played our fight song in tribute, which was quite exciting!



UCLA Football

August – November 2025

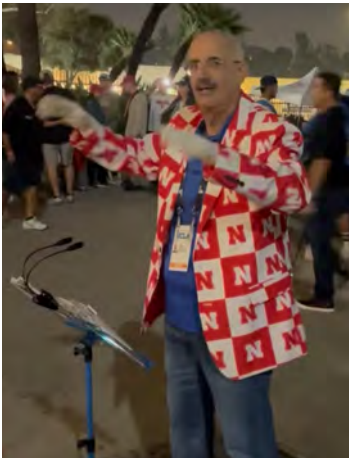
November 8, 2025 vs. Nebraska



UCLA Football

August – November 2025

November 8, 2025 vs. Nebraska



November 22, 2025 vs. Washington



UCLA Women's Volleyball

October 25, 2025 vs. Maryland

Football wasn't the only thing on the Alumni Band's dance card that fall, as we played for the Women's Volleyball team and the Men's Water Polo team on back-to-back Saturdays, the volleyballers facing and sweeping Maryland on October 25th while the Water Polo team - who would eventually win the NCAA championship - scored an exciting 13-12 win over Stanford on November 1st.

October 25, 2025 vs. Maryland



UCLA Men's Water Polo

November 1, 2025 vs. Stanford

November 1, 2025 vs. Stanford



UCLA Men's Water Polo

November 1, 2025 vs. Stanford

November 1, 2025 vs. Stanford



UCLA Gymnastics

December 2025 – March 2026

After we played at the UCLA Gymnastics team’s preseason “Meet The Bruins” event on December 13th, the team kicked off their regular season with a meet vs Nebraska in Pauley Pavilion on January 17th. The Alumni Band thus began its 24th year as the Official Band of UCLA Gymnastics, playing tunes and showing support and love.

It was an exciting season that saw the Bruin Gymnasts win their second consecutive Big Ten Championship and make their second straight Nationals. The season featured tons of spectacular routines, particularly the multiple perfect tens that perennial All American and Olympic Gold Medal winner Jordan Chiles provided on vault, bars, and especially the floor as her routines dazzled not only Bruin Nation, but the nation in general, as fans flocked to see her.

The Utah meet on March 14th, which saw the Bruins set an all-time attendance record of 13,089 at Pauley in what was their Senior Day meet, put a very nice cherry on top of what was an outstanding season for both the UCLA gymnasts and the Alumni Band.

December 13, 2025	UCLA Gymnastics Meet the Bruins
January 17, 2026	UCLA Gymnastics vs. Nebraska
January 30, 2026	UCLA Gymnastics vs. Washington
February 14, 2026	UCLA Gymnastics vs. Michigan
March 14, 2026	UCLA Gymnastics vs. Utah

