

January - February 2009

NOTES

U.S. MARINE BAND
THE MAN OF THE HOUR
CORNET

1944 © The United States Marine Band



Exclusive Position

The first inauguration of George Washington took place on April 30, 1789, in the then-capital of New York City—almost 10 years before the inception of the “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band. Washington took the oath of office in front of a large crowd overlooking Wall Street, and following the ceremony he returned to the Senate chamber to deliver a brief inaugural address. This first inauguration laid the groundwork for many of the contemporary customs associated with the installation of the President of the United States.

Today, Inauguration Day events include a morning worship service; the procession of the President and President-elect to the Capitol; the Vice President’s swearing-in ceremony; the President’s swearing-in ceremony on the West Front of the Capitol; and the inaugural address, luncheon, and parade. The day concludes with numerous inaugural balls, held throughout Washington, D.C.

All of these inaugural events require a wide range of military and musical support. During the past 210 years, the Marine Band has participated in 52 consecutive inaugurations, to include in the swearing-in ceremony, parade and balls, and is the only musical unit to participate in both the swearing-in and the parade. Due to the multifaceted nature of such an event, Inauguration Day requires great musical and ceremonial agility from the members of “The President’s Own.”

The Ceremony

On March 4, 1801, Thomas Jefferson became the first to be sworn in as President in Washington, D.C., the new permanent capital. Jefferson’s inauguration marked the first time the Marine Band participated in inaugural festivities, initiating a tradition that continues to this day.

The swearing-in ceremony has evolved from Jefferson’s simple stroll from his boardinghouse to the grounds of the unfinished Capitol Building to take the oath, to the complex and widely publicized event it is today. Presidents now take the oath on the West Front of the Capitol



The Marine Band at the Inauguration ceremony of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jan. 20, 1953

before a crowd of thousands and an international media audience of millions.

Positioned directly below the President’s podium is the Marine Band. In this exclusive position, the Marine Band has



Inauguration of President Warren G. Harding—the first ceremony to be amplified for the crowd

been present for many unique and defining moments in the history of presidential inaugurations. In 1921, Warren G. Harding’s Inauguration was the first to be amplified for the crowd. Immediately following the oath, the Marine Band played “The Star-Spangled Banner” and the audience responded with thunderous applause.

In 1945, for Franklin D. Roosevelt’s fourth term, the ceremony was held on the South Portico of the White House because the president was too ill to leave the residence. The Marine Band, standing on the snow-covered South Lawn, played “Hail to the Chief” as Roosevelt’s son, Colonel James Roosevelt, USMC, pushed the president in his wheelchair to the platform on the South Balcony. This ceremony had little fanfare because it was held at the height of World War II and the parade was cancelled due to gas rationing and lumber shortages. According to the Marine Band log, the ceremony only took 14 minutes.

In 1981, Ronald Reagan’s first inauguration ceremony was moved from the East Portico to the West Front of the Capitol to accommodate more attendees. During the ceremony, 52 American hostages were released after being held in Iran for 444 days. Word of the release spread through the Capitol grounds as Marine Band baritone vocalist Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Ryan sang “America, the Beautiful.”

White House Highlights

Recent appearances by “The President’s Own” at the White House include:

- U.S. Summer Olympic Team, Olympic Team, and Paralympic Teams Visit
- Remarks in honor of Colombian Independence Day
- Farewell for Joseph Hagan, former Deputy Chief of Staff
- Moment of Silence for Sept. 11
- Tee Ball Game on the South Lawn: *A Salute to the Troops* Game
- State Dinner in honor of President John Kufuor of the Republic of Ghana
- Remarks on Constitution Day
- Dinner in honor of Islamic Iftaar
- Boston Celtics and Detroit Red Wings Visit
- Dinner in honor of President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia
- United Nations Symposium, Luncheon, and General Assembly Reception
- National Book Festival Gala Dinner and Breakfast
- Presentation of National Medals of Science and Technology Innovation

Music in the High Schools

During the month of March, ensembles from “The President’s Own” will present free educational programs and coaching sessions to high school students throughout the Washington, D.C., region. “Music in the High Schools” (MITHS) occurs annually in the spring and was initiated by Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn. To schedule your MITHS program or for additional information, please contact Ms. Vadya Dillon at (703) 614-2267.



