



MCV International

"They're not just international, they're everywhere!"

Growth in organizations is often measured, and remembered, by significant events—milestones that, when viewed in retrospect, clearly mark a transition from one era to another. MCV's trip to Switzerland in June 2005 was such a defining event for the group. This experience will inform and influence our identity and path for the next several years.

MCV was invited to be the feature ensemble at an international tattoo*, the Yshalle Tattoo produced by Erik Julliard and Basel Tattoo Productions in Switzerland. This invitation came as a result of MCV's ever-growing reputation as America's

premier fife and drum corps. Enhanced by relationships that now span oceans (four MCV drummers traveled to Australia last year to perform as members of Switzerland's Top Secret Drum Corps), we

are proud to step into the arena.

That arena, which held an audience of 6,500 per night for three performances, was a new setting for MCV. With a stage the size of an ice hockey rink, we knew it was important to increase our numbers. So, we called in the troops! And we were thrilled when the troops—former members hailing from

as far away as California and Basel—eagerly adjusted their vacation schedules, and their lives, to march with MCV. Our ranks swelled to 40 marching members, producing an impressive sight, and sound,



MCV, the featured corps of the 2005 Yshalle Tattoo in Basel, Switzerland, in position for the Grand Finale.

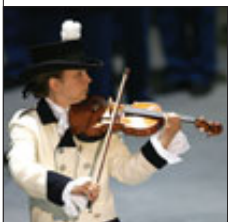
one of Basel's most beloved tunes. The depth of MCV's talents was further illustrated when fifer Betsy Ketudat doubled as the solo violinist for the Tattoo's grand finale, and MCV's piper George March closed the evening as the Lone Piper, high up in the rafters.

In addition to those in uniform, MCV's ten-member support staff made sure that "behind the scenes" and "front of house" needs were well taken care of. And while not seen on the floor of the arena, these important MCV members were, effectively, at the side of the musicians. Likewise, our families, friends and donors were, symbolically, also with us by means of their ongoing belief in what we do. Our milestones—these defining moments—are only achieved with the support of many.



George March as the Yshalle Tattoo Lone Piper

*The term "tattoo" derives from the Dutch doe den tap toe, a phrase meaning "turn the taps to!" In an 18th-century garrison town, a contingent of musicians would march through the town late in the evening, playing music as a signal to the bartenders to turn the taps off, close the pubs, and send the soldiers back to their barracks. This practice evolved through the centuries to become a formal evening ceremony of music and pageantry, a celebration of military music and patriotism known as a tattoo. The oldest and most famous is the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, which takes place each August at the Edinburgh Castle.



Betsy Ketudat commands the arena during the Finale

photo: courtesy of Basel Tattoo Productions

New CD Release! Middlesex County Volunteers “In America”

Formerly given a working title of “Green Fields of America,” our newest CD is now in the final stages of production. After returning from the Yshalle Tattoo in Switzerland and marching straight into the Boston Harborfest and July 4 festivities, we headed into the recording studio over the last weekend of July where we were joined by alumnae members Kristen Livoti and Kim Conley, and Basel members Xenia Fünfschilling and Kevin Klapka. During that session, we managed to lay tracks for nearly the entire CD. We

just completed the last few pieces and will release the CD in time for the holiday season. This CD showcases the living art that is fife and drum in America today; it features music from North America, the Isles and the Continent, and spans the 18th century to...well...yesterday! “In America” promises to be the best recorded representation of MCV to date.

Please visit our website to pre-order now for “In America”!
mcvfifesanddrums.org



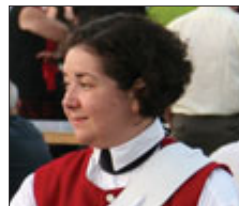
Wearing the Wig Again

Are MCV alumni still “alumni” if they return to march with the corps? Early planning for this summer’s trip to perform at the Basel Yshalle Tattoo led to an

obvious need—more fifers! In the large arena at the Tattoo, we would need 20 fifes to complement our 11 drums, and who better to fill the ranks than those former fifers

who helped build MCV’s (now international) reputation? Fife Sgt. Sarah McConduibh went to work contacting and recruiting eight former fifers for the 10-day trip to Switzerland.

Of the eight, two traveled from California: Bonnie



Kim (Stratman) Conley

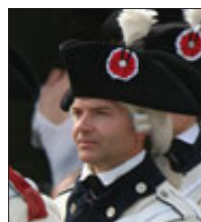
(Gardner) Safyurtlu, a former MCV fife sergeant now living in Woodland Hills, and Liana Lareau, currently a student at

Berkeley. Three are local: Joe Gagné, Kristen (Gutierrez) Livoti, and Kim (Stratman) Conley, who were able to participate in the local rehearsals. Three are from across the Atlantic, living in Basel: Xenia Fünfschilling, Kevin Klapka, and Bea Wesp.



