



# *"The President's Own"* UNITED STATES MARINE BAND NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 1987—JANUARY, 1988

## 1987 CONCERT TOUR MAKES HISTORY

For the first time since John Philip Sousa took the Marine Band on tour in 1891, our tour concerts in 1987 were presented to the public without admission charge. The public seems pleased, and the band played to packed houses at every stop along the road. People throughout the mid-west enjoyed a program of marches, overtures, solos and even a bit of Broadway, as baritone vocalist Michael Ryan presented his one-man show "The Music Man."

National Tour Director John G. Potochney was particularly pleased with the response to the Marine Band's first admission-free concert tour. "We've received literally hundreds of letters," said Potochney. "People have taken the time to say thank you for the opportunity to bring the entire family to our performances, something they might not have been able to afford if they had had to buy expensive concert tickets."

Seven weeks on the road took the band through fourteen states and more than six thousand miles. More than 100,000 people attended the band's 53 performances. Good weather stayed with them through mountain passes in Wyoming and Montana, and beautiful autumn foliage was in full display when they left the great plains for Wisconsin and Michigan. It goes without saying that spouses and children were delighted to see them return. Plans are already underway for the 1988 tour which will take

the Marine Band to the mid-Atlantic and New England states.

## CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS SCHEDULED FOR COOLIDGE AUDITORIUM

For the eighth consecutive year, "The President's Own" will be presenting chamber music concerts in the Coolidge Auditorium located at the Library of Congress. These concerts will feature Marine Band musicians in small ensemble and solo settings, performing works dating from the baroque era to the present day. Each concert is coordinated by a different member of the band, and quite a variety of ensembles will be represented, from a woodwind quintet to a Dixieland band. The series begins on January 10th with a program of music for woodwind quintet and other ensembles, all coordinated by MSgt Tom Fox. Concerts continue each Sunday afternoon at 3:00 P.M. through February 28th. The auditorium is located in the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress at First Street and Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. The entire series is under the direction of Marine Band Assistant Director Major Timothy Foley. Admission is free and no tickets are required. Limited parking is available on the street, or take the Metro Blue and Orange Lines to the Capitol South Station and walk one block north.

## MARINE BAND CHILDREN'S CONCERTS

The Marine Band mixed entertainment with education as it per-

formed for thousands of area youngsters in a series of concerts in Sousa Band Hall at Marine Barracks. Marine Band Assistant Director LtCol Charles P. Erwin put together a fast-paced program for the elementary school children, approximately five thousand of whom traveled by bus to Washington for fifteen performances. The concert band was assisted by a jazz combo, a string quartet, and a woodwind quintet, as well as several fine soloists as LtCol Erwin introduced the young audiences to the various families of instruments. A highlight of each program involved a bit of audience participation, as LtCol Erwin selected several youngsters to join the Marine musicians on stage as "guest percussionists."

The Marine Band continues to perform for area youngsters in January and February, as the popular "Music in the Schools" series begins. Three ensembles from the Marine Band will perform on location at various elementary schools throughout the area. The brass quintet, the woodwind quintet, and string quartet will introduce grade school children to the sounds and history of musical instruments. This has been a popular series with the Marine musicians as well as the youngsters.

## SOUSA CONCERT AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

On Friday, September 11th, the Marine Band presented a special outdoor Sousa concert on the Neptune Plaza of the Library of

VISIT THE U.S. MARINE BAND BOOTH (#200) AT THE MID-WEST INTERNATIONAL BAND AND ORCHESTRA CLINIC, DECEMBER 15 -19, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Congress's Jefferson Building. The concert was in celebration of the donations to the U.S. Marine Band and the Library of Congress of important collections of Sousa music and memorabilia by the Sousa family.

In his last official act as Librarian of Congress, Dr. Daniel Boorstin commented on the importance of Sousa's music to our nation and publicly thanked John Philip Sousa III, grandson of the composer, for his efforts to bring about these donations. Both the Library of Congress and the U.S. Marine Band have had Sousa materials on deposit for several years but the final steps in the formal donation process have only recently been completed.

LtCol Charles P. Erwin, Assistant Director of the Marine Band, conducted an entire program of music by "The March King" in a salute to the Marine Band's former director. In a varied representation of Sousa's music, LtCol Erwin conducted the band in Sousa's "Presidential Polonaise," the song "I've Made My Plans for the Summer," two suites for band: "Tales of a Traveler" and "Leaves From My Notebook," the "Reine de la Mer" waltzes and, of course, Sousa marches to include "America First," "The Glory of the Yankee Navy," "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine," and "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

The Marine Band's collections of Sousa memorabilia and other resource materials are 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. 20390-5000.

### MARINE BAND SALUTES "THE MUSIC MAN" AT THE WHITE HOUSE

The White House south lawn became the scene for food, fun and fireworks when the President and Mrs. Reagan presented a picnic for members of Congress on the evening of September 22nd. After a one-day postponement because of temperamental summer weather, Washington skies cleared for one of the fall's most beautiful evenings.

The theme of the evening, a tribute to Meredith Willson, featured "The President's Own" under the direction of Colonel John Bourgeois in a program which centered around music from Willson's Broadway hit, "The Music Man." The Marine Band was positioned on a specially-constructed stage which placed part of the band on the south balcony and the other members of the band on a raised platform which reached up to the balcony.

Michael Ryan, the band's baritone vocalist, narrated and sang Marine Band arranger Stephen Bulla's skillful setting of scenes from "The Music Man." The band closed the concert with a dramatic adaptation which linked "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and the National Anthem while a spectacular fireworks display lit up the sky.

A native of Mason City, Iowa, Meredith Willson drew upon his own experience as a town band musician and, later, flutist in Sousa's Band, in creating the character of Professor Harold Hill, the traveling bandmaster of the Broadway show. Mrs. Meredith Willson, widow of the composer, was on hand for the picnic and both she and the president thanked Colonel Bourgeois and the Marine Band for an evening of music which will not be soon forgotten.

CONCERT INFORMATION  
(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 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 6th on your calendars. This is an event for the entire family. There is no admission charge and tickets are not needed.

*There's no charge to be added to our "Friends of the Marine Band" mailing list and if you'd like to receive our bi-monthly Newsletter, advance listings of concert programs, forthcoming concert series and special trips or tours year round, please write to:*

*Marine Band Public Affairs  
Marine Barracks  
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