

January - February 1999

NOTES

Center Stage

PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE U.S. MARINE BAND

Center Stage

1999 Season features return to familiar venues rich in history and acoustical merit

Throughout the winter and spring, audiences in the Washington, DC, area will have regular opportunities to attend chamber ensemble, orchestra, and band concerts by "The President's Own." As the U.S. Marine Band enters its third century of playing America's music, audiences will be treated not only to a broad range of classical and contemporary programming, but to concert venues rich in history and acoustical merit.

Until recent years, nearly all the band's public programs were presented solely in John Philip Sousa Band Hall at Marine Barracks. Despite a loyal following at 8th and I Streets, capacity audiences necessitated a move to an acoustical space with the ability to accommodate larger crowds as well as the band's sound. Such a move also allowed for greater correlation between venue and program selection and more geographical options for local residents.

"Being based in Washington, DC, gives 'The President's Own' a number of

concert venues in which we can provide the best possible listening experiences for our audiences," said Director LtCol Timothy W. Foley. "With the Library of Congress, the National Academy of Sciences, and GMU's Center for the Arts as our hosts, we have a nice blend of acoustical, visual, and historical interest."

Coolidge Auditorium, Jefferson Building, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

Upcoming Concerts: Jan. 13 and Feb. 3, 8 p.m., U.S. Marine Chamber Ensembles

Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge believed that "libraries should not be merely the custodians of manuscripts condemned to preservation as mute artifacts of an earlier time," but that "this music must be brought to life in performance." The well-known arts patron donated a 500-seat auditorium at the Library of Congress as well as a trust fund for future performances.

Since 1925, the venue bearing her name has headlined such greats as Samuel

Barber, Leonard Bernstein, Leontyne Price, and nearly every major chamber music group of the 20th century. During its first two decades, the Coolidge Foundation commissioned most of the leading composers of the time, including Béla Bartók, Paul Hindemith, Maurice Ravel, and Igor Stravinsky. Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* premiered in Coolidge Auditorium in 1944.

"The President's Own" performed in the auditorium for most of the 1980s, until the renowned space was closed for extensive renovations. The auditorium reopened last winter, with its first enhancements since 1960.

George Mason University Center for the Arts, Fairfax, VA

Upcoming Concerts: Jan. 24 and 31, Feb. 21, 2 p.m., U.S. Marine Band

Named by *The Washington Post* as "one of the top-10 reasons to locate to Northern Virginia," George Mason

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Looking Back...

January 20, 1948

"The President's Own" performed for the Inaugural of President Harry S Truman and Vice President Alvin W. Barkley, including performances for the ceremony at the U.S. Capitol; the President's reception held at the National Gallery of Art; the Inaugural Parade; and the Inaugural Ball.

White House Highlights

Recent Marine Band appearances at the White House include:

- Patient's Bill of Rights event
- Veterans Day breakfast
- Nobel Peace Prize Recipients meeting
- Kennedy Center Honors reception

Marine Band CD Now Available

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation announces the release of its recording "Marches in Concert," featuring live performances of 21 favorite marches performed by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band. Conductors include LtCol Timothy W. Foley, former Directors Colonel John Bourgeois and Colonel Albert Schoepper, and special guest conductor Dr. Frederick Fennell. The recording includes marches by Sousa and other noted composers, many of which had never been recorded by the Marine Band. "Marches in Concert" also includes "Semper Fidelis," "Globe and Eagle," "Marine Corps Institute," "March of the Women Marines," and the Armed Forces Medley, concluding with The Marines' Hymn.

"Marches in Concert" is available in CD format for \$16 and cassette format for \$13. Prices include shipping. (Virginia residents please add 4 1/2% sales tax.) To place an order, please contact the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation at (800) 397-7585.

Marine Band Brings Music to Area Schools

If asked to describe their most memorable moment in "The President's Own," U.S. Marine Band members might recount the time they performed for a foreign dignitary, shook hands with the President, or played a solo before a packed house on a hometown tour stop. For musicians involved in this year's "Music In The Schools" (MITS) program, memories are being made with slightly younger VIPs—elementary school students in the first through eighth grades.

