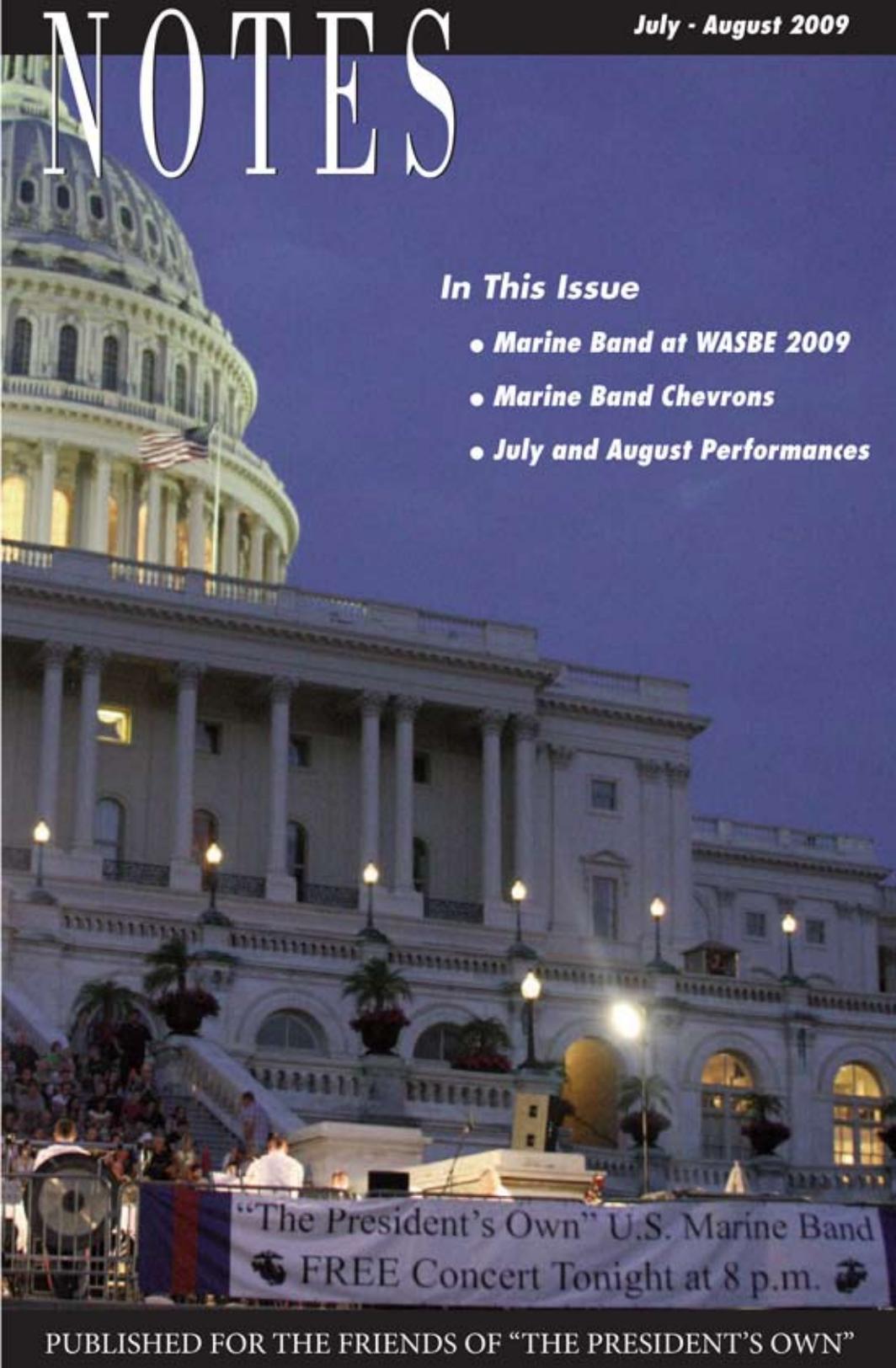


# NOTES



July - August 2009

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- *Marine Band at WASBE 2009*
- *Marine Band Chevrons*
- *July and August Performances*

"The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band  
FREE Concert Tonight at 8 p.m.

PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS OF "THE PRESIDENT'S OWN"

# In Production

The Marine Band will be a featured ensemble at the 14th International WASBE (World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles) Conference at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati in July. The two concerts by “The President’s Own” will showcase not only the artistry of the musicians, but also the inventive transcriptions made specifically for the band by arrangers Master Sergeants Stephen Bulla and Donald Patterson.

Composing, arranging, transcribing, and editing music is second nature to Master Sgt. Bulla, and the Marine Band’s rigorous schedule keeps him busy with back-to-back assignments year-round. Frequently, the flow of projects is interrupted by the musical needs of the White House and significant events such as the reopening of Ford’s Theatre or the band’s participation in the National Christmas Tree Program.

“Most of my work involves writing original arrangements,” Master Sgt. Bulla said. “I write on demand freshly conceived settings of either patriotic themes or new settings of Broadway songs for our vocalists to perform on concerts in the D.C. area or on the national concert tour.”

Occasionally, Master Sgt. Bulla suggests ideas for new transcriptions to Marine Band Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn. “I heard George Gershwin’s Concerto in F on satellite radio, thought it would work well for us, and brought the idea to the Colonel,” said Master Sgt. Bulla. “He gave it the green light

when, amazingly, we could not find another notable transcription of this important American work.”

Gershwin was commissioned to write Concerto in F in 1925 after the success of his *Rhapsody in Blue*. What he lacked in formal music education he made up for in his ability to infuse the relatively new musical form of jazz into the classical music arena. Gershwin originally called the hybrid style composition “New York Concerto,” but later changed the title to the more “classical” sounding Concerto in F. The New York Symphony gave a sold out première performance on Dec. 3, 1925, in Carnegie Hall with Gershwin at the keyboard. The first full-scale orchestral concerto to significantly incorporate jazz and blues elements, Igor Stravinsky considered the piece a work of genius.

On May 10, the Marine Band premiered Master Sgt. Bulla’s transcription of Concerto in F, featuring pianist Gunnery Sgt. AnnaMaria Mottola, during the *Soloist Spectacular!* concert, and the performance will be reprised at the WASBE conference in Cincinnati.

“What I enjoy most about my job is the magic that happens when I attend a rehearsal, after all the hours of writing are done, and hear ‘The President’s Own’ bring the music to life,” Master Sgt. Bulla said.

Master Sgt. Patterson’s contribution to the WASBE program is his transcription of Dmitri Shostakovich’s Festive Overture, Opus 96. The famous overture opens with a bright, heroic fanfare that is devoid of the serious tone of the works Shostakovich had composed immediately prior, including the dark Symphony No. 10 in E minor. After the noble introduction, the piece launches into an unrelenting Presto that sparkles from beginning to end. The original fanfare makes a triumphant return and then bursts into a mad dash to the finish line, aptly described by the composer’s longtime colleague Lev Lebedinsky as “spilling over like uncorked champagne.”

For this project, Master Sgt. Patterson deviated from former Marine Band arranger Donald Hunsberger’s classic band arrangement by changing the key to B-flat, a half step higher than the orchestral version, and faithfully preserving much of the original brass scoring.

“I think it brightens the piece up a bit and the technical parts lay more comfortably on the woodwinds, allowing for a much faster tempo and a more bracing interpretation,” Master Sgt. Patterson said. “I’ve always loved the piece ever since I heard Arthur Fiedler’s wonderful recording with the Boston



**Master Sgt. Donald Patterson (left) and Master Sgt. Stephen Bulla work on an arrangement in the Marine Band Library.**

## Quotable Quote

*The Marine Band has been just a tremendous resource for us. They've made every event at the White House a special one.*

