

# NOTES

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

JULY - AUGUST 1997

## *Bygone Summers of Poetry and Music...*

### Walt Whitman and the Marine Band

The Marine Band's tradition of summer performances stretches nearly two centuries. Countless people have enjoyed these concerts, but one famous American poet was particularly taken with the music of "The President's Own."

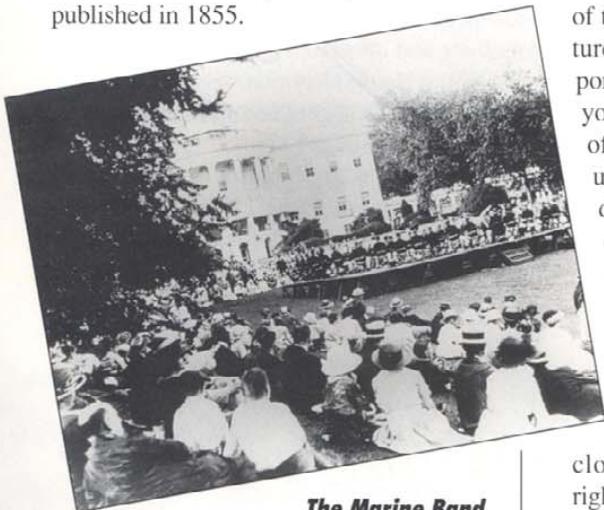
Walt Whitman, author of *Leaves of Grass*, frequently attended the Marine Band's concerts and reviewed them for the Washington *Sunday Herald* from 1866 to 1872. Whitman's reviews, examined by author Hans Nathan in a 1943 article published in *The Bulletin of the Boston Public Library*, provide a glimpse at Whitman's relationship with "The President's Own."

During his years in Washington, Whitman worked at the Department of the Interior and the Attorney General's office and revised *Leaves of Grass*, first published in 1855.

He also spent a great deal of time observing life in the nation's capital city. An avid music lover, Whitman often attended the Marine Band's Saturday afternoon concerts at the White House. Performances were a lively part of life in Washington, DC, Nathan writes, with the musicians of "The President's Own" in blue trousers and scarlet coats accented with epaulettes and aiguillettes. The concerts attracted large crowds, children from infants to adolescents playing games, high dignitaries and perhaps even the President informally strolling about.

Describing the concert scene in one review, Whitman wrote:

The Marine Band concert yesterday afternoon on the South Lawn of the President's [house] was a real success. The gathering proved the fullest of the season. There were all the features of former concerts—the preponderance of ladies, most of them young, and in gay attire, and all full of animation; the soft turf to walk upon; the vistas of trees, and the distant outlook; the circle of promenaders, with the sparkling eyes that meet one everywhere; the strings [strains] of Verdi, Mayerbeer [Meyerbeer] or Strauss wafted to the ear. Then the afternoon, neither too cool nor too warm, and the partially clouded sky, made the affair just right.



**The Marine Band performs on the South Lawn of the White House, July 1921.**

## Summer Concerts Continue on the Mall

"The President's Own" United States Marine Band continues its series of free summer concerts on the Mall on Wednesdays and Sundays in July and August.

The band performs Wednesdays at the East Terrace of the U.S. Capitol and Sundays at the Sylvan Theater near the Washington Monument. All performances begin at 8 p.m. Concerts are free, and tickets are not required.

Street parking is available at both locations, or ride Metro: For performances at the Capitol, take the red line to Union Station or the blue/orange lines to Capitol South. For concerts at the Sylvan Theater, take the blue/orange lines to the Smithsonian station. Inclement weather cancellations will be announced the day of the concert after 6 p.m. on the band's 24-hour Concert Information Line at (202) 433-4011.

*NOTE: The Marine Band's annual July 4th concert at Wolf Trap's Filene Center WILL NOT take place this year because the site was not available.*

## In This Issue:

**White House Highlights Meet MSgt Steve Kellner Easter at the White House**

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# ACTIVITIES UPDATE

## Frederick Fennell Conducts "The President's Own" in Baltimore

Dr. Frederick Fennell, one of the premier American conductors of wind band music, led "The President's Own" in April before a packed house at Baltimore's Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.

It is believed that this was the first time in the band's nearly 200-year history a guest conducted an entire concert. "This is an extremely, extremely special occasion," Fennell told Martin Goldsmith, host of National Public Radio's "Performance Today." "It is musically an honor."

Fennell later said his work with the Marine Band was "a marvelous musical experience" and that the concert was "a pure sensation—absolutely wonderful."

"Performance Today" broadcast four pieces from the concert. Goldsmith called Fennell the "dean of American band music" and said, "He is almost as strongly associated with the form as

the Marine Band itself."