Kristen (Gutierrez) Livoti

Is returning to performing like riding a bike? Somewhat, but with hours of practice, music rehearsals, and marching rehearsals via video clips, great creativity and dedication were required. Only after



Joe Gagné

MCV arrived in Basel was the group fully assembled. Wigs were donned and uniforms adjusted.



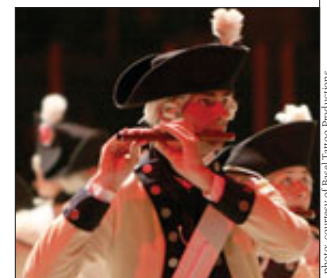
Bonnie (Gardner) Safyurtlu

The mace dropped and instantly it all came together—the posture returned and left feet stepped out—with toes slightly lifted.

Thanks to our former fifers, who not only filled our ranks but also added their time, talents, energy, and spirit to the trip. And thanks to those who have performed with us since.



Liana Lareau



Kevin Klapka



Bea Wesp

photo: courtesy of Basel Tattoo Productions



Xenia Fünfschilling

photo: courtesy of Basel Tattoo Productions

Our Swiss Friends

It's true—music can span continents! MCV members sustained many friendships and developed many more during their trip to Switzerland. Our former members from Basel, Xenia Fünfschilling, Kevin Klapka and Bea Wesp, have been a



Rhine River Rebels (Basel) Fife Sgt. Michele Aberlin gets some help preparing for her wig.

tremendous force in strengthening the lasting friendship between MCV and all the Basel fife and drum corps. And those friendships only grew deeper and broader.

Post-performance gatherings included our new-found friends. Hours were spent tapping out drum beatings, sharing fifes and, yes, even hoisting a few beers.

When we learned that Rhine River Rebels (Basel) Fife Sgt. Michele Aberlin, who appeared with us at a parade in Aarau, Switzerland, during our tour in June, was planning a one-month stay in Massachusetts, we invited her to play with MCV. Michele arrived in Boston in time for the Boston Harborfest and July 4 events. Kevin Klapka and Xenia Fünfschilling timed their holiday so they could join



Drumming—a truly international language. Drummers of MCV, Rhine River Rebels, and Grey Coats partying in Basel.



Drum Major Myles McConnon is MCV's goodwill ambassador at the Munot in Schaffhausen, Switzerland.

MCV at the Deep River Ancient Muster in Connecticut in mid-July, so including Michele, we had three Baslers in MCV's

fife line at DRAM. We were very pleased that Xenia and Kevin were able to stay on to participate in the recording session for "In America" in late July. This was all the more special as we recorded "Wettsteinmarsch," the Basel city march, as well as "Nash Street Reel," composed by Xenia. 

Alumni News

While some of MCV's former members were with us on tour, others were making news back home.

Bridget Grace Desautelle, daughter of former fifer **Diane McDougall** and former support member **Tim Desautelle**, made her MCV debut at the Sudbury Muster in September. Bridget was born on July 19 and weighed in at 7 lbs. 12 oz.

In early June we heard from former fifer, **Marla Bickle Verdone**, that Sergeant Major **Bruce Verdone** had been called for active duty in Kuwait and Iraq. Bruce is a former member of MCV's colorguard. Please join us in keeping

Bruce in your thoughts. Marla and her children returned to New England for an August vacation, and a visit with MCV friends.



Bridget Grace Desautelle gets a birds-eye view of the Sudbury Muster with a little help from dad, Tim.

Annual Fund 2005

Our Annual Fund 2005, chaired by former member Bonnie Safyurtlu, has begun! Bonnie is eager to help MCV achieve its 2005 fundraising goal of \$7,000. Annual fund materials will mail shortly, including an envelope for your gift. Or, donations may be made online at www.mcvfifesanddrums.org.

MCV's annual fund supplements our performance fees and provides important income to support annual expenses, including equipment and uniform purchases and upkeep. Please help us reach our goal by the conclusion of our fund year on December 31. Many thanks to Bonnie for her continued allegiance to MCV.

For our friends in the Virginia area, we're sorry to say that, due to circumstances beyond our control, we will not be appearing at the Colonial Williamsburg Grand Illumination celebration this year.



Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes & Drums

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Medford, MA 02155

Special Edition!

MCV's 2005 tour to Basel

Thanks!

We recognize and thank Erik Julliard, Xenia Fünfschilling, and the entire crew at Basel Tattoo Productions for their friendship and belief in MCV, and we are sincerely grateful for the generous support from the sponsors of the Yshalle Tattoo:



With Christmas just around the corner, remember that “On Christmas Day” makes a great gift! Order online at www.mcvfifesanddrums.org.

The Volunteer Post Fall 2005

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Check our Web site for a complete schedule of upcoming MCV appearances!

www.mcvfifesanddrums.org