—First Lady Michelle Obama

## White House Highlights

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

- Health Care Summit
- Stem Cell Bill-Signing Ceremony
- White House Council on Women and Girls Executive Order Signing
- Saint Patrick’s Day Event
- Women’s History Month Dinner
- Reception with the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Greek Independence Day Reception
- Virtual Town Hall Meeting
- Public Lands Bill-Signing Ceremony
- Easter Egg Roll
- Spring Garden Tour
- Commander-In-Chief’s Trophy Presentation
- Spouses’ Luncheon
- Legislative Affairs Reception
- 2008 NCAA Football Champions’ University of Florida Visit
- 2009 NCAA Women’s Basketball Champions’ University of Connecticut Reception
- Cabinet Reception
- National Teacher of the Year Event

## History of the Marine Band Chevron



Members of “The President’s Own” wear chevrons on their uniforms which denote their rank and unique status in the U.S. Marine Corps. Only 154 Marines wear chevrons bearing a music lyre rather than crossed rifles. Throughout much of the band’s history, the members’ status has been displayed by this unique symbol. Current members of the Marine Band share the lyre with Sousa-era Marine musicians who wore a music lyre on their collars rather than the traditional Eagle, Globe, and Anchor.

PRODUCTION *continued from page 1*

Pops. It bubbles with life. I wanted to revisit the original orchestral scoring to see if I could make it sound fresh for concert band.”

Master Sgt. Patterson’s philosophy is to never try to make a band sound like an orchestra. “It can’t be done,” he said. “However, I do listen to a piece, and try to envision it as though it were written for band in the first place. How would the composer have scored this for winds to achieve the same musical effect?”

In addition to featuring Festive Overture at WASBE, Col. Colburn has selected two other masterful transcriptions by Master Sgt. Patterson for inclusion on the Marine Band’s 2009 recording, *Feste*, scheduled for release in December.

“My favorite thing is hearing the band realize the instrumental colors and balances I had tried to achieve,” Master Sgt. Patterson said. “When someone says ‘I hardly missed the strings,’ then my job was done.”

*WASBE promotes symphonic bands and wind ensembles as serious and distinctive media of musical expression and cultural heritage, and encourages the composition of band literature of excellence. The Marine Band will celebrate its 211th anniversary with performances at WASBE’s 14th International Conference at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday, July 11, at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music’s (CCM) Corbett Auditorium. The concerts are free, but tickets are required and are limited to four per request. To obtain tickets, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: ATTN: U.S. Marine Band Concert Tickets, C/O Rodney Winther, College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0003. Tickets are also available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., July 5-11, at the Corbett Center Atrium at CCM. Ticket holders are requested to be seated 15 minutes prior to the concerts. All unclaimed seats will be released to the public at that time. For more information call (513) 556-4183 or visit [www.WASBE2009.com](http://www.WASBE2009.com).*

## Featured Downloads

### July

#### Director’s Choice

Overture to *Le roi d’Ys*  
Edouard Lalo/  
trans. Lucien Cailliet

#### March of the Month

“The New York Hippodrome”  
John Philip Sousa\*

\*Member, U.S. Marine Band

### August

#### Featured Soloist

“The Carnival of Venice”  
Jean-Baptiste Arban and Herbert L. Clarke; adapt. Steven Kellner\*  
*Gunnery Sgt. Mark Jenkins and Staff Sgt. Ryan McGeorge, euphonium*

#### March of the Month

“The Bride Elect”  
John Philip Sousa\*

**Please visit [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil) to download.**

CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS



FRIDAY EVENING PARADES

Friday evenings at 8:45 p.m.

Featuring "The President's Own," "The Commandant's Own" United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, and Marine Barracks' mascot, English bulldog Lance Cpl. Chesty XIII. For ticket information call the Marine Barracks Protocol Office at (202) 433-6060.

\*Please note there will be no parade on Friday, July 3. Instead it will be held on Thursday, July 2.

DIXIELAND BAND

Wednesday, July 8, at 8 p.m.

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

Thursday, July 9 at 8 p.m.

