

notes

July
August



Colonel Michael J. Colburn and the Marine Chamber Orchestra at the White House for the China State Arrival, Jan. 19, 2011. Read more about the history of the orchestra on page 1.

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STRINGS? IN A BAND?

BY GUNNERY SERGEANT AMANDA SIMMONS

Patriotic marches. John Philip Sousa. Presidential Inaugurations. Concert tours. These are things that generally come to mind when people think of the Marine Band. But strings?

Despite its 100-year existence, many are surprised to learn that an orchestra exists within “The President’s Own.” In large part, this is directly related to the amount of time the Marine Chamber Orchestra spends completing its mission behind the closed doors of the White House.

Some scholars believe that string instruments have been played in the Marine Band since its earliest performances at the Executive Mansion. In 1806, correspondence sent to the third Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lieutenant Colonel Franklin Wharton, indicated that a violoncello had been purchased for the Marine Band. Parts for string instruments first appeared in the repertoire under Leader Francis Scala (1855-71), which adds to speculation that the Marine Band could have been augmented with civilian string players for performances at the White House. A written account from a White House guest expressed that strings were present at the 1877 State Dinner for Russia’s Grand Duke Alexis.

References to string instrumentation throughout Marine Band history are not surprising, considering several Marine Band Directors played string instruments; John Philip Sousa (1880-92), Captain William H. Santelmann (1898-1927), Captain Taylor Branson (concertmaster under Santelmann and then Director 1927-40), Lieutenant Colonel William F. Santelmann (1940-55, son of William H. Santelmann), and Colonel Albert F. Schoepper (1955-72) were all violinists and known to have used strings in multiple settings.

The Santelmann Legacy

Throughout the 1800s strings were used sporadically in the band, but a permanent orchestra was not developed until its 19th Leader, William H. Santelmann, took the helm. On March 3, 1899, President William McKinley signed a bill increasing the size and salary of the Marine Band and Santelmann wasted no time implementing his plan for a symphony orchestra within “The President’s Own.”

Santelmann was born in Hanover, Germany, into a family with a long musical heritage. He studied both

violin and clarinet, and following his studies at the Leipzig Conservatory, he left Germany for the United States to perform at Ridgeway Park near Philadelphia.

After seeing an advertisement for Marine Band musicians in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Santelmann decided to audition for then-Director John Philip Sousa on violin, clarinet, and baritone. He was accepted on all three and joined the band in 1887. He remained with the band until 1895 when he left to join the Lafayette Theater Orchestra in Washington, D.C.

Santelmann soon formed his own orchestra and performed at many of the social events held by Washington’s elite and when Washington’s Columbia Theater was built, he was hired as music director. Following the discharge of Marine Band Leader Francesco Fanciulli in 1897, Commandant General Charles Heywood began a frantic search for a new Director.

“Santelmann had excellent musical qualifications and was a well-established musician in Washington,” notes Marine Band Historian Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Ressler. “Having been a former playing member in the Marine Band certainly helped his candidacy.”

On March 3, 1898, Santelmann was named Director and immediately began overhauling the organization. According to Santelmann, “... the Band was not in very good shape, either musically or [morale wise], and it required tact and firmness to put it in shape and to get back the reputation it enjoyed before.”

In addition to reorganizing the band, he implemented his plan to create a full symphony orchestra. In order to accomplish this, all new members and current members with less than nine years of service were required to learn a string instrument in addition to their wind or percussion instrument. In 1902, after four years of intense rehearsal, the new ensemble began performing regularly at the White House.

Santelmann was energized by improvements in the tone quality and intonation of the band following the development of the orchestra. The Marine Corps also took notice of

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Marine Band String Quartet, including Taylor Branson (left), 1912



Circa 1920, Capt. William H. Santelmann and the orchestra

WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



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

- Arts and Humanities Medals Presentation
- International Women’s Day Reception
- 2010 NHL Champions Chicago Blackhawks Visit
- Combatant Commanders’ Dinner
- Saint Patrick’s Day Reception
- Greek Independence Day Reception
- Remarkable Women’s Dinner
- White House Correspondents Reception
- Spring Garden Tour
- Joining Forces Launch
- Reception with Top Volunteers
- Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Presentation
- Easter Prayer Breakfast
- Easter Egg Roll

COATS OF RED AND BLUE

By Staff Sergeant Brian Rust

In April, 10 musicians from “The President’s Own” stepped off a plane on the small island of Okinawa, Japan, for a week’s stay in the country; however, the journey to Japan was not for sightseeing or recreation. Despite some lingering jet lag, the musicians went straight to work teaching, coaching, and rehearsing with the Marines of the III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) Band stationed on Okinawa. The experience proved to be incredibly rewarding for all involved and continued a string of outreach trips by musicians from the Marine Band to Marine Corps fleet bands across the world.

“These trips are a result of a cooperative effort with individual band officers who are interested in training for their Marines,” said Major John R. Barclay, Executive Assistant to the Director and coordinator of the outreach efforts. “The program allows our fellow Marine musicians to be exposed to new musical ideas, and some individual and small group training, which they otherwise might not get.”

One Marine Band musician from nearly every section participated in the trip, including flute, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, euphonium, trombone, tuba, and percussion. The Marine Band members spent time giving individual lessons to each member of their respective instrument section in the III MEF Band. They also coordinated and led sectional training and rehearsed with the entire ensemble in preparation for a joint concert at the end of the week aptly titled “Coats of Red and Blue.” Throughout all the rehearsals and lessons, members from both bands got to know each other professionally and personally, and they quickly became friends.

