

Bandstand

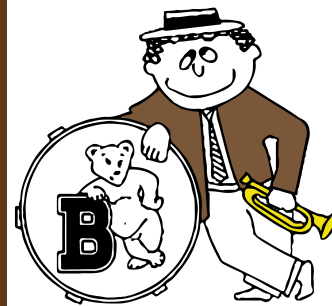


*The official alumni newsletter
of the
Brown University Band
Winter/ Spring 2018*

Bandstand

Brown Band Alumni Newsletter
Volume 9

Winter/Spring 2018



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

I wish you all a Happy New Year! For those who haven't met me, my name is Gaby Usabal, the new President of the Brown University "Brown Band alumni are the best kind of alumni" Band! I am a junior concentrating in Geochemistry which makes me a bandie who understands Dartmouth's desire to have the granite of New Hampshire in my muscles and my brain. In the band, I have found my home as not only an S but also an M. Versatile! Finally, the band has another President hailing from the section that more appropriately represents the titillating and irreverent nature of the band. Don't worry, I won't replace everything in our music library with "Careless Whisper". After all, we can never unstuff "Doctor Worm".



I have some interesting news to share with all of you regarding Brown's football team during the fall semester. And by interesting I mean: at one point 7 of the Ivy League teams were tied for first place in the league while Good Old Brown (drink her down, drink her down) was technically in second! That's definitely how that works. Predictable football performances aside, seeing all of you who joined us at our alumni game against some other school in Rhode Island and at various other games was fun as always. We also loved seeing so many of you at the subzero historic game at Fenway Park! I truly don't have the words to thank all of you enough for your unwavering support. Your generous contributions keep the band history alive as well as help us keep the band financially accessible for everyone. With your help we have also been able to make much-needed instrument repairs, replenish supplies, and keep the band warm and with fingers intact during the fall. It's also clear how the wacky spirit of band lives on in all of our alums and serves as a tangible reminder to current bandies that the Brown Band community will remain - even after we walk through the Van Winkle Gates come graduation (on two feet and facing forward this time).

So far the Spring semester is off to a great start and we would love to see you at all our events throughout the semester including our alumni ice show coming up on February 10. Also, I look forward to seeing you and meeting more alums at this year's Commencement Weekend on May 25-27. Commencement week is, without a doubt, my favorite time at Brown. From campus dance, where we are clearly the only ones who know the words to #1 or the Alma Mater, to hearing the resurfaced goofy stories of the Band's past, every Commencement is always such a remarkable time to share with current and past bandies. I hope you can make it come spring!

Last and definitely not least, I want to extend a tremendous thank you to our Alumni Liaisons: Zachary Goldstein '19 and Kelvin Wong '20. They have worked so hard to make this quality newsletter come to fruition and maintain connections with all of you! If you have any questions, concerns, requests, want to visit, or have anything else you want to share please don't hesitate to contact me or our wonderful ALs.

Ever True,
Gaby Usabal

Spring Semester Preview

2/3/2018 @ 7pm - Men's Hockey vs Connecticut

****THEMED ICE SHOW****

2/9/2018 @ 7pm - Men's Hockey vs Princeton

2/10/2018 @ 7pm - Men's Hockey vs Quinnipiac

****ALUMNI ICE SHOW****

2/16/2018 @ 7pm - Men's Hockey @Cornell

****WINTER TRIP DAY 1****

2/17/2018 @ 7pm - Men's Hockey @Colgate

****WINTER TRIP DAY 2****

2/23/2018 @ 7pm - Men's Hockey vs Harvard

2/24/2018 @ 4pm - Women's Basketball vs Cornell

3/3/2018 @ 6pm - Men's Basketball vs Penn

Commencement Weekend: Saturday 5/26 to Sunday 5/27



Football Season Wrap-up

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Alumni, presenting the goofy adventures of an organization that knows a lot about football, it's the Brown University "Throw the Puck in the Basket" Band!!!!!!

By Zack Goldstein '19

Game 1: Brown (28) vs. Bryant (23)

At the first game of the year, we were joined by an incoming class of first-years! We were thrilled that new bandies got to see our weird traditions and goofy dances for the first time! The day was hot and sunny, and we would be longing for these hot and sunny days later in the



season. This win definitely gave us a false sense of confidence.