Sylvan Theater, Washington Monument

MARINE BAND

Wednesday, July 15 at 8 p.m.

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

Thursday, July 16 at 8 p.m.

Sylvan Theater, Washington Monument

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

Featuring Camille Saint-Saëns' Pas Redoublé; Percy Grainger's "Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon;" Gioachino Rossini's Introduction, Theme and Variations; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Non sò più cosa son" from The Marriage of Figaro; and music by Johnny Cowell, John Hartmann, and John Philip Sousa.

MOZART



FREE COUNTRY

Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 8 p.m.

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

Thursday, Aug. 20 at 8 p.m.

Sylvan Theater, Washington Monument

The Marine Band's country music ensemble will perform contemporary country and patriotic music as well as original compositions.

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Saturday, Aug. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

Featuring Antonio Vivaldi's Concerto in G minor for Two Cellos, Peter Lawrence's Concertino for Two Trumpets, and Felix Mendelssohn's Sinfonia No. 11 in F.



**MARINE BAND**

**Wednesday, July 22 at 8 p.m.**

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

**Thursday, July 23 at 8 p.m.**

Sylvan Theater, Washington Monument

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

Featuring Aaron Copland's "Down a Country Lane," Paul Jeanjean's "The Carnival of Venice," Charles Ives' Country Band March, and Frank Ticheli's "Wild Nights!"

**MARINE BAND**

**Wednesday, July 29 at 8 p.m.**

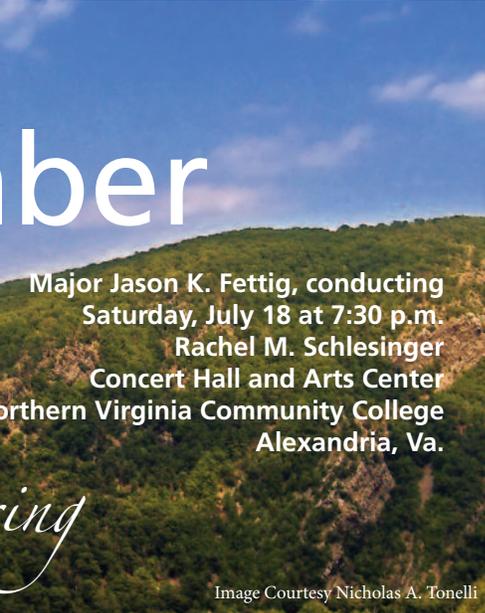
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

**Thursday, July 30 at 8 p.m.**

Sylvan Theater, Washington Monument

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

Featuring Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio espagnol*, Opus 34; Morton Gould's *Ballad for Band*, Bedrich Smetana's *Overture to The Bartered Bride*, Harold Arlen's "Blues in the Night," and John Philip Sousa's "Marquette University."



Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting  
 Saturday, July 18 at 7:30 p.m.  
 Rachel M. Schlesinger  
 Concert Hall and Arts Center  
 Northern Virginia Community College  
 Alexandria, Va.

Image Courtesy Nicholas A. Tonelli

**MARINE BAND**

**Wednesday, Aug. 5 at 8 p.m.**

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

**Thursday, Aug. 6 at 8 p.m.**

Sylvan Theater, Washington Monument

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

Featuring Clare Grundman's *Concord*, Georges Hüe's "Fantasie," John Philip Sousa's "Sound Off," Richard Wagner's *Huldigungsmarsch*, and Eric Whitacre's "October."

**MARINE BAND**

**Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 8 p.m.**

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

**Thursday, Aug. 13 at 8 p.m.**

Sylvan Theater, Washington Monument

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

Featuring Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Dance of the Tumblers* from *The Snow Maiden*, Jean-Baptiste Arban's "Fantaisie Brillante," André Messager's "Solo de Concours," John Philip Sousa's "The Loyal Legion," and Emmanuel Chabrier's *Danse Slave* from *Le roi malgré lui*.

