The Coe College Bands have a long and distinguished history of success. While the original bands at Coe served primarily athletic and military functions, today’s ensembles please audiences in the concert hall and on tours, consisting of the Concert Band, Jazz Band, Honor Bands, and Touring Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble.

Coe’s bands annually host well-known guest performers and composers, and are also involved in commissioning and performing new works. Coe’s band members are regularly selected for collegiate honor bands at the state, regional, and national level. Over the past 15 years, Coe has had more representatives selected for the Iowa Collegiate Honor Band than any other school in the state.

Touring has long been an important part of the activities of the Coe College Bands, and for decades during the middle of the Twentieth Century, the military band regularly performed in presidential inaugural parades, touring to Washington, D.C., and also performing Palm Sunday concerts at Chicago’s Orchestra Hall, broadcast over a national radio hookup.

More recently the bands have toured domestically (New Orleans, Nashville, Seattle, Portland, Spokane, Mt. Rushmore, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City, Honolulu, and Maui) and internationally (England, Scotland, Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong). Tour performances have been broadcast on radio, television, and streamed over the internet.