Script Themes: Welcome class of 2021; The solar eclipse 2018

Game 2: Brown (28) at Harvard (45)

We packed the bus in Hahvahd yahd for this game! For our first away trip of the football season we trekked over to Cambridge early in the morning, but there were still plenty of early risers ready to tailgate at the stadium. We met up with some alumni, learned that the Harvard Band no longer uses a fake gun during their field shows, and experienced our first of many losses.

Script Themes: Harvard lost to URI; Elrod Snidley for President; Jared Kushner went to Harvard

Game 3: Brown (24) vs. URI (21)

Next we faced off against URI for the annual Governor's Cup! It was also our alumni football game, and we were blessed with the presence of wonderful bandies past and present. Brown ended up victorious, beating URI for the 73rd time in history. Confident to finally have a winning record, little did we know this would be our last win. In writing a script for this game, we learned a lot about the controversy surrounding egg sandwiches at URI. (Check out the Google Reviews for "URI")

Script Themes: Our alumni are visiting!; The Governor's Cup; Egg sandwiches

Game 4: Brown (13) at Stetson (17)!

Brown football played Stetson football for the second year in a row. Unfortunately, we did not have the opportunity to travel down to Deland, Florida to watch this game. You may be wondering: "Why do we play a school in Florida now?" We are also wondering this.

Game 5: Brown (0) vs. Princeton (53) (Yes, you read that score correctly.)

After missing a week of sportsball while the football team traveled down to Deland, we were ready to jump back into a busy weekend of fun! The Brown Band was happy to welcome the Princeton Band to Providence. Naturally, bus songs were sung with the Princeton Band, and a wet floor sign was exchanged between the bands as a token of our love and gratitude. Also, lots of our bandies got to see their folks for family weekend!! This game was very high-scoring – the two teams had an average score of 26.5 points, though admittedly one of the teams had



slightly more points than the other team.

Script Themes: Ted Cruz '92 is the Zodiac Killer; Chris Christie shut down New Jersey's bridges

Game 6: Brown (7) at Cornell (34)

We went all the way up to the frozen tundra of Ithaca, NY for this game. After doing field rehearsal on a random patch of grass, we did a march through the campus and even into the Cornell Store! It was Cornell's alumni game, so there were about 80 times more people at this game than at Brown home games. Naturally, Cornell censored our script. We have no idea why they would do such a thing - we would never speak any ill of Cornell University, its fans, its alumni, or the beautiful city of Ithaca. Nevertheless, we performed the dirge for thousands of Cornell fans. We

also performed a certain Christmas carol in front of the statue of Ezra Cornell. And his friend.

Script Themes: We were censored, so here is a recipe to make chicken

Game 7: Brown (7) vs. Penn (17)

Because of weird scheduling quirks, we had to pack a lot into this one game. Since it was the Halloween game, the band was dressed in costumes!!! Section costume themes ranged from embodying Ivy League schools to Lord of the Rings characters! And because it was our last game at home for the year, we also read limericks for all of our wonderful soon-to-be-crusties. (Four

more years!) The game was both sad and spooky at the same time!

Script Themes: ~spooky~ Halloween; It's the senior game so here are a bunch of limericks; A certain unspecified high-ranking government official in the executive branch attended Penn

Game 8: Brown (7) at Yale (34)

We went to the Yale Bowl for a Friday night game! It's true what they say about New Haven - it truly does smell. Though a member of the band collided with a pole (Ouch!), we mustered on to get flushed in the Yale Bowl. Most importantly, we got to yell at New Haven's iconic Pirelli Building with a mysterious missing floor.



Script Themes: A pretentious article in the Yale Daily News; Stupid brutalist architecture in New Haven

Game 9: Brown (10) vs. Dartmouth (33) at FENWAY PARK!

One of the coolest (and coldest) opportunities we have ever had as a band! The home Brown vs. Dartmouth game was played this year at Fenway Park! The band got to travel up to Boston for this rare occasion. All would have been perfect, except that it was less than 20 degrees and we were outside for five hours. But we wore every single layer of clothing we owned, drank some cocoa, and powered through. Performing on the field at Fenway Park really was an unbelievable experience. We were really thrilled that so many crusties got to join us for this game!

