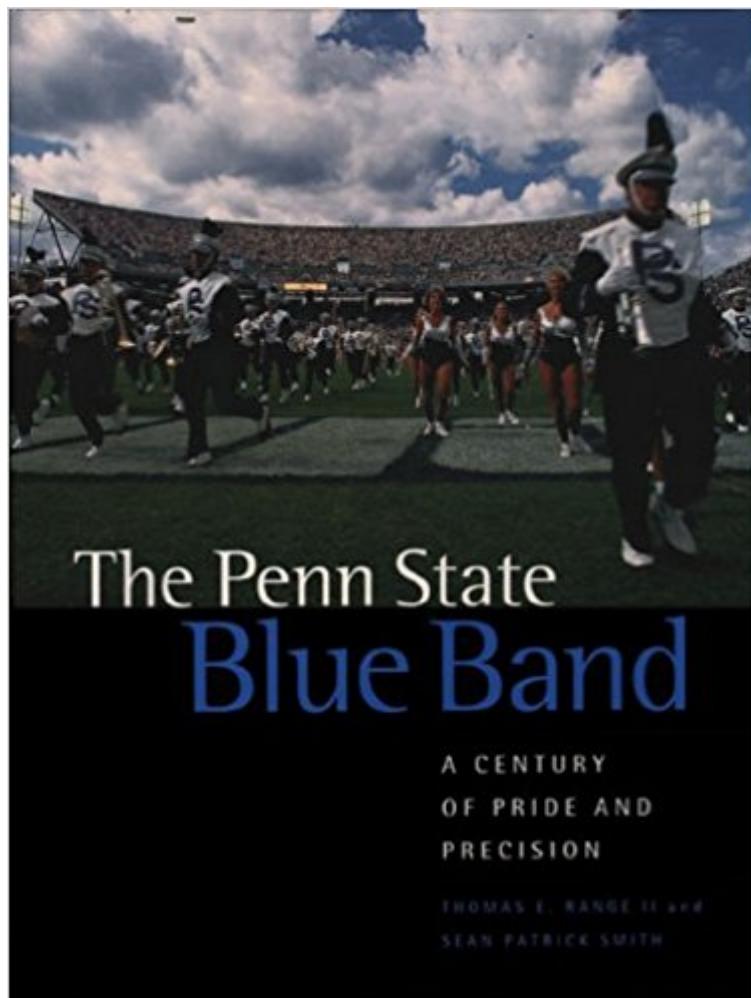


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# The Penn State Blue Band: A Century Of Pride And Precision



## 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

Hardcover: 232 pages

Publisher: Penn State University Press; 1st Edition edition (August 3, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0271019603

ISBN-13: 978-0271019604

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #590,904 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Military Marches #716 inÂ Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Music #963 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music >

## Customer Reviews

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

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.

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.

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

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

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