



"The President's Own"

UNITED STATES MARINE BAND NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1984 thru
JAN & FEB of 1985

PUBLISHED FOR FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

Dear Friend of the Marine Band:

As 1984 draws to a close and we prepare to begin another year of recitals and concerts, we would like to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your devoted interest in the Marine Band. We have an exciting and entertaining schedule of events planned for 1985 and hope you will join us often. Until then, our best wishes to you and your families for a Happy Holiday Season and New Year.

The Marine Band Public Affairs Staff

The Directors, men and women of the
United States Marine Band, "The President's Own"
cordially invite you to share in the annual

Carols at Wolf Trap

Sunday December 9, 1984

Filene Center, Wolf Trap Farm Park

Prelude Concert begins at 4 o'clock pm.

Join us in this joyous expression of the Christmas spirit

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

AUDIENCES APPLAUD 1984 CONCERT TOUR

After 48 days, 80 concerts and thousands of miles by bus, the Marine Band returned from our annual fall concert tour on Saturday, October 27th. Even though the seven-week tours are demanding and tiring, we can be assured that this year's tour band had it a little easier than when our first concert tour took place in 1891 under John Philip Sousa. Sousa had been trying to convince authorities that he should be allowed to take the Band on an extended tour but he ran into many bureaucratic problems. Someone suggested that he take it up directly with the President but Sousa, brilliant politician that he was, spoke first to Mrs. Harrison and President Harrison soon gave approval for our very first extended tour. In fact, President Harrison was so enthusiastic about the idea that he passed cigars to every man before their departure. -The 1984 tour took the Band through the Midwest, with concerts in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. In order to cover all that territory, the Band plays in a different town every day, with two concerts on weekdays and usually only one per day on weekends. Conducting this year were Col. John Bourgeois and Captain Timothy Foley. Captain Foley conducted the Matinee concerts which were designed for young people, who make up the largest part of matinee audiences. Captain Foley chose music from Sousa to Grainger with 4 soloists on each concert: Marimba soloist John Beck, Euphonium soloist Roger Oyster, Piccolo soloist Gail Bowlin and our Baritone vocalist Michael Ryan. Colonel Bourgeois' program featured two new band compositions commissioned by the Marine Band from Robert Jager and Claude T. Smith, Nielsen's overture "Masquerade," 4 Sousa marches, the Prologue to "I Pagliacci" and Mark Hindsley's transcription of Mussorgsky's dramatic "Pictures at an Exhibition."

Standing ovations and packed houses were the order of the day on this year's tour as thousands took advantage of the opportunity to hear the Marine Band in their home town. Concert reviews included comments such as "It is hard to imagine a more precise, more energetic more exciting concert band anywhere in the world" from the Des Moines, Iowa Register to "A splendid organization, immaculately rehearsed" from the Cedar Rapids Gazette. Next year's tour will take the Band to the West Coast, with concerts all along the way to the Pacific. Future issues of the Newsletter will contain further tour information as it becomes available.

CHILDREN'S CONCERTS AT SOUSA BAND HALL

While the tour band was out on the road, Major Erwin and the "home guard" band presented a series of 16 children's concerts for area elementary school children. This is an annual tradition for the Marine Band and we take this opportunity each fall to invite hundreds of children to visit Sousa Band Hall here at Marine Barracks. Major Erwin presented an hour-long concert which demonstrated each of the instrumental families in the Band and interspersed the music with an entertaining narrative about the history of the Marine Band and about the various instruments. The children were encouraged to participate in the program and were given the opportunity to clap, sing and several children at each concert were chosen to conduct the Band. Judging from the response from teachers and students alike, Major Erwin and the Band earned an "A+" for an outstanding series of children's concerts.

MARINE BAND CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

For the fifth consecutive year, the Marine Band will present our annual Chamber Music Series at the Coolidge Auditorium, Library of Congress, located at 1st Street between East Capitol and Independence Avenue, S.E. in Washington. We are extremely fortunate to have this opportunity to perform in one of the finest chamber music halls in the United States and we have chosen a wide variety of instrumental soloists and chamber ensembles, including music by Bach, Bliss, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Martinu, Rossini, Kurka, Schubert, Tippett, Ravel, Varese, Dahl, Beethoven and others. Concerts will be presented Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. during January and February. (Please note there will be NO CONCERT on January 20th due to White House commitments) These concerts are free and no tickets are required. Street parking is available on Sundays or ride METRO to the Capitol South Station. Weekly concert programs will be on our concert information tape at 433-4011 beginning in January. Plan to join us Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

BAND CONCERT SERIES IN APRIL AND MAY

Just a reminder that our Spring Band Concert Series will begin the first week in April and will continue through the last week in May. Concerts will be held in the Sousa Band Hall at Marine Barracks on Sundays at 3:00 p.m. More details in the next issue.

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION APPROACHES

Here's one for your trivia fans: What do Thomas Jefferson and Ronald Reagan have in common? Well, one thing is that both Presidents took their oaths of office accompanied by the music of the U.S. Marine Band. The Marine Band made its White House debut on New Year's Day of 1801 for President John Adams and in March of that year we performed for the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson. Since that time, we have performed for every Presidential inauguration and Jefferson himself, who is often called the "godfather" of the Marine Band, gave us the title of "The President's Own." Since January 20th, the official inauguration day, falls on a Sunday, we expect that there will be a private swearing-in ceremony on Sunday with the public ceremony at the Capitol on Monday, January 21st. The Marine Band will take its traditional place in front of the President's rostrum at the Capitol building and will later march in the inaugural parade. The Marine Band will play a short prelude concert before the ceremony begins and then will render appropriate honors as the dignitaries arrive. There may be featured music by the Band during the ceremony so we encourage all of you to stay close to your televisions for this historic event. Various ensembles from the Marine Band will also be very busy with other inaugural events including White House receptions and inaugural balls. (It has been reported that Frank Sinatra will sing the National Anthem at the inauguration so we are looking forward to another opportunity to work with him. Please stay tuned!)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

*Orchestra Series in the Sousa Band Hall- each Sunday in March at 3:00 p.m., 8th and Eye Streets, S.E., take METRO to Eastern Market.

*Gala Concerts at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on April 2, 1985 and at Meyerhoff Hall in Baltimore on April 3, 1985.

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS OR RELATIVES WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE ON OUR MARINE BAND MAILING LIST? THEY WILL RECEIVE OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, ADVANCE LISTINGS OF CONCERT PROGRAMS, UPCOMING CONCERT SERIES AND SPECIAL TRIPS OR TOURS YEAR ROUND. THERE IS NO CHARGE TO BE ADDED TO OUR "FRIENDS OF THE MARINE BAND" MAILING LIST AND IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED, PLEASE WRITE TO THE MARINE BAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, MARINE BARRACKS, 8TH AND EYE STREETS, S.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20390