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Band looks to hit good 1st note

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CHARLOTTESVILLE - When the Cavalier Marching Band makes its entrance into Scott Stadium on Saturday, a couple of Timesland graduates will be front and center.

Kyle Singleton of Cave Spring High School and Cammie Justice of Galax will be the first two brass section members out of the tunnel when the band marches onto David A. Harrison Field. The band has been practicing its entrance for more than three weeks, and band director Bill Pease has stressed the importance of making a strong first impression.

"It's a lot to live up to, obviously," said Justice, a second-year student who is the piccolo section leader. "It's stressful, but really also exciting. We know everyone is watching us."

Pease has rearranged and jazzed up some old UVa songs, including "Glory to Virginia," "Rugby Road" and "The Cavalier Song," and incorporated them into the pregame show.

"It's the most important thing we do, because it's what the fans come to expect of us," Pease said of the band's entrance. "The drums are signaling that the battle is getting ready to start. Here we go. Something big is going to happen."

The theme for Saturday's halftime show will be "A Salute to Freedom," in honor of Sept. 11.

The band also plans to honor many of the past game-day traditions at Scott Stadium, and will play "The Good Old Song" following extra points. However, UVa athletic director Craig Littlepage said Cavalier fans should come to Saturday's game with open minds.

"They will be colorful, uniform and sharp, but not necessarily traditional," Littlepage said of the band. "Most of all, they will be exciting and help bring a greater level of enthusiasm to our fans."

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