Dr. Fennell grew up listening to Marine Band recordings and first saw "The President's Own" in concert in 1929 when he was only 15 years old. The band stopped in Cleveland, OH, on tour, and the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* offered a trip to Washington, DC, for the boy and girl who sold the most tickets to the concert.

Fennell won, and after seeing the concert in Cleveland, later traveled to Washington by train to meet Marine Band Director Captain Taylor Branson. He watched "The President's Own" rehearse for the network radio program "The Dream Hour." Fennell also met President Herbert Hoover who asked him what he wanted to do in life. "I told him, 'I want to be a conductor.'"

Dr. Fennell went on to establish the Eastman Wind Ensemble and is one of the most widely recorded conductors in the country. He is Conductor Laureate of the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra, writes about bands and band literature, and has published many contemporary editions of standard band repertoire.



### White House Highlights

*Here's a glimpse at a few of the White House events for which the Marine Band recently provided music:*

- The Presidential National Education Announcement
- State Visit of the Prime Minister of Canada
- The White House Spring Garden Tour
- White House Conference on Early Childhood Development
- A reception for the FDR Memorial Group
- The national conference of the Federal Judges Association
- The Mayors' Drug Conference breakfast
- Memorial Day breakfast

### Easter at the White House

"The President's Own" continued its more than 100-year-long tradition in March when members performed at the White House's Easter Egg Roll.

The band's historic participation has been colorfully noted in a new children's book about the annual Easter festival. Written by C.L. Arbelbide and illustrated by Barbara Leonard Gibson, the book was published this year by the White House Historical Association, 740 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC, 20503-0300. The illustration and text below are printed courtesy of the White House Historical Association.

*John Philip Sousa stood on a stand, Directing the music of the Marine Band.  
Their red coats were brilliant; their instruments shone,  
Every trumpet and flute and golden trombone,  
Hand-clapping, toe-tapping,  
music fast and slow,  
People laughing,  
children dancing—  
moving to and fro.*



# JULY CALENDAR

## 2nd & 6th

### **U.S. Capitol Building & Sylvan Theater**

1stLt Michael J. Colburn, conducting

#### **John Philip Sousa\***

March, "Hail to the Spirit of Liberty"

#### **Morton Gould**

*Santa Fe Saga*

#### **Franz Doppler/Heffler\***

Duettino American

*Betsy Hill and Cynthia Rugolo,*

*flute soloists*

#### **Charles Ives/Elkus**

Suite, *Old Home Days*

Waltz

"The Collection"

"The Opera House" (from

"Memories")

"Old Home Day"

Slow March

"London Bridge is Fallen

Down!"

#### **Percy Grainger**

Colonial Song

#### arranged by **Stephen Bulla\***

A Patriot's Medley

*Michael Ryan, baritone*

#### **Leonard Bernstein/Polster**

Symphonic Dance Music

from *West Side Story*

Scherzo

Mambo

Cha-cha

Fugue

#### **Morton Gould**

"American Salute"

\*member, U.S. Marine Band

## 9th & 13th

### **U.S. Capitol Building & Sylvan Theater**

Major Dennis R. Burian, conducting

#### **John Philip Sousa\***

March, "The Pride of the Wolverines"

#### **Gioacchino Rossini**

Overture to *William Tell*

#### **Carl Maria von Weber/Bourgeois\***

Rondo from Clarinet Concerto No. 1

in F minor, Opus 73

*Frederick Vare, soloist*

#### **George Gershwin/Grofé**

*Rhapsody in Blue*

#### **Umberto Giordano/Jolly\***

Aria, "Nemico della Patria"

from *Andrea Chénier*

*Michael Ryan, baritone*

#### **Eric Coates/Williams**

Knightsbridge March

from *London Every Day Suite*

## 16th & 20th

### **U.S. Capitol Building & Sylvan Theater**

LiCol Timothy W. Foley, conducting

#### **John Philip Sousa\***

March, "The Corcoran Cadets"

#### **Aaron Copland**

*Emblems*

#### **Carl Maria von Weber/Snavely**

Clarinet Solo, Fantasia and Rondo

*Nan Lopata, soloist*

#### **David R. Holsinger**

"Texas Promenade"

#### **Giuseppe Verdi/Knox\***

Aria, "Per me giunto" from *Don Carlo*

*Michael Ryan, baritone*

#### **Igor Stravinsky/Knox\***

Suite from *The Firebird*

Introduction

Dance of the Firebird

Dance of the Princess

Infernal Dance of King

Kastchei

Berceuse and Finale

## 23rd

### **U.S. Capitol Building**

LiCol Timothy W. Foley, conducting

#### **Arnold Schoenberg**

Fanfare for a Bowl Concert

on Motifs from *Die Gurrelieder*

#### **David Raksin/Krance**

"Amber" from *Forever Amber*

#### **David Raksin/Krance**

"Love Is for the Very Young"

from *The Bad and the Beautiful*

#### **Arnold Schoenberg**

Theme and Variations, Opus 43a

#### **Rodgers and Hammerstein/Bulla\***

Scenario from *Carousel*

*Michael Ryan, baritone*

#### **John Williams/Curnow**

The Cowboys Overture

## 27th & 30th

### **Sylvan Theater & U.S. Capitol Building**

A country-western ensemble from "The President's Own" will present a special concert featuring music by popular artists including Mary Chapin Carpenter, Alabama, Trisha Yearwood, and the Charlie Daniels Band.

