



Record Number of Redcoats To Perform

40th Anniversary of the Redcoat Alumni Band

More often than not, just like the Dawgs winning on Saturdays, we take the performance of the Redcoat Band for granted. The Redcoats are always there, always energized, upbeat and ever supportive of their favorite team. "Some of Georgia's greatest fans," says Mike Robinson, Director of Athletic Bands, "are members of the Redcoat Band." When these passionate fans become alumni, they continue to perform between the hedges, owing to a fulfilling tradition brought about years ago when the late Roger Dancz invited former band members to return and participate in the halftime show for homecoming. The cheerleaders return, too. Sometimes the sweaters are a little tight, but their spirits always soar and, like the alumni band, enjoy another fulfilling afternoon between the hedges.

Love of alma mater! The feelings alumni have for their school is one of the most moving traditions in our country and nobody expresses their feelings more overtly than the alumni band and the alumni cheerleaders. Curtis Beal of Brewton, a cheerleader in 1942, always returned for homecoming. He wrote a book, which included a lot of memories of his days on campus as a Bulldog cheerleader.

Today's homecoming activities make us nostalgic. It rekindles our feelings for the past and elevates our emotions for Georgia. It is a reminder that the band puts in as many hours as the football team each week in order to present a stimulating halftime

show. Then when Homecoming comes around, we are reminded of autumns past, a time which we cling to with the passing of time.

In the following, Lee Butts, a trombonist 1966-71, recalls his years with the alumni band and notes with passion how much the alumni band appreciates the opportunity to return to campus each year for the homecoming festivities. Enjoy!

-- Loran Smith

By Lee Butts

In 1974, a UGA Homecoming tradition was started by then Redcoat Band Director, Roger Dancz: the chance to perform "One More Time" in Sanford Stadium for the musicians, dancers, majorettes and drum majors that were Redcoats during their college years at UGA. Saturday's Homecoming Halftime will make history when the 40th anniversary of the Redcoat Alumni Band and the 109th Edition of the Redcoat Band join to entertain the 93,000 plus fans in Athens.

Preparation for Homecoming Day starts in April. Coordination for the on-field show, game tickets, lunches, and music is reviewed, even after 40 years of experience. On Homecoming morning, registration and rehearsal will start at 6:00 a.m. At the practice field, a morning crowd will gather to hear a more mature ensemble entering the field, playing familiar music ... Glory,



In the 2012 Homecoming, the alumni returnee from the earliest class was Ann (Bell) Ragan, clarinet, Class of 1950.





the Star Spangled Banner, the Alma Mater and Krypton. This is preparation for pre-game and halftime history!

"This year the combined Alumni and current Redcoats will number over 950 – and will be the largest ever to play in Sanford Stadium," said Leigh White Tompros, 2013 Homecoming Chairman and Redcoat Flute 1972-76. This unique chance to continue a special tradition at the University of Georgia, and to share their talents by performing in Sanford Stadium after graduation, has built the UGA alumni band to the largest and most active in the SEC.

Last year, the alumnus returnee from the earliest class was Ann (Bell) Ragan, clarinet, Class of 1950. The performer that travelled the furthest to participate in 2012 came from Australia ... this year from Germany. Three performers have performed in all 40 Homecoming Festivities – Lee Butts (trombone), Linda Anderson Butts (flute/piccolo), and Charles Cheney (trumpet). "We skipped a business trip to China one year to keep our continuous attendance intact," said Linda Butts. There are 18 performers registered to perform this year, who were in the first Homecoming show in 1974.

The Redcoat Alumni group is comprised of a few professional musicians, and many more

teachers, accountants, lawyers, doctors, and marketing executives ... all walks of life. There have been two occasions when three generations of Redcoat alumni from the same family have performed on the field at Homecoming.

There are two missions of the Redcoat Band Alumni Association: The first is to support the current Redcoat Band. The Redcoat Band represents the University every day, with their contribution to school spirit. The band is so special for Linda and me. A day does not pass that I don't hear the music of the Redcoats in commercials, at sporting events and from cell phone ring tones. The returning alumni will surpass the \$100,000 mark in financial donations to the Redcoats from just the last ten homecomings. The second mission is connecting the band's alumni with communications and events. The largest is the homecoming gathering, with many other performances during the year, handled by a smaller volunteer group called the Redcoat Alumni Pep Band. The demand for UGA spirit music can be accommodated by the Redcoat alumni, donating their time to perform in groups of 20 musicians, in exchange for scholarship donations. Details can be found on their web site: www.RedcoatAlumniBand.com

In addition to the pep band, there are many

ways that the alumni band raises money for the current Redcoats. Something new that will be popular with all Dawg fans is the "Battle Hymn" print (signed and numbered) created by Dave Helwig that can be received for a donation to the RBAA scholarship campaign. This commissioned print celebrates the elevated trumpeter playing of the "Battle Hymn," one of the most popular UGA football game-day traditions.