January 17, 2026



UCLA Gymnastics

December 2025 – March 2026

January 30, 2026 vs. Washington



UCLA Gymnastics

December 2025 – March 2026

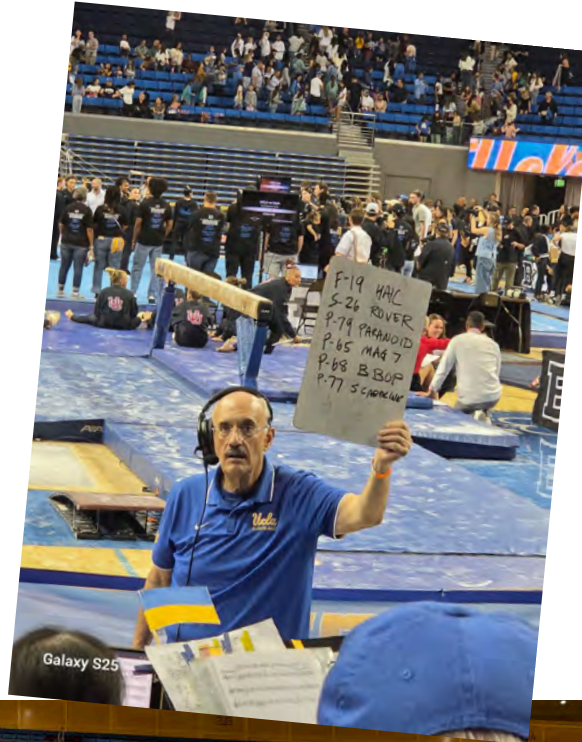
February 14, 2026 vs. Michigan



UCLA Gymnastics

December 2025 – March 2026

March 14, 2026 vs. Utah



UCLA Swimming and Diving

January 30, 2026 vs. USC

January 30th was arguably among the busiest days in Alumni Band history as before we performed for the Bruin Gymnasts vs Washington in Pauley that evening, we performed for the UCLA Women's Swimming and Diving team in their annual Crosstown Rivalry meet vs USC at the Spieker Aquatic Center. Though the Bruins lost to the Trojans, the band was a hit and very much appreciated by the UCLA team and their fans.

