

Minnesota Music Hall of Fame Inductee



Minneapolis Police Band

Inducted in 2006



Major General George Emerson Leach and Arthur Bolte formed the Minneapolis Police Band in 1917. Leach was elected mayor of Minneapolis after retiring from the Army. Bolte, a musical instrument salesman, thought he could sell a lot of instruments if he started a city band. Mayor Leach believed the police department needed a better image, hence the start of the band.

The band consists of a concert band, a marching band and a swing band. The marching band has been the official escort band for the Minneapolis Aquatennial Parade since the parade began in 1940.

During the first two years, the band was composed of police officers only. In 1919, civilian members were allowed to join the ranks and in 1969 the first women were admitted.