



*"The President's Own"*

FEBRUARY-MARCH  
1987

# UNITED STATES MARINE BAND NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED FOR FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

## MARINE BAND SHOWCASE SERIES PREMIERES MARCH 1ST

Colonel John Bourgeois, Director of the U.S. Marine Band announces a new Marine Band concert series which will be held in Sousa Band Hall on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. through May 31st. The new "Showcase Series" will replace the Spring Concert Series format of the past several years and will feature Band and Chamber Orchestra concerts as well as additional concerts by our Dixieland Band, Dance Band, String Orchestra and Percussion Ensemble. Each month of the "Showcase Series" will have concerts by one or more of these ensembles, with a continued emphasis on the popular indoor Band concerts.

The new "Showcase Series" will provide audiences an opportunity to hear other performing ensembles from the Marine Band which are regularly featured at the White House and other events but not often in full concert performances. This promises to be the most varied and interesting spring series presented in our history and we hope you will plan to attend these concerts. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. and due to limited seating we recommend you arrive early. Street parking is available on Sundays or ride METRO to the Eastern Market station and walk three blocks South on 8th Street to Marine Barracks. No tickets are required for these free concerts. Weekly concert information will be available on our concert information line at (202) 433-4011.

**MARINE BAND SHOWCASE SERIES- Sundays at 3:00 p.m., March 1st through May 31st, John Philip Sousa Band Hall, 8th and I Streets, S.E., Washington, D.C.**

## CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES CONTINUES AT COOLIDGE AUDITORIUM

Our eighth annual Chamber Music Series continues each Sunday at 3:00 p.m. through February 22nd. The concerts are presented in the Library of Congress's **Coolidge Auditorium** at First Street between East Capitol and Independence Avenue, Southeast, in Washington. The concerts are free and no tickets are required.

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

### MARINE BAND WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Two musicians joined the ranks of "The President's Own" in January. They are euphoniumist Donald J. Palmire, Jr., and percussionist Donald A. Spinelli. Palmire comes to us from the University of South Florida, where he was a student of Don Kneeburg. Palmire served one enlistment as principal euphoniumist with the Marine field band at Parris Island Recruit Depot. He left the Corps to attend college, but his return to the Corps to join the U.S. Marine Band is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream.

Percussionist Donald Spinelli was born in Japan, and has resided in quite a few cities around the world, but considers Pittsburgh his home town. Spinelli earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Rice University in Houston, where he studied with Richard Brown. For the last six years he has been a free-lance musician. He was a member of the Houston Ballet Orchestra, the Houston Pops, and the Texas Chamber Orchestra.

### MARINE BAND TO PERFORM AT ABA IN KNOXVILLE

The United States Marine Band will present a concert in Knoxville, Tennessee, as part of the 1987 convention of the American Bandmasters Association. The concert is free and open to the public, and will take place at Knoxville Civic Auditorium, at 8:00 P.M., on Friday, March 27.

### JOHN POTOCHNEY SELECTED AS NATIONAL TOUR DIRECTOR

John G. Potochney has joined the staff of Headquarters Marine Corps as the Marine Band's National Tour Director. John recently retired from the United States Army after a distinguished career with the U.S. Army Field Band. He joined the Field Band in 1953, and since 1973, served as Tour Director for the Field Band. Under John's management, the various components of the Field Band have traveled throughout all fifty states and many nations around the world.

The 1987 tour of the U.S. Marine Band will be the first tour in which concerts will be offered to the public on an admission-free basis. Working closely with John Potochney, the Band will continue to appear each fall in designated areas of the country. The tours will be sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps, in cooperation with local community organizations. Mr. Potochney will be happy to provide detailed information about the Marine Band's tour itinerary for 1987. He can explain requirements for sponsoring a tour appearance by "The President's Own." His telephone number is (202) 433-5812.

