



"The President's Own"
**UNITED STATES
 MARINE BAND**
 Colonel John R. Bourgeois, Director

NOTES

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Red Coats in Red Square - Marine Band Tours the Soviet Union



Colonel John R. Bourgeois conducts the Marine Band during the final Soviet tour concert at October Hall, the largest concert hall in Leningrad.

After flying 15 hours and crossing eight time zones, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band landed in the Soviet Union where it made history by becoming the first U.S. military band to tour the U.S.S.R. The 18-day tour which began February 6th brought Colonel John R. Bourgeois, Director of the band, and sixty-nine members of "The President's Own" to five major cities in the Soviet Union. The trip fulfilled the second part of the U.S. - Soviet Armed Forces Band Exchange which began with an East Coast concert tour January 12-29, by The First Independent Performing Orchestra of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Defense, the premier band of the Soviet Union. "It was a great honor for the Marine Band to represent our country in this exchange," Col. Bourgeois stated, "To understand the significance of this event, we must look at it not only as an exchange between two world powers - there have been a number of such exchanges in the past - but also to see the significance of a meeting between our two musical organizations."

During its tour, the Marine Band visited Moscow, Kiev, L'vov, Minsk and Leningrad and performed to full-house audiences in some of the Soviet Union's foremost concert halls.

Upon landing in Moscow the chill of the wind and snow was soon overcome by the cheering voices of the musicians of The First Independent Performing Orchestra of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Defense as they officially greeted the band with ceremonial music including the two countries' national anthems.

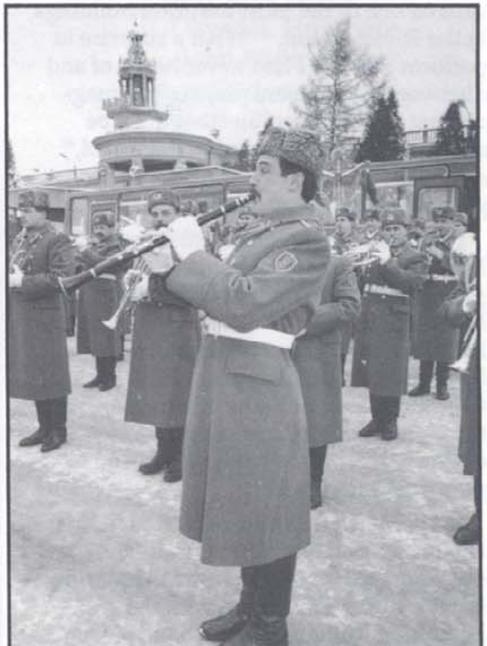
One of the tour's highlights was the Marine Band performance to an enthusiastic audience at Tchaikovsky Hall, Moscow's foremost concert hall. As with all performances, this concert began with the Soviet and the U.S. anthems followed by John Philip Sousa's march, "Hands Across the Sea." The program also included both Russian and American classics such as Glinka's "Russlan and Ludmilla" overture, and Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." The Marine Dixieland Band invariably brought the house down with "When the Saints Go Marchin' In" and "St. Louis Blues". At every concert, the audience continued to clap rhythmically (their signal that they wanted the band to keep playing) until the band performed encore selections. The crowd joined voices with the bandmembers as they sang the lyrics to the popular Russian song "Moscow Nights." A wave of applause and cheering swept the audiences as the band followed with "Farewell to a

Slavonic Woman," the official military march of the Soviet Union.

In addition, the Marine Band appeared at Moscow's Theater of the Soviet Armed Forces. The capacity audience was comprised of prominent members of the military and music communities including the Deputy Minister of Defense and the Chairman of the Council of Fine Arts in Soviet Armed Forces. "The best gift that the United States military could give to the Soviet military is the music of this wonderful Marine Band," said LtCol. Nikolay Ponomaryov, Chief of the Moscow Military District Band. The Marine Band was joined for the final selection, Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," by the First Independent Performing Orchestra of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Defense. Staff Sergeant John Hagstrom, a trumpet player, said, "It was amazing. We communicated so easily just by virtue of having the same job and the same love of music."

On the last evening in Moscow, the band was given one of many official receptions. At this event, General Major Nikolay Mikhaylov, Director of military bands in the Soviet Union, stated, "It has been such a pleasure to work with the band which I

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A Soviet band clarinetist performs a folk song as a farewell tribute during the band's departure from L'vov.



Marine Bandsman GySgt. Bill Zsembery bids farewell to a member of the Kiev Military District Soviet Band when the Marine Band left Kiev for L'vov.

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consider the world's best. My hope is that this exchange has opened the door to friendship between our countries forever. While the bands are playing, the guns are silent. Let us always live in peace."

From Moscow the band flew to Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine. There they played to a standing-room only audience at the 4,000-seat Ukrainian Concert Hall, one of the biggest in the Soviet Union.

After four days in Kiev the band moved on to L'vov, in western Ukraine. The band performed two nights at The L'vov State Theatre of Opera and Ballet, which is considered one of the most beautiful buildings in the Soviet Union. "What a surprise to perform in a city I had never heard of and discover that we were playing in a magnificent opera house, one that must be among the most beautiful in the world," said vocal soloist, Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Ryan.

From the Ukraine the band flew to Minsk, the capital of Byelorussia. The band performed to yet another enthusiastic full-house audience in Minsk's largest concert hall, The Great Concert Hall of the Byelorussian Philharmonic. Band librarian Gunnery Sergeant Kathy Allen said, "Sometimes the audience's response was so enthusiastic that the band was forced to play a selection twice!"