Script Themes: They only let us read two sentences of our script because I guess major league sports stadiums are as fascist as Cornell University

Game 10: Brown (6) at Columbia (24)

Oh, how the turntables. Whereas other years the game against Columbia might have been our football team's shot at redemption, Columbia decided to be a really good team this year. Like, really really good. They were so good that some Columbia fans were upset about the school losing its "anti-football and pro-intellectual" spirit. Nonetheless, we were happy to spend a weekend in the city that never sleeps! Start spreading the news!

Script Themes: Unhappy Columbia fans are unhappy; The Columbia Band's unsuccessful attempt to steal the Harvard bass drum; Why the Brown Band is the best band in the Ivy League



Fall Season Recap



The Band Bows Before Blueno



Fenway Park!



Asuh



THE Pic!!!

~spooky~ pics



Four more years! :'(



...and his friend



*Playing some holiday jams -
GET OUT! GET OUT!*

Testimonial

Vicky Phan '21

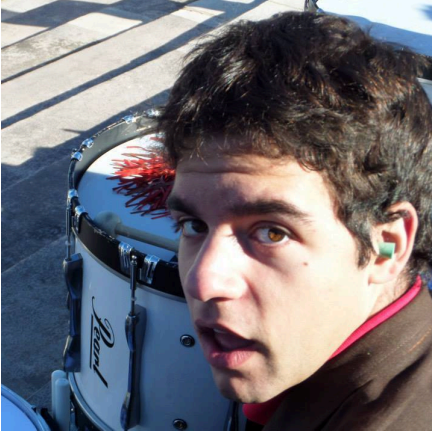
“Um, there’s a lot of great groups on campus. A lot of variety, too. We have, like - aerial arts, cultural clubs. There’s debate team. There’s the band. Band always seem like they’re having a lot of fun.” This was my first and only impression of the Brown Band back in August, spoken by a pre-orientation leader on my first day on College Hill. In hindsight, he said it with a laugh so he might have meant it disparagingly, but no matter; his comment barely registered and I still had no intentions of joining any particular groups on campus. The next time the concept of the band cropped up was when I heard from a friend back home. I’d made fun of her all throughout high school for being in a marching band, and she now plays percussion for Cornell (yikes). She badgered me to join, saying it would at least be a good excuse to go visit her once a year. I said I’d make no promises.

I didn’t think about the band at all for a solid week or so after that until I found them playing on the steps of Sayles. (It’s like they just wouldn’t leave me alone.) I thought back to what my friend said and was momentarily confused, because this band looked - cool? So I figured Why not?, and walked up to put my name on the spreadsheet. There was even a column for people like me who can’t play an instrument but are luckily foolish enough to try and join a musical group. The first email showed up in my inbox and our first rehearsal rolled around. Objectively, there was absolutely no reason I should’ve come back the following week. I couldn’t read music (whether I can read music now is still debatable), had never played percussion, and didn’t have any friends. Band absolutely terrified me, but something about it excited me enough to make me want to go back to Fulton and try again. So I did go to next week’s rehearsal, and the next one, and the next.

The rest slotted into place, easy as anything. There was my first time pulling a chair up to a band table at the Ratty, my first confusing bus ride back after a game, my first not-study room at the Rock, my first time automatically responding to “Hey, band” - the list goes on. The Brown Band has brought a lot of joyful firsts and incredible people into my life. I consistently realize how lucky I am to be a part of this family that’ll cry with you, walk across campus to eat with you, and then show up at dinner wearing the same outfit as you. (The most accidental rugbies I’ve seen at one table so far is four.) Sometimes when I go through old videos on our Facebook page, I’ll watch the Facebook Live stream of this year’s activities fair and be so grateful I didn’t choose to just walk in the other direction. We talk a lot about how the band changes your life, and maybe we wouldn’t mean it if we were any other band (like, I don’t know - a big red one) - but we do. Thanks for an amazing first semester, Elrod, and here’s to seven more (if all goes well).

4 More Years!!!

Responses collected by Zachary Goldstein '19. Photos submitted by respective seniors.