### ...AND BIDS FAREWELL TO TWO VETERANS

David L. Welker has been a member of of the Marine Band for thirty-two years. During the course of his career he has played for seven Presidents of the United States, nine Commandants of the Marine Corps, and four directors of the Marine Band. A native of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, he joined the Marine Band in 1955. David has participated in twenty-three National Concert Tours with the Band, traveling to every state in the Continental United States. Since 1956 David has been the Marine Band's principal bass clarinetist, and has served as woodwind section commander since 1976. David received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, where he studied with Harold Wright, and is continuing graduate studies there. Married, he has five children, and two grandchildren.

Lucas Spiros has been the Marine Band's principal euphoniumist for thirteen years. He first enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1963, and went through recruit training at Parris Island. His Marine Corps experience includes stints as a radio operator, and as a sentry at Portsmouth Naval Prison. His musical talent came to the fore when he joined the Second Marine Division Band at Camp Lejeune. Discharged from the Marine Corps, Luke completed his Bachelor's degree in Music Education at Boston University, returning to the Marine Corps as a member of "The President's Own" in 1969. Luke has been one of the Marine Band's most popular soloists throughout his career.

Both David Welker and Lucas Spiros will retire this spring. All of the members of the Marine Band salute them for their long and distinguished careers. Fine musicians and good friends, they will be missed.

### CHAMBER ENSEMBLES MAKE "MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS"

For the tenth consecutive year, musicians from "The President's Own" have been visiting local elementary schools to present chamber music concerts designed for young audiences. These "Music in the Schools" concerts educate the youngsters while entertaining them. Featuring informal explanations of the instruments being played, the programs include a bit of music theory and history. Youngsters hear one of three Marine Band chamber ensembles: the woodwind quintet, the brass quintet, or the string quartet. Each group plays a variety of music to demonstrate the idiomatic style of its instrumentation. The repertoire runs the gamut from Mozart to Scott Joplin, with folk tunes, ragtime, and marches, all geared to the elementary school audience. Each group distributes programs containing historical information on the Marine Band, along with illustrations of the instruments. Demand for these performing units continues to grow, with thirty-eight programs scheduled for 1987.

VISIT THE U.S. MARINE BAND BOOTH (#623) AT THE 67TH ANNUAL TEXAS  
MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSN. CONVENTION IN SAN ANTONIO, FEBRUARY 12-14.

MARINE BAND CONCERTS AT KENNEDY CENTER AND MEYERHOFF SYMPHONY HALL

"The President's Own" will appear in two special concerts this spring in the Concert Hall of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington and at Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore. The theme of this year's concerts is "**PANAMERICANA**" in a salute to the PanAmerican Games to be held in Indianapolis this summer. Highlights will include Henry Cowell's "Fanfare for the Latin-American Allies," Gomez's "Il Guarany" Overture, Victor Herbert's "Panamericana," Ginastera's "Danza Final" from "Estancia," H. Owen Reed's "La Fiesta Mexicana," Sousa's "Pathfinder of Panama" March and Vocal Selections from "The Music Man" by Meredith Willson with Michael Ryan as baritone soloist. Both concerts are free but **TICKETS ARE REQUIRED**. Tickets for the March 31st concert at the John F. Kennedy Center Concert Hall may be obtained by completing and returning the form printed below along with a stamped self-addressed envelope. Kennedy Center tickets will be mailed 2 weeks in advance of the concert. Tickets for the April 1st concert at Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore may be obtained 3-4 weeks in advance at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall Box Office. **Seating for both concerts will be limited to 4 tickets per family.** Band Directors or other group leaders desiring larger numbers of tickets should contact the Marine Band Public Affairs Office at (202) 433-5809.

**JFK CENTER CONCERT HALL, WASHINGTON: Tues. March 31, 8:30 p.m.**  
**MEYERHOFF SYMPHONY HALL, BALTIMORE: Weds. April 1, 8:00 p.m.**

(clip and return)

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**PLEASE PRINT**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF KENNEDY CENTER TICKETS (LIMIT 4, PLEASE) \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL THIS FORM WITH A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO:  
KENNEDY CENTER TICKETS, U.S. Marine Band Public Affairs Office  
8th and I Streets, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20390-5000**