From Minsk the band moved to the last city on the itinerary: Leningrad. The concert highlight in this city was the Marine Band's joint performance with the Leningrad Military District Band at October Concert Hall, Leningrad's largest concert hall (4,000 capacity). The Marine Band and Soviet musicians opened the concert with their national anthems and

Sousa's "Hands Across the Sea." The Soviet and American musicians sat side by side under a backdrop made up of both nation's flags joined by a single olive branch and a musical lyre. Also featured on the program was the traditional American baritone horn solo, "Carnival of Venice." "My admiration for the soloist's performance changed to astonishment when I learned that he had had to transcribe the solo from a tape because he couldn't obtain the sheet music," said Staff Sergeant Michael Colburn, a Marine Band euphonium player.

In addition to its concert schedule, the band was given official guided tours of the major cultural and historic attractions in each city. Among these places were Moscow's Red Square and the Kremlin,

and the State Hermitage museum in Leningrad which contains over 3 million works of art, including the richest accumulation of paintings in the world. In each city the band was taken to memorial cemeteries and other monuments to those who died in World War II, known in the Soviet Union as The Great Patriotic War. Colonel Bourgeois placed wreaths and flowers at these places in memoriam.

On February 23rd the Marine Band members bid farewell to their Soviet friends and began the long trip back to the U.S. "Traveling through the Soviet Union and meeting and performing with musicians there is an experience we will never forget," said Col. Bourgeois looking back at the historic tour. "In my 32 years with the Marine Band, nothing has touched me more deeply than the friendships we have established through this musical exchange between the two countries."

*Story by SSgt. Nancy S. Colburn.
Photos by MSgt. Andrew R. Linden.*

Band Member News

RECENT REENLISTMENTS - String Bassist Staff Sergeant Peter S. Berquist of Clarence, NY, for two years . . . Tubist Master Gunnery Sergeant Ronald L. Haney of Dearborn, MI, for two years . . . Flutist Master Gunnery Sergeant Leslie L. Hunt III of Dallas, TX, for two years . . . Harpist Master Sergeant Phyllis A. Mauney of Oberlin, OH, for two years . . . Trumpeter Staff Sergeant Michael R. Montgomery of Logan, OH, for four years.

OTHER NEWS - Colonel John R. Bourgeois was recently honored with the Academy of Wind and Percussion Artists Award of the National Band Association.



Col. Bourgeois places a wreath at Monument to the Heroic Defenders of Leningrad, a memorial to Soviets who perished in WWII during the 900-day siege of the city.

APRIL SHOWCASE CONCERT SERIES

These Showcase Series performances are held on Sundays at 3 p.m. in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall located at Marine Barracks, 8th and I Sts., S.E., Washington, D.C. The concerts are free and no tickets are required. All programs are subject to change.

April 1: U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra, First Lieutenant Dennis R. Burian, conducting

Overture to *The Abduction from the Seraglio* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Concerto in C for Flute and Harp, K. 299 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Kathryn Diener, flute
Phyllis Mauney, harp

Symphony No. 6 in F, Opus 68, *Pastorale* Ludwig van Beethoven

April 8: U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra

Concerto in D for Three Violins, BWV 1064 Johann Sebastian Bach
Kim Miller, Celeste Blase, Stephanie Ashcraft, soloists

Acht Stücke, Op. 44 III Paul Hindemith
Dances Sacrée et Profane (1904) Claude Debussy

Phyllis Mauney, harp soloist

Two Norwegian Airs, Op. 63 Edvard Grieg
African Suite Fela Sowande

April 15: U.S. Marine Band, Colonel John R. Bourgeois, conducting

March, "Power and Glory" John Philip Sousa*
Russian Easter Overture, Op. 36 Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov

trans. by George Miller

"Good Friday Spell" from *Parsifal* Richard Wagner

trans. by Dan Godfrey

Intermezzo Sinfonico from *Cavalleria Rusticana* Pietro Mascagni

trans. by O. Brinkmann

"Deathtree" from *A Passion Cantata for Band* David R. Holsinger

"Easter Monday on the White House Lawn" John Philip Sousa*

Aria, "The Trumpet Shall Sound" from *Messiah* George Frideric Handel
trans. by Thomas Knox*

Michael Ryan, Baritone
J. Carlton Rowe, trumpet

The Pines of Rome Ottorino Respighi
trans. by Guy M. Duker

Michael Ryan, Concert Moderator

April 22: U.S. Marine Chamber Ensembles

Histoire du Soldat Igor Stravinsky

Celeste Blase, violin; Lisa Mitchell, clarinet; Roger Kantner, bassoon
Steven Matera, cornet; Bryan Bourne, trombone; Stephen Searfoss, percussion
Lloyd McKinney, contrabass

Nancy Colburn, Narrator
Andrew Schuller, Soldier
Frank Byrne, Devil
Michael Colburn, Conductor

The remainder of this program is TBA

--More--

April programs continued

April 29: U.S. Marine Band, First Lieutenant Dennis R. Burian, conducting

March, "Powhatan's Daughter" John Philip Sousa*
Overture to *The Bronze Horse* Daniel-François Auber
trans. by Frank Winterbottom
Tuba Concerto Edward Gregson

1. Allegro deciso

Ronald Haney, soloist

"Music for Prague 1968" Karel Husa
March, "Jubilee" Edwin Franko Goldman
Symphonic Dance No. 3, "Fiesta" Clifton Williams
Concertino for Clarinet, Op. 26 Carl Maria von Weber
trans. by Mayhew L. Lake

Barbara Haney, soloist

Selections from *Oliver* Lionel Bart
arr. by Norman Leyden
Aria, "Nemico della Patria" from *Andrea Chénier* Umberto Giordano
trans. by William C. Jolly*

Michael Ryan, Baritone

Overture to *The Silken Ladder* Gioachino Rossini
trans. by T. Conway Brown

Michael Ryan, Concert Moderator

*Member U.S. Marine Band
