

DOANE BANDS' TRADITIONS

Opening Convocation Performance

At the beginning of each school year, the college has had a long-standing tradition of holding a convocation. This is an opportunity for the freshmen to be introduced to a number of important college officials, including President Brand, who gives a thoughtful perspective on the topic of interest. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble provides appropriate ceremonial music for this event; processional and recessional music, the college alma mater, and the playing of our National Anthem.

Homecoming Weekend

Homecoming takes place in the fall semester. The Tiger Pep Band performs for both students and alumni. The weekend culminates with a Homecoming Concert presented by the instrumental and vocal programs. Many former students return to the campus to participate in the homecoming activities and to attend the concert.

Fall Festival of Winds

The Festival of Winds began in 1994. Eighty-seven students participated in the first Doane Fall Festival of Winds. Now over 250 students audition for three bands. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble, traditionally performs for the students and parents at the final concert.

Christmas Festival

One of the most beautiful concerts at the college is the Music Department's Christmas Festival Concert. This concert of sacred music is presented as a musical collage...there is no applause between selections. The concert is so popular that the college gives two performances.

SWE/Jazz Ensemble Tour

Every year the band program travels around the state and region to perform concerts for alumni, friends, and prospective students. The tour lasts from three to ten days. At the end of the tour, the touring ensembles present a final concert at Doane for parents and college friends.

Spring Instrumental Concert

The Spring Instrumental Concert features the band program. Although there is no set theme for the concert, the band program has performed concerts featuring specific genres (marches, American music, multi-cultural program) . Every four years the band presents a concert in the style of John Philip Sousa. The band has also brought in guest conductors for the program. The concert is given in April.

President's Concert

On the Saturday night before commencement, the Doane Choir and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble present a short concert of a variety of music and their signature tunes. Often the concert falls on Armed Forces Day. The band will pay tribute to those who have served our country and also perform some patriotic selections in celebration of Armed Forces Day.

Commencement

Commencement is the final event of spring semester. Since 1994 the band has provided appropriate ceremonial music for the Lincoln and Crete campus ceremonies.

MUSICAL TRADITIONS

Merrill

Our official college fight song entitled *Merrill* is based on the nineteenth century folk song *Our Boys will Shine Tonight*. It is played for sporting events and pep rallies. The words to the school song are:

Merrill will ring tonight, Merrill will ring;
Merrill will ring tonight, Merrill will ring;
Merrill will ring tonight, Merrill will ring;
When the game is o'er, and they count the score,
Merrill will ring.

Merrill is the name of one of the first and largest buildings on the Doane campus. Merrill Hall housed the administrative offices of the college as well as some classrooms and faculty offices. The building was destroyed in 1969 by an electrical system malfunction. Merrill had a large bell, and the bell was rung whenever a Doane team won a game.

Merrill Farewell

Merrill Farewell is the signature tune of the Doane Band Program. It is an introspective setting of the school's fight song, *Merrill*. *Merrill Farewell* was composed in May of 1997 by Dr. Gilbert for the graduation of the first senior class to have him as their conductor for their four years at Doane. The premiere performance took place on May 19, 1997, with Dr. Gilbert conducting. Dr. Donald Ziegler, emeritus faculty member and former academic dean for the college, has provided the following perspective on the piece.

Merrill Hall was the first building to crown the crest of the hilltop overlooking the Big Blue River, beginning the fulfillment of Thomas Doane's vision of creating a college on the Nebraska prairie. It was built in 1879 with funds raised by the college's first president, David Brainerd Perry, who stumped the plains as well as Eastern sources to gain some two thousand donors, many of whom were children. A towering three-story brick structure, commanding in appearance, it became the center of campus life for almost a century. For students during these years, Merrill Hall WAS Doane.

Then came a fiery glow on the hill early one frosty morning in February 1969. Merrill burned to the ground. Nothing remained but charred walls, drifting ashes -- and memories. The molten remains of the bell that inspired the college song -- *Merrill Will Ring Tonight, Merrill Will Ring* -- lie encased in a memorial at the base of what is now called Merrill Tower. Yet that familiar old song lives on today, stirring memories among many of a grand old building on the hill, where students once lived and learned -- and yes, even loved.

Don Ziegler, '50

Alma Mater

The *Doane Alma Mater* is based upon the Alma Mater of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. The words to the *Alma Mater* are as follows:

High above the spacious valley, glorious to view,
Stands our noble Alma Mater, towering toward the
blue. Every student, man and woman, sings the glad
refrain, 'Til the breezes, music laden, echo back again.

Hail to thee, our foster Mother, noble friend so true,
Ours are hearts that fondly love thee, Sing thy praise anew.
Lift the chorus ever onward, Dear old Varsity,
With the watchwords, honor, duty, Doane, we pledge to thee.

Doane Hymn

The tune for *The Doane Hymn* is from the hymn titled *The Son of God Goes Forth to War* by Henry S. Cutler, 1824-1902. The words to *The Doane Hymn* are composed by Lucy R. Fiske Medlar. They are:

A hymn of praise we lift to Thee,
O God, whom we revere.
For Doane, Thy holy gift to us
Our Alma Mater dear.
Her walls are fitting monuments
To those who reared them there,
And strong lives nurtured in her halls
Bespeak their answered prayer.

“We build on Christ,” this motto
blest, Engraved on Merrill’s stone,
Is written, too, in every heart
That loyal beats for Doane.
Keep our soul-vision, thee, O Christ,
For aye undimmed and free,
That we may honor God and Doane
By building still on Thee.

Hey Baby

The Doane Tiger Pep Band opens the fall football season with *Hey! Baby*, a rock and roll tune that was made popular by Bruce Channel in 1962. The pep band sings and plays the song.

Hey hey-ey, Baby,
I wanna know-o-o
If you’ll be my girl
(Repeat)

When I saw you walking down the street,
I said that’s the kind of gal I’d like to meet.
She’s so pretty. Lord, she’s fine.

I'm gonna make her mine all mine

(Repeat chorus)

You've Said it All

Based on a popular commercial from the late 1960's, this song has become popular at Doane football games since its introduction in the 2000 season. The band and crowd sing at the end of the song: *When you say Doane Tigers, you've said it all!*

If you Want to be a Tiger

Another popular secondary school song at football games since its introduction in the 2011 season. The song is one of the University of Wisconsin's secondary fight songs. The band and crowd sing these "Doane" words;

*If you want to be a Tiger
just come along with me.
By the bright shining light,
By the light of the moon.*

*If you want to be a Tiger
just come along with me.
By the bright shining light
of the moon.*

*By the light of the moon.
By the light of the moon.
By the bright shining light,
By the light of the moon.*

*If you want to be a Tiger
just come along with me.
By the bright shining light
of the moon.*