January 30, 2026 vs. USC

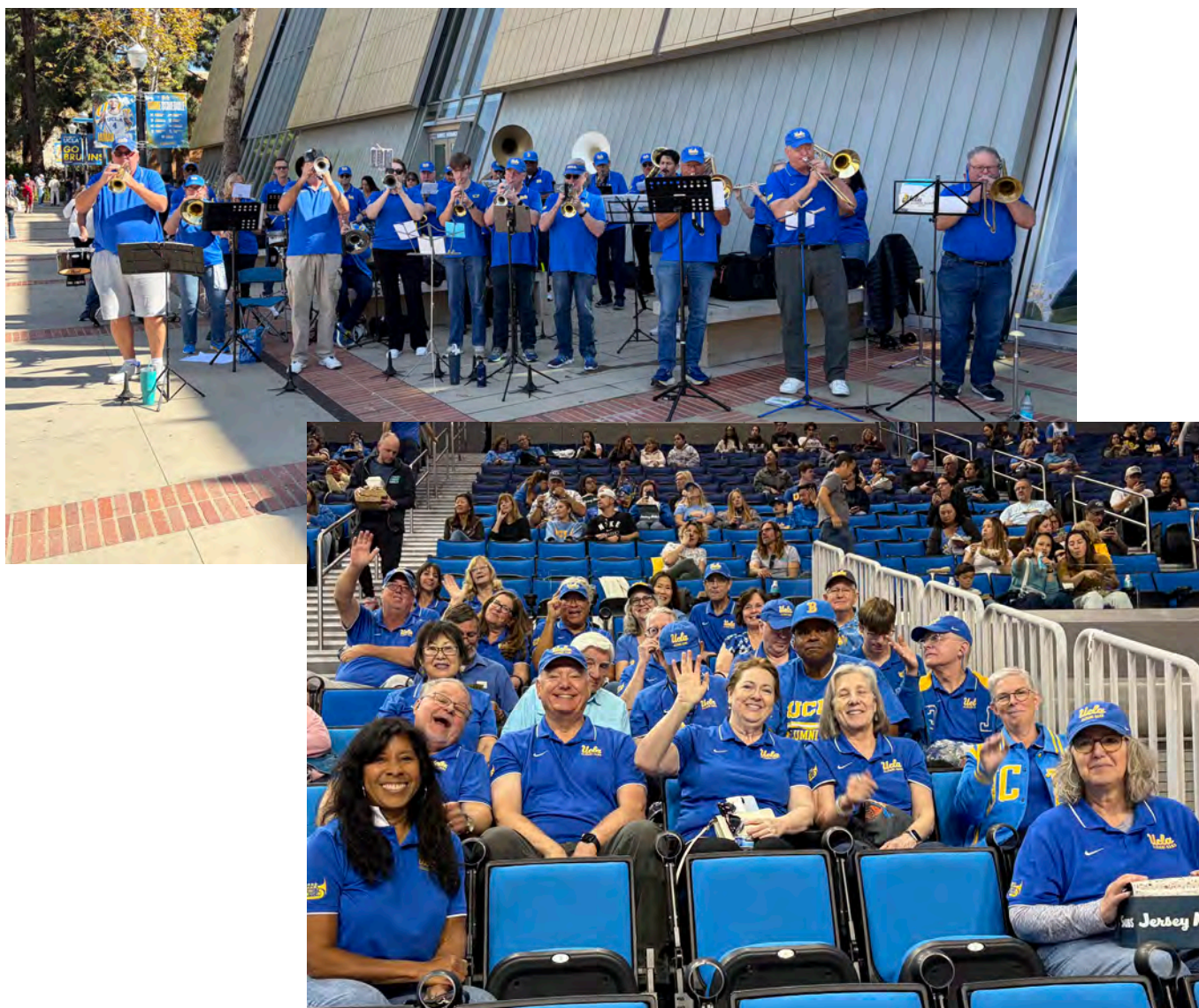


UCLA Women's Basketball

February 22, 2026 vs. Wisconsin

As the UCLA Women's Basketball team's season ended with a national championship won in such a dominating fashion that will be forever remembered in Bruin lore, the Alumni Band was honored to perform a pre-game concert outside Pauley Pavilion before the Bruins' game vs Wisconsin on February 22nd. For the second straight year, after the concert concluded, the band was invited to watch those eventual NCAA champions from reserved seats on the floor level. It was a real treat as we saw a UCLA team for the ages handle their business vs the Badgers. Of course, everyone enjoyed the music the band provided in front of Pauley, including a group of kids who sat in front of the band watching intently.

February 22, 2026 vs. Wisconsin



UCLA Women's Water Polo

March 28, 2026 vs. Arizona State

Much like their male counterparts, the Women's Water Polo team and their fans were excited to have the Alumni Band play at their game vs Arizona State at the Spieker Aquatic Center on March 28th, with the Bruins disposing of the Sun Devils 10-7.

March 28, 2026



UCLA Softball

April 4, 2026 vs. Indiana

On April 4th, the Alumni Band was privileged to play at Easton Stadium for a Bruin Softball team that featured two players who hitting invoked comparisons to babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. With Megan Grant's two runs in the game - she would eventually become college softball's all-time single season home run queen - and Jordan Woolery driving in over 100 runs and batting over .500 during the season, UCLA beat Indiana 7-2. A big highlight for the band came afterward, when the team led us in an "8-Clap" and sang and danced along as we played "Sweet Caroline".

April 4, 2026 vs. Indiana



UCLA Men's Volleyball

April 18, 2026 vs. BYU

The top-ranked, 21-time national champion Men's Volleyball team welcomed the Alumni Band for its match vs top-ten opponent BYU in Pauley on April 18th, with the band being its usual hit among the Bruin volleyball faithful. The intensity of the match, won by UCLA in four games, with the last two games being very close, provided much excitement that evening.

April 18, 2026 vs. BYU



UCLA Men's Volleyball

April 18, 2026 vs. BYU

April 18, 2026 vs. BYU



UCLA Baseball

May 9, 2026 vs. BYU

The Alumni Band's final gig of the year was what turned out to be an intense affair at Jackie Robinson Stadium between a UCLA Baseball team that had been ranked #1 in the nation all season and had already won the regular season Big Ten title, and a passionate Oregon Duck team as the two former Pac-12 rivals engaged in a memorable game. Though the Bruins lost 9-6, the team and the fans enjoyed the band and our songs immensely, with the band getting many compliments from the fans in attendance.