Over the last five years, major contributions have been made to the Redcoat "Silver Instruments" campaign, a goal of Dr. Mike Robinson. Every instrument is now silver, resulting in the consistent look and sound that you experience from the Redcoats each football Saturday.

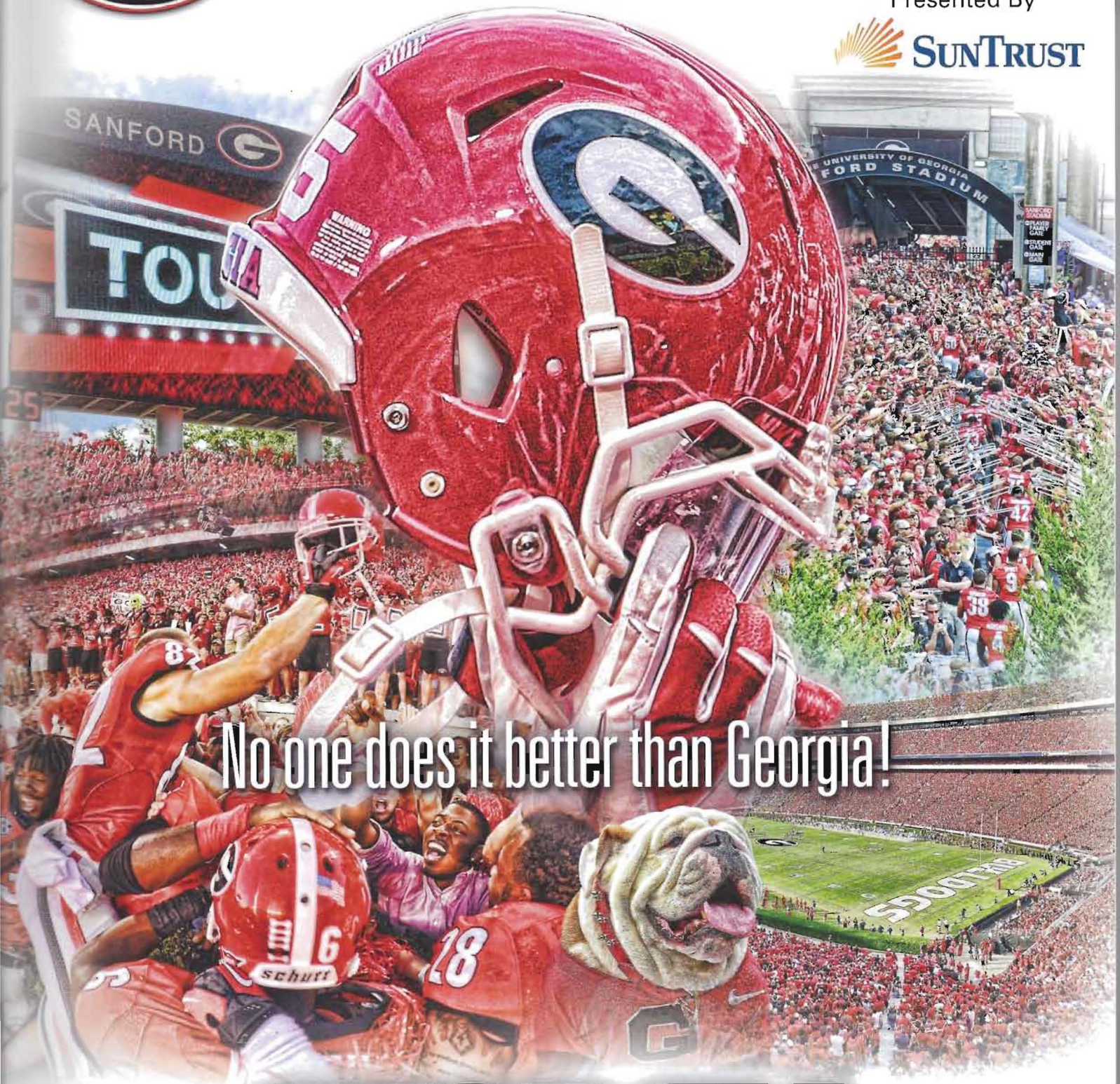
Homecoming is packed with things for fans to enjoy: Pre-game: Redcoat alumni, from Class of 1950 to Class of 2012, performing similar pre-game music as when they were in the band. Plus a feature tune, arranged just for the alumni by the famous Redcoat arranger and graduate, Tom Wallace. Halftime: Redcoat Alumni and current Redcoats will join to form the largest number of Redcoats ever to perform "between the hedges." You will receive a treat from more Redcoats than you have ever seen (or heard) before!

So, Keep Your Seats Everyone ... The Redcoats Are Coming BACK!



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2013 FOOTBALL

Saturday, November 9 |  The Appalachian State Game | Sanford Stadium