# AUGUST CALENDAR

## 3rd

### Sylvan Theater

Major Dennis R. Burian, conducting

John Philip Sousa\*

March, "The Rifle Regiment"

Alfred Reed

A Festive Overture

Carl Maria von Weber/Bennett

Allegro moderato from Concerto No. 1  
in F minor for Clarinet, Opus 73

Randall Riffle, soloist

Gordon Jacob

An Original Suite

Mitch Leigh/Erickson

Selections from *Man of La Mancha*

Jules Massenet/Knox\*

Aria, "Vision Fugitive"  
from *Hérodiade*

Michael Ryan, baritone

Robert Jager

"Esprit de Corps"

## 6th & 10th

### U.S. Capitol Building & Sylvan Theater

1stLt Michael J. Colburn, conducting

Patrick S. Gilmore

March, "The Famous 22nd Regiment"

Felix Mendelssohn/Seredy

Fingal's Cave Overture

Paul Creston

Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Band  
David Lewis, soloist

Norman Dello Joio

Scenes from *The Louvre*

arranged by Thomas Knox\*

"Rodgers and Hammerstein Songbook"

Michael Ryan, baritone

Aram Khachaturian/Hunsberger\*

Three Dance Episodes from *Spartacus*

## 13th & 17th

### U.S. Capitol Building & Sylvan Theater

LtCol Timothy W. Foley, conducting

Claude Debussy/Schaefer

"Fêtes" from Three Nocturnes

John Hartmann/Bulla\*

Cornet Solo, "Pretty Jane"

Andrew Schuller, soloist

Bin Kaneda

Japanese Folk Song Suite

Franz and Karl Doppler/Heffler\*

Flute Duet, "Valse di Bravura"

Betsy Hill and Cindy Rugolo, soloists

Dana Wilson

Dance of the New World

Giuseppe Verdi/Knox\*

Aria, "È sogno? o realtà" from *Falstaff*

Michael Ryan, baritone

John Philip Sousa\*/Byrne\*

March, "The Pathfinder of Panama"

## 20th & 24th

### U.S. Capitol Building & Sylvan Theater

Major Dennis R. Burian, conducting

John Philip Sousa\*

March, "The Gridiron Club"

Giuseppe Verdi/Cailliet

Overture to *Nabucco*

arranged by Norman and Cahn

Xylophone Ragtime Medley

Donald Spinelli, soloist

Sir Charles Mackerras/Dutoit

based on the music of Sullivan  
Suite from the ballet *Pineapple Poll*

Giuseppe Verdi/Bulla\*

Aria, "Cortigiani, vil razza"

from *Rigoletto*

Michael Ryan, baritone

Gustav Holst/Smith

"Jupiter" from *The Planets*, Opus 32

## 27th & 31st

### U.S. Capitol Building & Sylvan Theater

1stLt Michael J. Colburn, conducting

Angelo D'Anna/Hastings

Symphonic March, "Tripoli"

Gioachino Rossini/Brown

Overture to *La Gazza Ladra*

Simone Mantia/Eichner\*

Euphonium Solo, "Believe Me, If All  
Those Endearing Young Charms"

Matthew Tropman, soloist

John Corigliano

*Gazebo Dances*

Giuseppe Verdi/Knox\*

Aria, "Eri tu" from *Un Ballo in  
Maschera*

Michael Ryan, baritone

Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov/Hindsley

*Capriccio Espagnol*, Opus 34

**For 24-hour  
concert information,  
call (202) 433-4011**

# BAND MEMBER NEWS

## STAFF LINES

### MSgt Steve Kellner

#### Principal Euphonium

**Birthday:** December 14, 1958

**Hometown:** Atlanta, GA

**Family status:** Married to Janine

**Children:** Jacqueline (13), Paul (12), and Jessica (3)

**Pets:** A golden retriever named Dixie and two turtles named Boris and E.T.

**Education:** BM candidate, University of Maryland

**Professional experience before Marine Band:** U.S. Army Ground Forces Band, Ft. McPherson, GA; 24th Infantry Division Band, Ft. Stewart, GA