May 9, 2026 vs. Oregon



Special Events

November 15, 2025 | Private Wedding



Special Events

December 31, 2025 | Jim Spitsner Memorial Service Reception



April 29, 2026 | Private Retirement Party



50th Anniversary Gala

May 30, 2026



To end our historic 50th anniversary season, we hosted a Gala with about 140 people at the Luskin Conference Center on campus on May 30. All current band members were invited, and we were joined by about a dozen of our founding members as well as dignitaries representing the UCLA Alumni Association, UCLA Gymnastics, the UCLA Spirit Squad, UCLA Athletics, and the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. We also were treated to video congratulations from many current UCLA head coaches and UCLA's Director of Athletic Bands, Dr. Justin McManus. 50 years' worth of memorabilia was on display and we enjoyed recounting some of our most notable events over the years. Everyone had a great time sharing stories and celebrating 50 years of musical performances and fun.



Founding Members



50th Anniversary Gala

May 30, 2026



Gala Planning Committee



50th Anniversary Gala

May 30, 2026



50th Anniversary Gala

May 30, 2026



50th Anniversary Gala

May 30, 2026



True Bruin Distinguished Senior Awards

2025-2026 Recipients

Congratulations!

The UCLA Alumni Band has endowed a scholarship that is awarded each year to select seniors in the UCLA Marching Band who have been exceptionally active members of the UCLA Band. We are pleased to recognize these band members for their outstanding commitment to school spirit, as that is a core value for us.

Jack Kuhlman, trumpet

(The following is a note to the band from Jack)

Hello Alumni Band, I'm Jack! I'm a senior electrical engineering student at UCLA and a trumpet player in the UCLA band. I come from a family of Bruins, and I grew up going to several UCLA games at the Rose Bowl every year. My favorite part of each game was watching the band play—it became my childhood dream to join the UCLA marching band. So that's what I did. I picked up trumpet in elementary school, worked hard on my grades throughout highschool, and was incredibly blessed to get into UCLA. I promptly joined the marching band, and it has been an unforgettable part of my college experience. From our trip to Taiwan to our recent Penn St win and all the smaller moments in between, I've made so many memories with the band. In addition to music and academics, I'm also an avid backpacker, surfer, and photographer. I'm really looking forward to my senior year here at UCLA and pursuing a Masters Degree here next year!



Stanley Chow, tuba

(The following is a note to the band from Stanley)

Hi, my name is Stanley Chow. I'm a 4th year Applied Mathematics major, Educational Studies minor and a part of the tuba section! In addition to being a tuba player, I've been a part of E-crew my sophomore and junior years and am currently in the library crew for my senior year. Outside of band, I love to bike and watch sports. I'm excited to pursue a career in tech & logistics and eventually teach! Thank you band for not only this scholarship but the community you've given me and all the opportunities that come from being in this amazing group!



Credits

2025-2026

UCLA Alumni Band 2025-2026 Year-End Newsletter Staff



Derek Hart,
Writer / Tenor Sax



Sheila Lefor,
Designer / Alto Sax



Shirley McCombs-Swayne,
Photographer / Piccolo



Darlene Sanger,
Photographer / Alto Sax

It takes a team of devoted Bruin alums to make a volunteer group like the UCLA Alumni Band happen. During the 2025-2026 season, we were led by President and Music Director Joel Fierberg, Vice President Derek Hart, Secretary Todd Hays, Treasurer Charlie Yacobian, Librarian Ed Hirsch, Coordinators of Membership Chris Torres and Tami Hew-Butler, Coordinator of Communications and Properties Bill Adler, Coordinators of Festivities Carmen Rexach and Joan Wiener, and Webmaster Sheila Lefor.

Our 50th year was replete with various activities as you have seen from the photos taken by our photographers, piccolo player Shirley McCombs-Swayne and alto saxophone player Darlene Sanger.

The UCLA Alumni Band is honored and delighted to work with the UCLA Alumni Association, the UCLA Athletics Department, and the UCLA Spirit Squad. We are grateful to be able to contribute to the century-long tradition of Bruin Spirit.



uclaalumniband.org