Some 3,300 students in 18 local schools were treated to performances in October by Marine Band brass, string, and woodwind players. MITS affords young listeners in the Washington, DC, area musical experiences they might not have otherwise. Now in its 20th year, the program gives students the opportunity to hear live music, learn how various instruments work, and interact with professional musicians.

In each 45-minute presentation, music comes to life through carefully chosen program themes, lively narration, and eager student participation. At one recent performance for 150 fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders, a Marine Band brass quintet transformed an assembly hall into a White House State Dinner, leading their listeners from the arrival of the first guests to the after-dinner dancing.

This year's string program, "Where in the World is the Marine Band String Quartet?" challenged students to guess the geographical origin of each selection based on musical and visual clues. The woodwind quintet chose to feature the Marine Band's Bicentennial, highlighting the rich musical heritage of "The President's Own" and the group's ties to some of the nation's key moments in history.

"Creativity is really important," cornetist GySgt John Abbracciamento said. "The kids pick up on that, and they can tell when we're having fun. It's our way of giving something back."

The fun really begins with the audience participation. GySgt Charles Casey, trombonist, imitated a speeding car with his slide, and hands shot up with guesses. Cornetist GySgt Kurt Dupuis was asked over and over to repeat his "horse whinny" at MITS performances. Two lucky audience members stepped in for the First Couple while the woodwind quintet honored the "President" with "Hail to the Chief." And GySgt Peter Wilson guided a young volunteer in "Fantasia on One Note," using a violin with only one string played to the accompaniment of Marine Band strings.

"We try to build in a lot of student participation," Wilson said, "because nothing makes an impression like seeing one of their peers take part."

Time and time again, students have shown their appreciation through rapt attention, prolonged applause, eager questions—even handwritten letters. "You realize you've truly made an impact when you receive thank-you notes from an entire class," said Wilson, who has been involved with MITS since joining the band in 1991.

According to first-time MITS participant oboist MSgt James Dickey, the program offers many benefits to students. "Our performances are a way for them to link music with the history that they're learning in school, that the Marine Band has been part of so many important events in our nation's history," he said. "It also lets them see how practice and discipline pay off, whether they choose music or any other endeavor."

An eager volunteer provides rhythmic accompaniment to a Latin selection performed by the string quartet.



JANUARY PROGRAMS

**U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra
National Academy of Sciences
Sunday, January 10 at 2 p.m.**

LtCol Timothy W. Foley, conducting

David Chaitkin
Summersong for 23 Wind Instruments

Robert Schumann
Concerto in A minor for Cello and
Orchestra, Op. 129
Nathaniel Chaitkin, soloist

Béla Bartók
Divertimento for String Orchestra,
Op. 113 (1939)

Robert Schumann/orch. Ravel (1914)
Carnaval, Op. 9

**U.S. Marine Chamber Ensembles
Coolidge Auditorium,
Library of Congress
Wednesday, January 13 at 8 p.m.**

Claude Debussy
Piece for Pŷché, "Syrinx" (1913)
Betsy Hill, flute

Francis Poulenc
Sonata for Horn, Trumpet, and Trombone
(1922, revised 1945)
Kristin Davidson, horn
Kurt Dupuis, trumpet
Brent Phillips, trombone

Eric Mandat
Folk Songs (1986)
Paul Demers, clarinet

Karel Husa
Evocations of Slovakia (1951)
The Mountain
Night
Dance
Frederick Vare, clarinet
Christopher Shieh, viola
Marcio Botelho, cello

Heitor Villa-Lobos
Poème de l'enfant et de sa mère (1923)
Celeste Blase, soprano
Betsy Hill, flute
Charles Willett, clarinet
Diana Fish, cello

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Serenade in C minor, K. 388
Leslye Barrett and
Mark Christianson, oboe
Jeffrey Strouf and
Frederick Lemmons, clarinet
Christopher McFarlane and
Bernard Kolle, bassoon
Max Cripe and Mark Questad, horn

Gioachino Rossini/trans. Gebauer
Four Duets from *The Barber of Seville*
Christopher McFarlane and
Bernard Kolle, bassoon

Russell Peck
Drastic Measures (1976)
Kenneth Foerch, soprano saxophone
David Lewis, alto saxophone
Irvin Peterson, tenor saxophone
Miles Smith, baritone saxophone