Name: Iuliu Balibanu

Concentration: Mostly concentrated on homework. And drinking.

Instrument: Percussion

Post-Graduation Plans: Selling out to That One Company In Seattle™ (Seattle alums, get in touch!)

Favorite Band Memory: Cornell, Cornell...

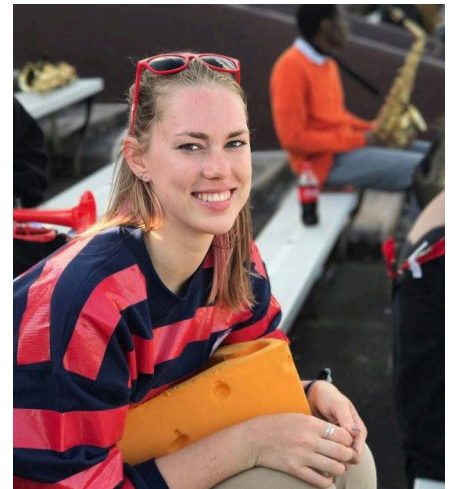
Name: Greer Christensen-Gibbons

Concentration: History

Instrument: Flute/Piccolo

Post-Graduation Plans: Gainful employment, ideally

Favorite Band Memory: When URI fans couldn't distinguish between undergarments and saxophone harnesses and accused the band of indecent behavior



Name: Cassie Cole

Concentration: APMA-Econ

Instrument: Trumpet & Bari Sax

Post-Graduation Plans: Hopefully find a job somewhere involving some combination of research, economics, statistics, and the environment.

Favorite Band Memory: There are way too many wonderful band memories for me to pick a favorite, but I am particularly fond of my memories of my first march to the football stadium in the fall of freshman year. I remember being amazed by how elaborate the entire process was, and I think that was the point at which I was sure I wanted to be in the band.



Name: Matthew Finn
Concentration: Biology ScB
Instrument: Clarinet
Post-Graduation Plans: Medical School
Favorite Band Memory: Playing on the field at Fenway Park

Name: Katie Hay
Concentration: Visual Arts & Urban Studies
Instrument: Percussion (Snare)
Post-Graduation Plans: Campus Minister/Staff Intern with InterVarsity/Brown Christian Fellowship
Favorite Band Memory: Freshman year, learning how to be a Brown Band snare drummer... without much guidance! I loved having lulu around so I didn't blunder along by myself - the success we had, we owe all to Karen! Moments of being freezing cold and having percussion piles in the stands to stay warm was always fun. The Penn game freshman year was especially fun - thankful for the overhanging in the stands, throwing old bagels on the track, and dressing up as ninjas (even a ninja turtle, *cough* lulu).





Name: Dana Leichter

Concentration: Biomedical Engineering

Instrument: Clarinet

Post-Graduation Plans: Uhhhhhh... hopefully working somewhere.

Favorite Band Memory: The semi-final lacrosse game our sophomore year! The band had just gotten back from all-night laser tag that morning and was in the process of moving into Perkins for commencement week. Everyone was running on no sleep and was half-dead, but the entire football stadium was packed with excited fans. It was a close game, but Brown ended up winning, and the energy in the stadium was electric. It was really cool to finally see students other than the Band come out to support one of the athletic teams.

