



"The President's Own"

UNITED STATES MARINE BAND NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1986
JANUARY 1987

PUBLISHED FOR FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

TOUR BAND RETURNS HOME

October 31 was a big day for dozens of Marine Band families. It was on this day that the tour band returned home from seven weeks on the road. A warm welcome awaited the musicians, as spouses and children gathered in the parking lot eager for the sight of those two buses carrying their loved ones home.

This year's tour was a big success. The Marine Band had a welcome taste of real southern hospitality, as they headed down the eastern seaboard to Florida. After two weeks in the Sunshine State the Band headed across the gulf coast to Mississippi and Alabama, and then through Georgia, Tennessee, the Carolinas and played their final concert in Richmond, Virginia.

All of us back in Washington on "home guard" are very happy to see our colleagues return home. We hope you join us in extending a Marine Band "Well done!" to our touring comrades.

MARINE BAND PREPARES FOR IRELAND CONCERT

Final plans are now being made for the Marine Band's second overseas appearance, and our debut in Dublin, Ireland. Our press deadline prevents a detailed report on the concert in this issue, so we will include an update with our December program notices. The program has been selected, and will include Berlioz' stunning overture "Benvenuto Cellini" in a spectacular rendition. Designed to showcase the virtuosity of the Marine Band, the program also include Dvorak's "Scherzo Capriccioso" transcribed by the Marine Band's Thomas Knox. We will be offering a healthy serving of Sousa to our Irish friends, in Colonel Bourgeois' own parade of Sousa marches entitled "Marching Along." There's more, of course, with Mike Ryan singing Steve Bulla's "Man of La Mancha" scenario, and Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever." All of us in the Marine Band are looking forward to an exciting concert.

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

MARINE BAND PERFORMS FOR CAROLS AT WOLFTRAP

The holiday season is upon us and once again the Marine Band will present its annual performance at Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Virginia. One of the highlights of Christmas in Washington, the day begins at 4:00 p.m. with a prelude concert by the Marine Band under the direction of Col. John Bourgeois. The prelude concert will include favorite Christmas selections by Leroy Anderson, Tchaikovsky, Georges Bizet and much more. Next comes the singing of carols by the audience and assembled choirs from local churches, schools and community groups. With the Marine Band providing the accompaniment, the Filene Center resounds with thousands of voices joined in the favorite carols of Christmas. The day ends with a rousing performance of the "Hallelujah Chorus" from George Frideric Handel's "Messiah" and the singing of "Silent Night" as everyone bundles up and heads for home. If you have never attended this special event, we invite you to mark Sunday, December 7th on your calendars. This is an event for the entire family and there is no admission charge. Plan to arrive early for ease in parking and seating. **Carols at WolfTrap- Sunday, December 7th- Prelude Concert by the Marine Band begins at 4:00 p.m.- no tickets are needed.**

MARINE BAND PERCUSSIONISTS FEATURED

Marine Band musicians are used to being in the spotlight as a group and as soloists. But occasionally individual sections of the Band are in the spotlight for special events and clinics. This happened most recently on November 4th when three members of our percussion section and Major Timothy Foley joined forces to present a clinic on Sousa march interpretation for the 1986 Percussive Arts Society International Convention which was held in Washington, D.C. The clinic focused on historic Marine Band performance traditions and well-researched recreations of how Sousa's Band actually performed the percussion parts in his marches. Jeff Gilliam, John R. Beck and Andy Linden performed excerpts from several Sousa marches and demonstrated the differences between the printed music and the subtle effects which were a trademark of the Sousa Band. This tradition has been carried on by the Marine Band and it is often the special effects produced by the percussion section which add excitement and drive to Marine Band march performances. Major Foley hopes that by sharing this information with the members of the Percussive Arts Society many more people will become interested in researching this important part of band performance tradition and will keep it alive in bands throughout the country.

