



"The President's Own"

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER
1987

UNITED STATES MARINE BAND NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED FOR FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

MARINE BAND ACQUIRES MAJOR SOUSA COLLECTION

The music library of "The President's Own" has acquired a major collection of manuscripts, papers and personal items of its former Director, the legendary bandmaster and composer, John Philip Sousa. His grandson, John Philip Sousa III, presented the collection to the band on behalf of the Sousa family. The items in this collection have already been catalogued and include music scores, music reference books, photos, uniforms and personal clothing, personal correspondence, medals and trophies. Music scores include the original manuscripts to Sousa marches and other works by Sousa, all of which are in his hand. The collection also contains a number of original librettos of Sousa operettas with Sousa's editorial markings.

The gems of the collection are the press and program books of Sousa's civilian band - scrapbooks chronicling the period of September 1892 through December 1930. The newspaper clippings and concert programs are an invaluable record of the history of the Sousa Band and have been the subject of research and study by many scholars.

This acquisition compliments the Sousa/Grabel collection, already held by the Marine Band, which includes the only remaining portion of the early Sousa Band Library and contains at least 30 original compositions and arrangements by Sousa, all copied in his manuscript. The entire Sousa Band Library was divided into approximately five sections, two of which are owned by the Marine Band. Other Sousa materials in the Marine Band collections include those of former Sousa Band members Frank Simon, Walter F. Smith, John Heney, Rudolph Becker and Clyde Hall.

These collections and other resource materials will be made available to researchers by prior appointment with the U.S. Marine Band Library. To make an appointment to use the band's research facilities, please write: MGySgt Frank Byrne, Chief Librarian, U.S. Marine Band, 8th and I Streets, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20390.

FOR MARINE BAND CONCERT INFORMATION CALL (202) 433-4011

MARINE BAND PERFORMS FOR RETIREMENT OF COMMANDANT OF MARINE CORPS

In his June 26th farewell address to the members of "The President's Own," Marine Commandant General Paul X. Kelley called the Marine Band one of the Corps' most precious institutions. "What you do for our spirit, history and inspiration is beyond any adjectives," Kelley told the Band's 143 men and women gathered in Sousa Band Hall. "There is no band that can compare with 'The President's Own'" added Kelley, who retired after 37 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, the last four as its Commandant.

Marine Band Director Colonel John Bourgeois made General Kelley an honorary member of the U.S. Marine Band and invited him to conduct the Band in Sousa's "Semper Fidelis," the official march of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Colonel Bourgeois saluted General Kelley for his continued support of the Marine Band. "It is through your stewardship that the Band has truly become an international ambassador," Bourgeois said, referring to the full band's first trips abroad during Kelley's tenure. In 1985 the band performed in Rotterdam, Holland and in 1986 in Dublin, Ireland. "And due to your leadership," Bourgeois continued, "our national tours will now be presented as a public service," referring to the fact that the band's 1987 concert tour will be presented on an admission-free basis.

The Marine Band also performed during Kelley's official retirement ceremony at Marine Barracks June 28. The musicians serenaded their departing Commandant and honored guests Vice President George Bush, Secretary of the Navy James Webb and the newly appointed Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Alfred Gray.

MARINE BAND PERFORMED FOR CONSTITUTION CENTENNIAL IN 1887

This year marks the Bicentennial of our nation's Constitution, a fact which is being celebrated with numerous events in cities all over the United States. As we prepare to celebrate the Constitution Bicentennial, we remember the Marine Band's participation in the ceremonies 100 years ago. John Philip Sousa led the Marine Band in "The Great Parade" which the Philadelphia Inquirer described as follows: "All eyes were centered on the first Division, headed by the U.S. Marine Band, having in its wake the emblematical car, handsomely draped, drawn by six horses and bearing the grand banner representing

(continued)

CONSTITUTION CENTENNIAL OF 1887 (continued)

Columbia in classic form in blue draping, pointing to the past with one hand, while with the other she indicated the moral and mechanical progress of the present age." That the Marine Band was at the Constitution's centennial celebration is not surprising; the band has taken part in numerous historic occasions since its founding in 1798, which occurred in Philadelphia (then the nation's capital) when President John Adams signed the Act of Congress establishing the U.S. Marine Band. When the capital was moved to Washington in 1800, the Marines, designated as "Presidential Troops," relocated too. The band camped on a hill overlooking the Potomac River and gave its first public performance in Washington on August 21, 1800. In 1801 the band moved to its present home at Marine Barracks, 8th and I Sts, S.E.

JAZZ COMBO CONCERTS IN AUGUST

The Marine Band's Jazz Combo will present two public performances in August. Both are lunch time concerts designed to attract both Washingtonians and tourists alike. On August 4th, the Jazz Combo will perform in the Pentagon Center Court. On August 17th, the Combo will appear at the National Air and Space Museum on the Mall. Both concerts are scheduled for 12 noon until 1:00 p.m., no tickets are required and the public is invited to attend.

SUMMER SCHEDULE COMES TO A CLOSE

The Marine Band's popular Summer Concert Series will come to a close on Sunday, August 30th when the band gives its final outdoor concert of the year at the Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument grounds. The popular Friday Evening Parades at Marine Barracks are not far behind in scheduling their final parade for Friday, September 4th.

The good news is that you have the full month of August to attend these concerts and other summer events by "The President's Own." As always, our concert information line lists weekly concert programs and other events at (202) 433-4011. Those wishing to attend the Friday Evening Parades at Marine Barracks should make reservations three weeks in advance by calling (202) 433-6060. Marine Band performances are free and open to the public but reservations are required for the popular Friday Evening Parades.

MARINE BAND TO TOUR MIDWEST & NORTHWESTERN STATES DURING FALL TOUR

When the Marine Band departs Washington to present its annual tour this fall, it will be the first admission-free tour in the band's history - a new concept in Marine Band touring which allows the Band to appear as a public service to the American people.

The Marine Band will leave the nation's capital September 23rd to tour the nation's heartland. Travelling over 6,000 miles, playing 53 concerts in 49 days, the Marine Band will visit 13 states in the midwestern and northwestern U.S.: West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

A complete schedule of the band's tour appearances, with concert locations, times and local sponsors will be sent to everyone on our Newsletter mailing list within the next month. As previously mentioned, all concerts will be admission-free but will require tickets to guarantee a seat. In most cases, those interested in attending the tour concerts will obtain tickets from the local sponsor, often by mail. Complete information for obtaining tickets will be included in the tour schedule.

Colonel John R. Bourgeois has selected a varied program of soloists, Sousa marches, popular and classic selections and a salute to the Bicentennial of the Constitution. The Marine Band has been touring since 1891 when John Philip Sousa took the band on its first national tour. With the new concept of admission-free tour concerts being initiated this year, we look forward to welcoming even more Americans to enjoy tour performances by "The President's Own."

THE GREATEST BANDS IN THE LAND

In a previous newsletter we mentioned about upcoming service band concerts on National Public Radio. The series is now a reality and has been given the title "The Greatest Bands in the Land." Each of the major service bands of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines will present weekly one-hour concerts. Each band will present 8 to 10 concerts during the series and the Marine Band's first set of 4 broadcast concerts are scheduled to be aired in November. Although the series is being offered to all NPR stations, each local station makes the decision whether or not to carry it. We encourage you to check with your local NPR affiliate about "The Greatest Bands in the Land" and to support its broadcast in your area with calls & letters.