**U.S. Marine Band
GMU Center for the Arts
Sunday, January 24 at 2 p.m.**

LtCol Timothy W. Foley, conducting

Michael Colgrass
Winds of Nagual
The Desert
Gait of Power
Asking Twilight for Calmness and
Power
Juan Clowns for Carlos
Last Conversation and Farewell

Jules Massenet/trans. Reynolds
Ballet Music from *Le Cid*

George Gershwin/trans. Grofé
Rhapsody in Blue
Robert Boguslaw, piano

Donald Grantham
Fantasy Variations on Gershwin's
Second Prelude

**U.S. Marine Band
GMU Center for the Arts
Sunday, January 31 at 2 p.m.**

Major Dennis R. Burian, conducting

John Philip Sousa
March, "Jack Tar"

William Schuman
Chester Overture

Paul Creston
Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Band,
Op. 26b (1906)
David Lewis, soloist

Leos Janáček/trans. Patterson
Sinfonietta

Maurice Ravel/trans. Knox
Song Cycle, "Don Quichotte a Dulcinée"
Chanson romanesque
Chanson épique
Chanson a boire
Michael Ryan, baritone

Samuel Augustus Ward/arr. Dragon
"America, the Beautiful"

**For information on
the Internet, visit
the Marine Band's
website:
[www.marineband.
hqmc.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.hqmc.usmc.mil)**

**U.S. Marine Chamber Ensembles
Coolidge Auditorium,
Library of Congress
Wednesday, February 3 at 8 p.m.**

Stephen Rush

“Rebellion” (1983)

Mark Latimer, percussion

Bryan Bourne, trombone

Robert Boguslaw, piano

Béla Bartók/trans. Jones

Allegro from String Quartet No. 2, Op. 17

Jon Agazzi, Randall Riffle,

and Jeffrey Strouf, clarinet

Barbara Haney, bass clarinet

Paul Bissell

“Hangar 84” for Marimba and Tape

Janis Potter-Paulson, marimba

Oskar Böhme/ed. Sommerhalder

Brass Sextet in E-flat minor, Op. 30

Susan Rider, Andrew Schuller,

and Douglas Burian, trumpet

Kristin Davidson, horn

Brent Phillips, trombone

Cameron Gates, tuba

Piotr Moss

Avant lé Depart... (1981)

Irvin Peterson, soprano saxophone

Christopher Rose, percussion

George Crumb

An Idyll for the Misbegotten (1986)

Betsy Hill, flute

Mark Latimer, Christopher Rose,

and Glenn Paulson, percussion

Eric Ewazen

Colchester Fantasy

John Abbracciamento and

Douglas Burian, trumpet

Mark Questad, horn

Brent Phillips, trombone

Cameron Gates, tuba

U.S. Marine Band

GMU Center for the Arts

Sunday, February 21 at 2 p.m.

LtCol Timothy W. Foley, conducting

Daniel S. Godfrey

Jig

Thea Musgrave

Journey through a

Japanese Landscape (1994)

Janis Potter-Paulson, marimba soloist

Charles Ives/trans. Elkus

“Decoration Day” from

Four New England Holidays

Tristan Keuris

Catena: Refrains and Variations for

Thirty-One Wind Instruments and

Percussion (1988)

Percy Grainger/ed. Fennell

Lincolnshire Posy

Adam Gorb

“Awayday” (1996)

John Philip Sousa/ed. Byrne

March, “Comrades of the Legion”

U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra

National Academy of Sciences

Sunday, February 28 at 2 p.m.

Captain Michael J. Colburn, conducting

Antonín Dvorák

Serenade in E for Strings, Op. 22

Aaron Copland

Concerto for Clarinet, Strings, Harp,

and Piano

Paul Demers, clarinet

Aulis Sallinen

Some Aspects of Peltoniemi Hinrik’s

Funeral March

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Divertimento in D for Strings, K. 136

**For free tickets to concerts
at GMU, call the Center for
the Arts Box Office at
(703) 993-8888**

1999 Concerts

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University’s Center for the Arts is the producing arm of the University’s Institute of the Arts, whose mission is to “make the arts a pervasive presence in the lives of Mason students and Northern Virginia residents.”

Features of the 1,935-seat Concert Hall include continental seating, excellent sight lines, and outstanding acoustics for band repertoire. This year marks the Marine Band’s eighth season at GMU.