**Joined the band:** March 1987

**Self-portrait:** Readaholic, passionate about ideas, sociable, project-oriented, mildly sarcastic (ha!)

**Favorite saying or motto:** "The excitement is growing to a fever pitch!"

**Greatest accomplishment:** It hasn't happened yet.

**Pet peeves:** Doing something just because it's always been done that way

**Walter Mitty fantasy:** One night in the "Tower of Power" horn line

**Most memorable moment in band:** Trip to the former Soviet Union in 1990 and, especially, audience reaction to the march, "Farewell to a Slavic Woman"

**Inspiration:** My wife and children

**Favorite movie:** A tie between *Gone with the Wind* (thanks Mom) and *Cool Hand Luke*

**Who would play you in a movie:** Arnold Schwarzenegger, of course

**Best kept secret:** I do all the cooking at our house

**Favorite food:** Indian cuisine

**Hobbies:** Too much reading; not enough running and weight lifting

**Bad habits:** Procrastination first; everything else, a distant second

**Three things always found in my refrigerator:** Ice cream, spaghetti sauce, and tortillas

**Most influential teachers:** My colleagues in the Marine Band

**Luxury defined:** A cool summer Sunday evening, the Sunday paper, and no concert

**Favorite piece of music:** Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

**Place you'd most like to be stranded:** Anywhere south of the Mason-Dixon Line

**Last words:** As Stonewall Jackson said, "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees."



## Colonel Bourgeois to Guest Conduct Marine Band at TBA

"The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band will be the featured ensemble at the 50th Anniversary Convention of the Texas Bandmasters Association on July 28 in San Antonio, TX.

Conducted by Director Lieutenant Colonel Timothy W. Foley, the program will feature John Harbison's Olympic Dances; Grand Fantasie from Richard Wagner's opera, *Die Walküre*; and Florent Schmitt's "Dionysiaques," described by LtCol Foley as a "great original band composition, a French-Romantic show piece with Wagnerian influences."

Former Marine Band Director Colonel John R. Bourgeois will make a special appearance to conduct David Holsinger's "Texas Promenade," commissioned to commemorate TBA's 50th Anniversary Convention.



The concert will take place on July 28 at the Lila Cockrell Theater in San Antonio, TX, and is open to the public. The performance is free, and tickets are not required. Doors open at 7:15 p.m., and the concert will begin at 8 p.m. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

TBA is a non-profit educational organization designed to help its membership achieve the highest standards of instrumental music education and promote the place and value of music in society.

For more information about the concert, please contact the Texas Bandmasters Association at (210) 599-7585.

## Retirement

Master Sergeant Jeffrey W. Gilliam, percussionist, retired after 20 years of service with "The President's Own." A native of Fairfax, VA, MSgt Gilliam began musical instruction at age 12. He earned a BM from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, and a MM at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. MSgt Gilliam was frequently featured as a soloist with "The President's Own."

## Walt Whitman

*continued from page 1*

Though he had no profound musical knowledge, Whitman developed a strong love of music, especially opera. In reminiscing about the concerts of the Marine Band, Whitman admitted "my enjoyment was altogether untechnical: I knew nothing about music: simply took it in, enjoyed it, from the human side..."

Still, Whitman was well acquainted with brass bands, having heard many during the Civil War, and was recognized as a keen observer and intense listener. In another review he wrote:

The public generally and music-lovers especially...were treated to another fine performance. The red-coats opened with some of Rossini's music, the much thrummed, but always welcome, overture to Tancred [Tancredi], which they gave capitably. Among

the pieces that followed the delicious and dreamy murmurs of certain passages from Der Fruschutz [Der Freischutz], blending the different forms, and giving the wild melodies of the German forests, fitful and mystic, deserve special praise. Indeed, the band behaved well yesterday throughout.

Whitman left Washington in 1873 after a stroke left him partially paralyzed, but his musical experiences were lasting, Nathan writes. Many years later Whitman recalled everything as vividly as if no time had elapsed.

And later in his life, when Whitman came across some of his old reviews, he said, "I have felt a curious hunger to possess a file of the *Herald*: get hold of my pieces again: re-read." Nathan writes that although Whitman did not consider the reviews great achievements, in conjuring up the days in Washington listening to the Marine Band those reviews appeared to him as living tokens of a vital time.

## Vacancy Announcement

### B-flat Clarinet

Auditions: Saturday, August 23

For information, please write to  
Operations Officer, U.S. Marine Band

8th and I Streets, SE  
Washington, DC 20390-5000  
or call (202) 433-5714

## NOTES

*"The President's Own"*

United States Marine Band

LtCol Timothy W. Foley, Director  
Marine Barracks

8th and I Streets, SE

Washington, DC 20390-5000

Public Affairs Office (202) 433-5809

Concert Information Line (202) 433-4011

*U.S. Marine Band photos*



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