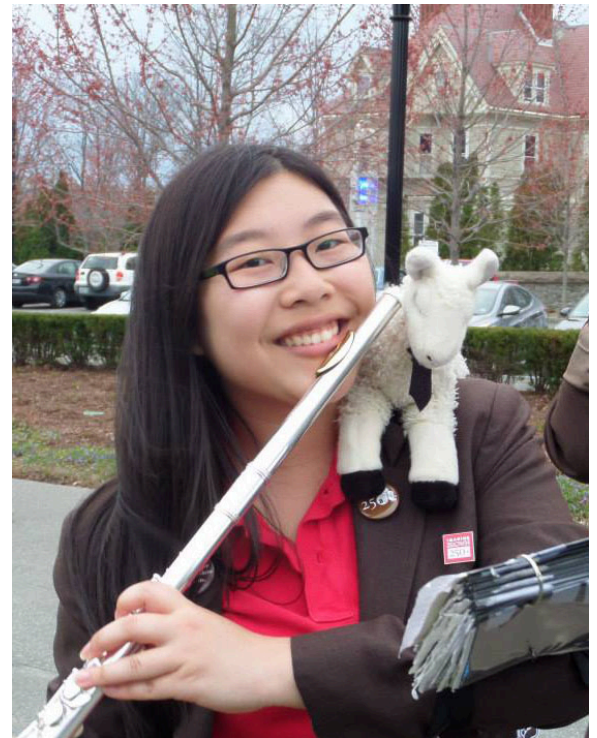
Name: Francesca Lim

Concentration: Applied Mathematics-Biology

Instrument: Flute

Post-Graduation Plans: Haha yikes. Right now I plan to take 1-2 years off to work (someone hire me please) and then get a Master's degree in Biomedical Informatics to pursue a career in the field! And eventually get a dog.

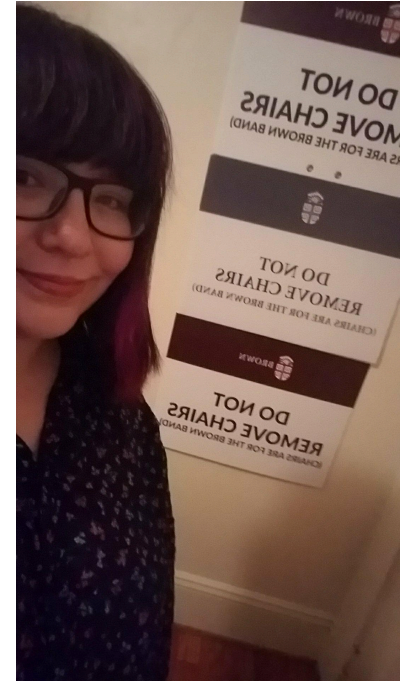
Favorite Band Memory: I'm not sure I can choose a favorite but caroling is always one of my favorite events of the year! I particularly remember handing out hot chocolate as CorSec with Carol who was Mom at the time, performing in the Sunlab for the first time after the infamous video, and being asked to take a photo of a DPS officer on a bike in front of the Band as we were marching down Thayer Street. Always a great way to end the fall semester!





Name: Carol Medina
Concentration: Psychology
Instrument: Sousaphone
Post-Graduation Plans: Grad School! (hopefully)
Favorite Band Memory: There are so many good ones, but one of my favorite band memories is going to Corn(h)ell my sophomore year. We walked around exploring the campus at night (it was actually really beautiful), had great conversations, and I knew even then that it was one of those memories I would always have. Just thinking about it makes me miss the band even though I still have a semester left!

Name: Sammy Perez
Concentration: Biology
Instrument: Percussion (Bass Drum)
Post-Graduation Plans: I'm planning on staying in Providence another year* and then maybe moving back to Texas* and then applying to dental school*! (* = subject to change lmao)
Favorite Band Memory: Watching that one bass drum tumble down the Brown University Stadium Steps™ on multiple occasions.



Name: Alexander Perl
Concentration: Biophysics
Instrument: Flarinaxiphone
Post-Graduation Plans: Grad School
Favorite Band Memory: Leaving it for Winter Break



Name: Max Urbany

Concentration: Computer Science and Literary Arts

Instrument: Alto Saxophone

Post-Graduation Plans: Hopefully getting a job in the visual effects industry.

Favorite Band Memory: The first joint field show we did with the Princeton Band.