For free tickets, please call the GMU Box Office at (703) 993-8888.

Auditorium of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC

Upcoming Concerts: Jan. 10 and Feb. 28, 2 p.m., U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra

Through its Arts in the Academy Program, the National Academy of Sciences strives to highlight the rich relationship between science and the arts and their complementary nature. NAS has sponsored performances by “The President’s Own” since 1995.

First-time visitors to the 670-seat auditorium wing might be surprised by the marked architectural departure from the rest of the neoclassical Academy building. Visually and acoustically stimulating, the

contemporary red, white, and gray hall was built in 1969 primarily as a lecture hall.

Hanging from more than 1,100 metal straps attached to trusses above the auditorium ceiling, a 70-panel shell is used to achieve maximum sound distribution. Depending on where a listener is seated, he or she may have the sensation of sitting onstage with the musicians.

For more information about upcoming performances, call the Concert Information Line at (202) 433-4011 or visit our website: www.marineband.hqmc.usmc.mil.

STAFF LINES

SSgt Leslye Barrett

Co-principal Oboe

Birthday: July 26, 1972

Hometown: Liberty, MO

Family status: Married to Andreas

Children: None

Pets: Two cats, Tyler and Nigel

Education: BA, Southern Methodist

University; MM, Arizona State University

Most influential teacher: Eric Barr taught

me how to play the oboe; Martin Schuring

taught me how to play in spite of it

Joined the Marine Band: February 1997

Professional experience before the Marine Band: Quintessence Chamber Ensemble,

substitute with the Phoenix Symphony

Self-portrait: Energetic, determined, loving

Favorite saying or motto: "Different strokes for different folks"

Greatest accomplishment: I made the perfect reed—once

Pet peeves: Intolerance, bad reeds

Walter Mitty Fantasy: To sing a leading role at the Metropolitan Opera and to make only fantastic reeds

Most memorable moment in band: Playing the Bicentennial concert at the Kennedy Center with both the First Family and my family in attendance

Inspiration: My mom and dad and my musical experiences at Interlochen as a high school student

Favorite movie: *The Princess Bride*

Who would play you in a movie: Gates McFadden (the doctor on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*)

Best kept secret: I know all the words to a lot of Air Supply songs

Favorite food: Chocolate!

Three things always found in your refrigerator: Tofu, hot-pepper cheese, and mold

Hobbies: Walking, reading, doing anything with music

Bad habits: I spoil my cats and let the dishes pile up

Luxury defined: Chocolate reeds

Books at bedside: *Jitterbug Perfume*, *Watership Down*

Favorite piece of music: Sibelius Violin Concerto

Place you'd most like to be stranded: On an island with Andreas where mountains are made of chocolate and lakes are Coca-Cola

Last words: "Don't let it end like this. Tell them I said something!"



New Members

Cornetist

SSgt Matthew Harding

of North Dartmouth, MA, earned a BM at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, and has pursued graduate studies at Rice University, Houston, TX. Prior to joining the band, Harding performed with the New World Symphony, Miami, FL, and was a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center.



Violist

SSgt Lisa Ponton

of Kankakee, IL, earned a BM from the Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia, PA, and a MM from The Juilliard School, New York City. She also studied at the Hochschule für Musik Köln in Cologne, Germany. Prior to joining the band, she was principal violist with the Malmö (Sweden) Symphony Orchestra and associate principal of the Iceland Symphony.



Vacancies

"The President's Own" announces auditions for the following vacancies:

Public Affairs Specialist:

Resumes due January 8

Trumpet/Cornet:

January 15 - 16

Saxophone: January 25

Trombone: March 8 - 9

Clarinet: March 13

For more information, please write to:

Operations Officer

U.S. Marine Band

8th and I Streets, SE

Washington, DC 20390-5000

or call (202) 433-5714

For audition repertoire, visit the Marine Band website:

www.marineband.hqmc.usmc.mil

Retirement

Master Gunnery Sergeant David L. Sorenson, cornetist, retired in November after 26 years with "The President's Own." A graduate of Weber State College in Ogden, UT, MGySgt Sorenson was a frequent soloist with the band and since 1986, served as high brass section commander. At his retirement ceremony, he was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.