**MARINE BAND**

**Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 8 p.m.**

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

**Thursday, Aug. 27 at 8 p.m.**

Sylvan Theater, Washington Monument

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

Featuring John Williams' *Suite from Far and Away*, Gioachino Rossini's *Scherzo for Band*, Jules Massenet's *Phèdre Overture*, and Pablo de Sarasate's *Zigeunerweisen*, Opus 20.



STAFF LINES



**MSgt Donald Patterson**  
**Staff Arranger and Music Copyist**

**Birthday:** Nov. 25, 1960  
**Hometown:** Galena Park, Texas  
**Family status:** Married to Iris  
**Children:** Erin (14), Sean (12), Emma (12), Bryan (12) (Yes... triplets)  
**Pet:** Molly the beagle  
**Education:** BM from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, in 1984  
**Self-portrait:** Focused, direct, honest, dedicated, faithful  
**Joined the band:** Aug. 21, 1991  
**Inspiration:** Jesus Christ

**Greatest accomplishments:** My family, making a living at something I truly love  
**Pet peeves:** Procrastination (both mine and others'), things that don't work like they should, intolerance  
**Walter Mitty fantasy:** While playing trombone in the Vienna Philharmonic, the conductor turns up ill and I'm asked to take the podium for a performance of Mahler's 3rd Symphony.  
**Most memorable moment in band:** The premiere of my transcription of Prokofiev's 3rd Piano Concerto at The Music Center at Strathmore, led by Leonard Slatkin; his very kind words preceding the performance; and the review in *The Washington Post*  
**Favorite movie:** Depends on my mood. *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* or *Casablanca*  
**Who would play you in a movie:** Ed Begley, Jr. In his youth, he was blonde and he's just quirky enough to pull it off.  
**Best-kept secret:** You know that cricket sound that you sometimes hear in a room where there is no cricket? That's probably me.  
**Favorite foods:** Buffalo wings, chili, BBQ brisket, salsa flavored Combos, real southern chicken fried steak (which of course, you can't get in D.C.)  
**Hobby:** Collecting classical recordings  
**Three things always found in your refrigerator:** Salsa, veggie dip, veggies  
**Most influential teachers:** High school band teacher, Roland Brinkley (through example he taught me more than just music, including how to be a better person); college trombone professor, Dr. Henry Howey; orchestration teacher, Dr. Fisher Tull  
**Professional experience before the band:** Instrumental music instructor (that's pretentious speak for "band director") at Woodland Acres Middle School in Houston; Galena Park High School in Galena Park, Texas; and Tomball High School in Tomball, Texas  
**Luxury defined:** Quiet time (that means no kids) with Iris, alone on a Caribbean beach...with no deadlines  
**Books at bedside:** Bible, *New York Times* Sunday Crossword Puzzles  
**Favorite pieces of music:** Gustav Mahler's 3rd Symphony, Gabriel Fauré's *Sicilienne*, Franz Schubert's 9th Symphony, Johann Sebastian Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, Ludwig van Beethoven's 4th Symphony, Johannes Brahms' F minor Quintet  
**Last words:** "It's all good."

**Promotions**

**To Corporal:** Supply Clerk Jonivan Carter of Milwaukee  
**To Lance Corporal:** Administration Clerk Frederick Peterson of Dothan, Ala.

**In Memoriam**

Euphonium player **Master Gunnery Sergeant Karl Humble**, USMC, (Ret.), passed away in March. Master Gunnery Sgt. Humble joined "The President's Own" in 1962 and retired in 1974. Prior to his service with the Marine Band, he was a member of the United States Air Force Band from 1954-1957 and United States Air Force Academy Band from 1957-1962.

**New Member**  
**Trumpeter/cornetist**  
**Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Strong**

of Fresno, Calif., earned a bachelor of music degree in trumpet performance from the San Francisco



Conservatory in 2006. He earned a master's degree in music performance from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., in 2008. Prior to joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Strong performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, the National Repertory Orchestra in Breckenridge, Colo., and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra in Minnesota.