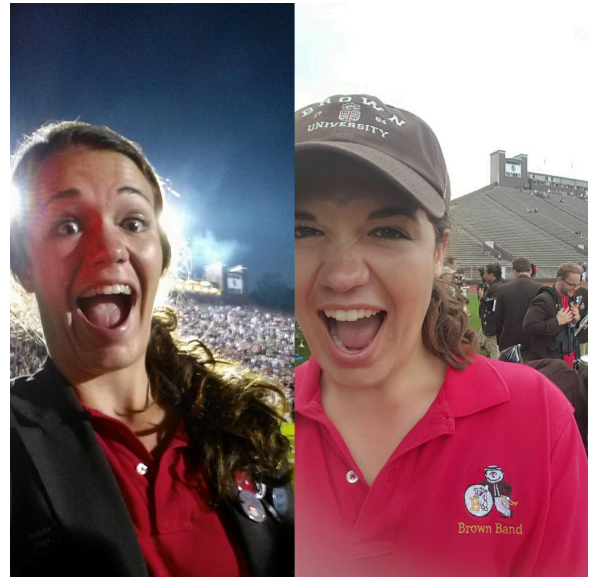
Name: Shannon Ward

Concentration: Computer Science

Instrument: Trombone

Post-Graduation Plans: Work at Snapchat in LA

Favorite Band Memory: Low Brass caroling my sophomore year, someone on campus security told us we made his night and then invited us to an event to play carols. We then got some of the free pizza at the event and got to watch some of a Christmas Story. So overall, just a pretty heart warming night :)





Name: Jeanelle Wheeler

Concentration: French & Francophone Studies and Literary Arts

Instrument: Clarinet

Post-Graduation Plans: Teach English in France OR 5th Year Masters of Arts in Teaching Brown

Favorite Band Memory: I love uniting with other bands and getting to play together or host! I love playing at Commencement and caroling and basketball. And...I love the feeling of hand dryers and overhangs during the raininess of the UPenn game and every game my freshmen year. I will now forever appreciate hand dryers for my wet feet. Thank you! :)

Name: Zach Witkin

Concentration: Development Studies

Instrument: Trumpet

Post-Graduation Plans: LOL...I'm applying to lead courses in experiential/cross-cultural education in Senegal probably. Other than that, I am applying to community/global health NGOs and start ups! We'll see where I am in a few months

Favorite Band Memory: Definitely playing with the Princeton Band in the fountain (at Princeton) - or Caroling....



Name: Zach Woessner

Concentration: Psychology

Instrument: Mellophone

Post-Graduation Plans: PhD in Industrial & Organizational Psychology

Favorite Band Memory: Dressing up as Cosmo & Wanda with Nisa (COME BACK, I MISS YOU) and bonding with my mellofam on Winter Trip.

2017-18 Buttons!

Bryant



Princeton



Dartmouth



Harvard



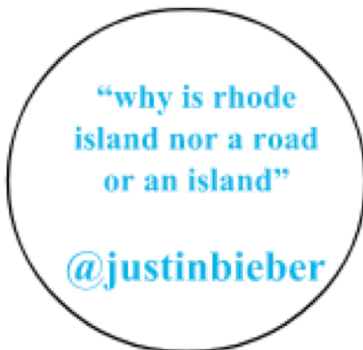
Cornell



Columbia



University of Rhode Island



Penn



Brown



Stetson



Yale



Hockey



“69 Seconds Left”

2017–18 Band Board

Gaby Usabal '19 President gabriela_usabal@brown.edu	Adam Mercier '19 Vice President adam_mercier@brown.edu	Summer Gerry '20 General Manager (“Mom”) summer_gerry@brown.edu
Kelvin Wong '20 Business Manager (“Money God”) kelvin_wong@brown.edu	Sofia Frohna '20 Corresponding Secretary sofia_frohna@brown.edu	Halle Purdom '20 Recording Secretary halle_purdom@brown.edu

Appointed Leadership

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- Mia Purdom '20
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- Sebastien Jean-Pierre '21
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- Kelvin Wong '20
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- Ingrid Mader '20
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- Jared Sanchez '20
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Webmasters:

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 - Sammy Perez '18
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Giving

Do you want to help us continue to entertain and possibly embarrass ourselves? Want to directly fund our buttons and blazers instead of offering us a giant untitled Lamp/Bear (Actually Fulton might need some decorations...)? To donate, please visit gifts.brown.edu and select "Brown University Band" from the dropdown list under "Annual Donations to Athletics (Sports Foundation)". Please contact the Alumni Liaisons or a Band Board member for questions or if you would like your donation to be used for a specific purpose.

Thank you for reading this issue of the Bandstand!

Ever True,
Zachary Goldstein '19, Kelvin Wong '20
Brown Band Alumni Liaisons

For all inquiries please email: friends.of.the.brown.band@gmail.com
Photos by Christie Collins '19, Ingrid Mader '20, Jared Sanchez '20

