

A native of Cambridge, Ohio and a 1985 graduate of Cambridge High School, saxophonist Gordon Hough (pronounced **Huff**) has spent over half of his life cruising on the high seas being fortunate enough to experience the world through his musical abilities.

During his high school years, he was president of his Sophomore and Junior classes, a member of the National Honor Society and Key Club during his Junior and Senior years and additionally in his Senior year, he was honored to be president of the award winning CHS band.

Hough attended private music lessons each summer in Columbus with a Capital University music professor to extensively study a variety of performance and music writing aspects. He successfully completed all of these college level books and assignments prior to attending college.

Upon graduating from CHS, Hough attended Capital University on music and academic scholarships for a year and a half before making the big decision of leaving the University early due to conflicts with school commitments and his professional performing with the Guy Lombardo Orchestra.

While Hough is mostly known for playing the alto and tenor saxophones, especially in local groups such as The Dick Simcox Big Band, The Cambridge City Band, The Lion's Variety Show and playing the "Benny Hill Theme" at various CHS games, he also plays soprano sax, clarinet, flute and piano as well as composes, orchestrates and arranges.

Hough's cruise experience started first with Carnival Cruise Lines however, after 2 ½ years, he moved onto Princess Cruises which was the summer of '89. During this time, he has moved up the chain of command in the cruise industry from sideman to bandleader to Bandmaster/Musical Director which is the equivalent of a two stripe Officer. In November 2005, Hough was chosen to be the first Princess Bandmaster to become the Musical Director onboard the Queen Mary 2 ocean liner which he said was "truly an honor". From November 1, 2005 to March 8, 2006, Hough sailed onboard QM2 to many exotic ports of call.

Onboard, Hough works closely with the Cruise Director scheduling live music in the daily program. Some of Hough's additional duties include being responsible for all of the musicians which is the largest part of the Entertainment Department, appraisals, safety instructions, uniform issue/collection, in-port-manning lists, cabin assignments, musical rehearsals, daily challenges, coordinating guest entertainer shows, organizing music, end of voyage reports, compiling work & rest hour records, equipment inventory lists, organizing music for Captain's parties, weddings, birthday parties, etc. and providing special music arrangements as required.

Some memorable moments for Hough include participating in the inaugural of 8 new cruise ships, being present for the historical rendezvous of the Queen Mary and Queen Mary 2 in Long Beach, California, meeting and performing with well known entertainers, being commissioned to write special inaugural music for the inaugural of the Emerald Princess introducing celebrities such as Gavin MacLeod ("Mr. Love Boat"), Florence Henderson ("Mrs. Brady Bunch") and Marion Ross ("Mrs. Happy Days") and then performing this music with his Orchestra on the top deck of the ship in Athens, Greece for the celebration, sailing from the Mediterranean into NY at sunrise while relaxing in a Jacuzzi on the bow, towering above the Statue of Liberty as the ship sails out of NY, passing through the Panama Canal on ships so wide that there is only two feet of clearance on either side, golfing on various Islands from the Caribbean to Alaska to Australia, playing Frisbee on the beaches of Hawaii, throwing the football on the beaches of Mexico, fishing and mountain hiking in Alaska, riding in a gondola, sailing out of Venice with the music of "Time To Say Goodbye" playing in the background, seeing the Roman Coliseum, standing before the Parthenon in Greece, enjoying the "world's largest miniature model train display" in Hamburg, ice skating at Rockefeller Center at Christmas time, spending a week in NY at the Hilton manning a Princess/Cunard Booth at the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) Convention, sailing on the Queen Victoria in a tandem transatlantic crossing along with the famous QE2 and participating in a historical rendezvous of 3 Queens with the Queen Mary 2 and Queen Elizabeth 2 while onboard the brand new Queen Victoria in NY on January 13, 2008.

While Hough has visited many places around the world entertaining countless numbers, he still considers Cambridge home. When asked by cruise passengers what he does for vacations, he proudly tells them that he heads to the vacation hot spot of the world, Cambridge, Ohio! Needless to say, those inquiring find it a bit odd to leave a cruise ship to take a vacation but obviously, they've never been to Cambridge!

Hough is very pleased that his abilities and sound have been requested through the years by numerous individuals in a wide variety of settings to participate on their recording projects. In addition, Hough has recorded two CDs on his own, **"Memories" on Sax** and **When Christmas is Near**.

So far, it's been smooth sailing for Hough and things are still full steam ahead!