PREMIER MUSICIANS ITZHAK PERLMAN AND YO-YO MA JOIN
MARINE STRING QUARTET AT THE WHITE HOUSE

For members of "The President's Own" United States Marine Orchestra, it began as just another performance at the White House.... The Marine String Quartet was playing for a reception following a piano recital by Vladimir Horowitz October 5 in the executive mansion's East Room. Then, two White House guests requested a change in personnel -- violinist Itzhak Perlman asked to use Gunnery Sgt. Kim Miller's violin and cellist Yo-Yo Ma borrowed Staff Sgt. Kevin Kosty's cello. The impromptu performance that followed -- two movements from Mozart Quartets -- was exciting for both guests and the White House musicians. "There was an electrifying excitement in the air. We were performing with people who are among the best in their field," Marine violist Staff Sgt. Sue Franke said following the performance. "It was one of those times you try to play the best you've ever played."

MARINE BAND WELCOMES NEW CORNETIST

Staff Sgt. Andrew Schuller is the newest member of "The President's Own." Andrew is a native of Salem Ohio and a graduate of Youngstown State University where he studied with Esotto Pellegrini and Robert Fleming. His professional experience includes nine years with the Western Reserve Brass Quintet and the Warren Ohio Chamber Orchestra. Schuller also performed for seven years with the Youngstown Symphony.

MARINE BAND CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES BEGINS

"The President's Own" begins its seventh annual Chamber Music Series on Sunday, January 4, 1987, at 3:00 P.M. in Coolidge Auditorium at the Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington D.C. The series will continue through February 22. This series offers the public the opportunity to hear members of the Band in a variety of chamber music formats. This year's programs include a diverse range of music, from unaccompanied flute to twelve-voice clarinet choir. Featured selections include the Brahms Trio for horn, violin, and piano; Rodrigo's Fantasia Para un Gentilhombre for flute and harp; Claude Bolling's Suite for Violin and Jazz Piano, and Stravinsky's L'Histoire du Soldat. Each week's program is selected and directed by a different member of the Marine Band. Generally eclectic, the programs showcase all the different sections of the Band. The entire series is under the supervision of Major Timothy Foley. Admission is free and no tickets are required.

MARINE BAND HAILS THE REDSKINS

Two Washington institutions came together in Robert F. Kennedy Stadium on Sunday, November 23rd when the Marine Band performed on the 50-yard line for a salute to the Washington Redskins. This rare gridiron appearance by "The President's Own" was in celebration of the Redskins' 50th anniversary. The Band presented a special half-time concert of music highlighting the last 25 years of the team's history and a tribute to Barney Breeskin, composer of "Hail to the Redskins."

NEW BOOK TRACES HISTORY OF MUSIC AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Over eleven years of exhaustive research have culminated in the publication of Music at the White House: A History of the American Spirit by Dr. Elise K. Kirk. This remarkable book chronicles White House ceremonial traditions and command performances as well as the cultural interests of our presidents and first ladies from George Washington to Ronald Reagan. Of particular interest to our readers, this book contains an incredible wealth of information about the Marine Band and its role as "The President's Own." Dr. Kirk's research has yielded facts new to us and has uncovered clear documentation of other events known only through tradition. Music at the White House is a handsome volume of 496 pages and is illustrated with 25 full-color and 136 black & white illustrations. The Marine Band is abundantly represented in a number of the illustrations and throughout the text. In fact, the index contains over one full page of references to the U.S. Marine Band! Dr. Kirk conducted a great deal of her research here in Washington and made extensive use of our archives in her work. Music at the White House by Elise K. Kirk is published by the University of Illinois Press, ISBN 01233-X

**VISIT THE U.S. MARINE BAND BOOTH (#301) AT THE 1980 MID-WEST
INTERNATIONAL BAND & ORCHESTRA CLINIC, DEC.17-19, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS OR RELATIVES WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE ON OUR MARINE BAND MAILING LIST? THEY'LL RECEIVE OUR BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, ADVANCE LISTINGS OF CONCERT PROGRAMS, FORTHCOMING CONCERT SERIES AND SPECIAL TRIPS OR TOURS YEAR ROUND. THERE'S NO CHARGE TO BE ADDED TO OUR "FRIENDS OF THE MARINE BAND" MAILING LIST AND IF YOU'D 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.