Twenty-eighth Drum Major Dennis Carroll leads the Marine Band down Pennsylvania Avenue for the 35th Inauguration, Jan. 20, 1981

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Not all presidential oaths have been public events. On Aug. 9, 1974, upon the resignation of Richard Nixon, the Marine Chamber Orchestra performed in the East Room of the White House for his final remarks and in the Grand Foyer for Gerald Ford’s swearing-in ceremony.

Reagan’s second inauguration in 1985 fell on a Sunday, so a private ceremony was conducted in the White House accompanied by the music of the Marine Chamber Orchestra under the baton of 25th Director Colonel John R. Bourgeois. Due to severe weather, the public ceremony scheduled for Monday, Jan. 21, was held in the Capitol Rotunda. The Rotunda was packed full of people, leaving just enough room for the Marine Band to play its critical role in the ceremony.

For the modern-day inauguration, the Marine Band and various guest artists typically perform a prelude prior to the ceremony. The music for the 2009 ceremony will be selected by the Marine Band’s 27th Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn, musical adviser to the White House.

Following the oath, the Marine Band honors the President with four Ruffles and Flourishes and “Hail to the Chief,” a tradition that began at the 1837 Inauguration of Martin Van Buren. At the conclusion of

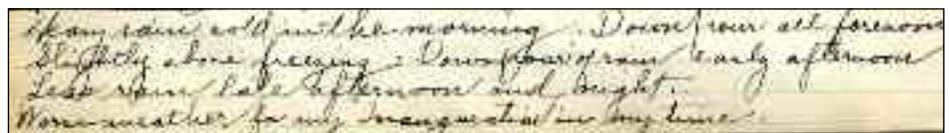
every ceremony, the 99-piece Marine Band immediately exits the Capitol grounds to assume its position in the parade procession.

The Parade

Jefferson’s inauguration established many lasting traditions. Following his second ceremony in 1805, a procession of members of Congress and citizens, including mechanics from the Washington Navy Yard, escorted Jefferson from the Capitol to the White House. This impromptu parade down Pennsylvania Avenue was accompanied by military music performed by the Marine Band and inspired the tradition of the official inaugural parade.

The constitutional change of Inauguration Day from March 4 to Jan. 20 in 1937 posed new weather-related challenges for its participants. Franklin D. Roosevelt’s second inaugural was the first to be held on Jan. 20. A steady rain soaked the President and the thousands of attendees. Comments written in the band’s leader’s log by the 20th Director Captain Taylor Branson recounted the day as the worst weather of any inauguration in his time.

Inclement weather also affected Ulysses Grant’s second inauguration,



Marine Band Leader Log Entry From Jan. 20, 1937

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CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS



SOUSA SEASON OPENER

Friday, Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Marine Band

Center for the Arts Concert Hall, George Mason University

Fairfax, Va.

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

**Honoring the 200th anniversary of Edgar Allen Poe's birth*



ANNABEL LEE
BY EDGAR ALLEN
POE
[IT WAS MANY AND MANY
YEARS AGO.]

HAYDN

Sunday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m.

Marine Chamber Orchestra

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center,

Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria, Va.

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

**Featuring Guest Soloist Chris Gekker*



1961

Time Capsule: The Year 1961

Sunday, Feb. 1 at 2 p.m.

Marine Band

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center,

Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria, Va.

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

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when valves on the brass instruments froze in the bitter cold as the bands tried to perform. Today the Marine Band combats this problem with a march called "Frozen Horns," written by former Marine Band Chief Arranger Master Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Knox USMC, (Ret.). The march was composed for the 1977 Inaugural Parade for President Jimmy Carter and is performed using no valves or slides. The only known parade cancelled because of inclement weather was for Reagan's second inauguration in 1985, where wind-chill temperatures dipped to 20 degrees Fahrenheit below zero. In 1945, there was no parade because of war.

