

A Martinez Military Band had been organized in 1887. The Martinez Liberty Band was formed in 1910 with Rudulfo Kelley as its first director. The band practiced in the fire house. With a new director, Sabatino Bariettani, in 1919 the band's name was changed to the Martinez Municipal Band.

Charles Rice served as director from 1934 to 1938, and Jim Arnold from 1938 until the United States entered World War II, when the organization dissolved. After the war Bariettani revived the band and directed it until 1955. At that time James Olsson became the director. He changed the band into a marching unit, and it participated in community parades for the next few years.

When Bariettani again took charge of the band he renamed it the Martinez Community Band. In the 1980s Del Dalbien directed it in concerts in the park during the summer and at special events. A *News-Gazette* article dated Aug. 17, 1995 describes the band as having 50 members, "musicians from all over Contra Costa County as well as nearby Solano and Napa counties."

... And the band plays on.