Rain or shine, the Marine Band traditionally marches in the second division of the Inaugural parade which is comprised of Marine Corps units, floats, citizen groups and bands. Each division is led by the military bands in order of service age, with the Army leading the first division. The Marine Band's formation

consists of 99 playing members, formed 11 deep and nine wide, and is led by the unique assemblage of the Drum Major and all five Marine Band officers. This year will be the first inaugural parade for the Marine Band's 35th Drum Major Master Sergeant William L. Browne.

"Leading 'The President's Own' in 'The Marines' Hymn' while passing the presidential reviewing stand in front of the White House will certainly be a highlight of my career," said Drum Major Browne. "It's extremely exciting for us to be part of a ceremonial event of such international and historical importance."

Inaugural Ball

In 1809, the first inaugural ball was held in honor of James Madison at Long's Hotel in southeast Washington. The Marine Band played "President Madison's March" when the President and

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OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m.
 Marine Chamber Ensembles
 John Philip Sousa Band Hall
 Marine Barracks Annex
 Washington, D.C.

**Enjoy a tour of John Philip Sousa Band Hall and the Marine Band Hall of Presidents; Refreshments will be provided*

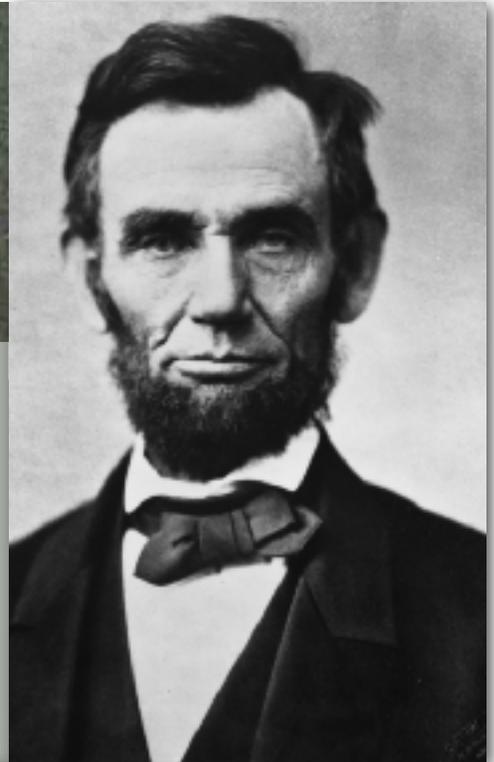


LINCOLN PORTRAIT

Monday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m.
 Marine Band

The Music Center at Strathmore
 North Bethesda, Md.
 Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting
 FREE, TICKETS REQUIRED (limit 2 per request); Call (301) 581-5100

**Celebrate President's Day with a program honoring the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth*



MENDELSSOHN

Sunday, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m.
 Marine Chamber Orchestra
 Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center,
 Northern Virginia Community College
 Alexandria, Va.
 Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

**Honoring the 200th anniversary of Felix Mendelssohn's birth*



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his wife, Dolley, entered. Inaugural balls, similar to the ceremony and parade, grew in popularity as railroads streamlined travel throughout the country. In 1885, 9,000 guests joined Grover Cleveland in the unfinished Pension Building, now the National Building Museum, for waltzes, polkas, and promenades performed by the Marine Band and then-Leader John Philip Sousa. Four years later, Sousa and the band performed his composition, "Presidential Polonaise"—in an effort to replace "Hail to the Chief" at the request of former President Chester Arthur—for approximately 12,000 people at a ball in honor of Benjamin Harrison.

The Warren G. Harding administration took a hiatus from the inaugural ball in 1921 to set an example of thriftiness for the fiscally depressed country. Harry Truman revived the tradition in 1945, and in 1997 Bill Clinton attended a record 14 balls. In 2005,

George W. Bush was hailed at nine balls, four of which included honors from "The President's Own."

Every Inauguration Day has its own unique identity, whether it is affected wartime concerns, altered by a presidential request, or influenced by the weather. One thing that has remained constant for more than 200 years has been the participation of "The President's Own." The inauguration of a new commander in chief speaks directly to the Marine Band's long-standing primary mission: to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Contact your Senator or Congressman for your free Inauguration tickets.

New Members



Trumpeter/cornetist Staff Sergeant Brandon Eubank of Tinley Park, Ill., earned a bachelor of music degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., in 2008. Prior to joining “The President’s Own,” Staff Sgt. Eubank performed at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, Calif., and the Lucerne Festival Academy in Switzerland under the direction of Pierre Boulez. Staff Sgt. Eubank has also performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; the Civic Orchestra of Chicago; the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Fla.; the Walt Disney World Collegiate All-Star Band in Orlando, Fla.; and the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra in South Korea.

Oboe/English hornist Staff Sergeant Tessa Gross

of Santa Monica, Calif., earned a bachelor’s degree in music and a master’s degree in orchestral performance from the Manhattan School of Music. Prior to joining “The President’s Own,” Staff Sgt. Gross performed with the New York City Opera, The Aeros Quintet, and the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas. She also held a residency at the 92nd Street Y’s Music Unlocked Project and served as the associate oboe teacher for the Manhattan School of Music.



In Harmony with Singapore Armed Forces Music



Col. Colburn conducts a rehearsal in Singapore with the SAF Central Band

Marine Band Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn and six principal musicians from “The President’s Own” performed with the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Central Band Nov. 19, 2008, at Singapore’s Esplanade Concert Hall in a historic concert celebrating 50 years of military music in Singapore.

The concert, titled “In Harmony 24,” featured Col. Colburn as a guest conductor, while co-principal flutist Master Gunnery Sgt. Betsy Hill, principal clarinetist Master Gunnery Sgt. Lisa Kadala,

tuba section leader and low brass section commander Master Gunnery Sgt. John Cradler, principal French horn Master Gunnery Sgt. Max Cripe, principal percussionist and percussion section commander Master Sgt. Mark Latimer, and solo cornetist Master Sgt. Matt Harding played alongside members of the SAF Central Band. During the trip, Marine Band musicians offered several master classes and clinics to the members of the SAF Central Band. The event marked the first time Marine Band musicians have performed in Singapore and proved to be a memorable experience for all involved.

Master Gunnery Sgts. Hill and Kadala performed a duet of Franz Danzi’s Concertante in B-flat, Opus 41, during the concert, a piece they performed several times while on the Marine Band’s recent tour through the Midwest. Other program highlights included Charles Ives’ “The Alcotts” and Leonard Bernstein’s Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*, transcribed for concert band by Paul Lavender.

“Our band’s vision is to become one of the world’s finest armed forces bands,” said Captain Steven Tan, a director of music for the SAF bands and coordinator of the event. “What better way to learn than from 210 years of proud military musical tradition, as fine as that of any armed forces band in the world.”

Promotions

To Gunnery Sergeant:
Violinist Erika Sato of Portland, Ore.
To Chief Warrant Officer 5:
Operations Officer William Perry of Houston

Vacancy

“The President’s Own” announces audition dates for the following vacancy:

Flute: Feb. 23-24

For information, contact:
Operations Officer
U.S. Marine Band
Marine Barracks
8th and I Streets, SE
Washington, DC 20390-5000
(202) 433-5714
marineband.operations@usmc.mil

Audition repertoire may be found at www.marineband.usmc.mil.

In Memoriam

Master Gunnery Sergeant Dale Weaver, USMC, (Ret.), died in September 2008. MGySgt Weaver joined the U.S. Marine Band as trombone player in 1959. He served as principal trombone from 1976 to 1983.

Featured Downloads

January

Director’s Choice
The Passing Bell
by Warren Benson

March of the Month

The Fairest of the Fair
by John Philip Sousa*

February

Featured Soloist
Concertante for Flute and Clarinet
by Franz Danzi

March of the Month

Marche Hongroise from *La damnation de Faust*, Opus 24
by Hector Berlioz/trans. Bowlín*

*member, U.S. Marine Band