“They were really nice and they took good care of us,” said clarinetist Gunnery Sergeant Vicki Gotcher. “I think it’s so important for them to know us on a personal level rather than just what they see on the website or hear on a recording.”

Two Marine Band members, bassoonist Master Gunnery Sergeant Roger Kantner and percussionist Master Sergeant David Murray, are very familiar with the outreach effort to the Marine Corps fleet bands. Okinawa was the third and second such trip for each of them respectively. Each experience has been extremely rewarding and keeps them coming back to do more.

“The reason I participate in these trips is because I get the chance to work with other Marine musicians and, within a few days, I see tremendous improvements in their playing,” said Kantner, who served as the Marine Band’s staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge for two of his three trips. “They’re excited about learning something new and they get completely pumped when they can reproduce the concept. There’s no better reward than that.”

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FEATURED DOWNLOADS



JULY

March of the Month

March, “Jack Tar”
John Philip Sousa*

Director’s Choice

Marching Tune
Percy Grainger

AUGUST

March of the Month

March, “Rose, Shamrock and Thistle”
John Philip Sousa*

Featured Soloist

Totentanze
Franz Liszt/trans. Patterson*
GySgt Anna Maria Mottola,
piano soloist

**Member, U.S. Marine Band*

To download selections, visit the Marine Band website, www.marineband.usmc.mil/audio_resources, and click on Web Exclusives.

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Murray agreed that it has been a great experience to work with fellow Marine musicians in the fleet. “I learned that it is possible to play a great concert on almost no sleep if you are surrounded by motivated Marines that are inspired and have fun entertaining the troops,” he said.

The comments from members of the III MEF Band expressed reciprocal feelings. “It’s an honor and privilege to play next to the best and have them help make us play even better,” said Chief Warrant Officer Stephen B. Giove, director and officer-in-charge of the III MEF Band.

The band’s journey to Okinawa was the 11th trip of its kind to Marine Corps fleet bands since 2005. The outreach efforts have included visits to Marine Forces Reserve in New Orleans; Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif.; Marine Forces Pacific in Hawaii; and a scheduled trip this fall to Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego.

“I have been told by the numerous band officers who have hosted our musicians that their Marines have benefitted



April 8, 2011, the III MEF Band and members of the Marine Band perform at Camp Foster. Photo credit: Lance. Cpl. Michael Iams

greatly from the visits and their bands have never sounded better,” Maj. Barclay said. “I have also been told by our musicians that these trips are extremely rewarding endeavors for them. At the end of the day, I think everyone benefits from these experiences.”

In honor of the Marine Band's 213th birthday, we offer words of appreciation from the current and past Commanders-in-Chief

“From Van Cliburn to Yo-Yo Ma, to our own Marine Chamber Orchestra and Marine Chamber Ensembles, [the East Room] has been a stage for some of the nation’s most accomplished classical musicians.” —Barack Obama

“One thing we all share, whether we’re native citizens or new citizens ... is a tremendous appreciation for our people in uniform, an appreciation symbolized by the United States Marine Band, which is celebrating its 210th anniversary this year. I love the band.” —George W. Bush

“For more than 200 years the Marine Band has set a standard of musical excellence that has enriched the White House and our entire nation. They have been ‘The President’s Own,’ and for me it has been a special honor and a treat. They have stirred the spirits of more people than President Adams could ever have imagined when he signed the bill creating the Marine Band.” —Bill Clinton

“I felt that, indeed, the Marine Band was ‘The President’s Own.’ I think every President wants to present the very best side of our country to foreign visitors and to all guests at the White House. The Marine Band has never failed to provide the very best—always a source of pride, always a source of joy.” —George H. W. Bush

“Whether serenading Adams and Jefferson, accompanying Lincoln to Gettysburg, or performing here at the White House, the Marine Band has become a national institution and a national treasure.” —Ronald Reagan

“The dignity you add to ceremonies in the nation’s capital cannot be overstated, and the pride you stir in every American’s heart can be felt by all who attend your performances.” —Jimmy Carter

“During my years of service as Vice President and President, I have never failed to be proud of this splendid musical organization. Foreign visitors have often remarked to me that they felt it was the finest organization of its kind in the world.” —Richard Nixon

FEATURED PROGRAMS

FREE COUNTRY

8 pm | Wednesday, July 6
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 pm | Thursday, July 7
Sylvan Theater

Free Country will perform patriotic favorites, original works by members of the group, and contemporary country music by artists such as Toby Keith, Shania Twain, John Michael Montgomery, Alabama, and Patty Loveless.

MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, July 13
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 pm | Thursday, July 14
Sylvan Theater

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

Charles S. Belsterling
March of the Steel Men*

Adam Gorb
Adrenaline City Overture

Ney Rosauro/trans. McCutchen
Marimba Concerto, Opus 12 (1986)
SSgt Michael Metzger, soloist
conducted by SSgt Steven Owen

John Philip Sousa*
March, "The Gallant Seventh"*
conducted by SSgt Steven Owen

Aaron Copland/trans. Patterson*
"Hoe-down" from *Rodeo*
conducted by SSgt Steven Owen

Alan Lerner and Frederick Loewe/arr. Bulla*
"They Call the Wind Maria" from *Paint Your Wagon*
GySgt Kevin Benneer, baritone

Camille de Nardis/trans. Cafarella
The Universal Judgement

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

7:30 pm | Saturday, July 16

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and
Arts Center, NOVA, Alexandria, VA

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

John Williams
"Air and Simple Gifts" (2009)

William Alwyn
Autumn Legend (1954)
SSgt Joseph DeLuccio, English horn soloist

Paul Moravec
Morph (2003)

Arvo Pärt
Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten (1980)

Benjamin Britten
Simple Symphony, Opus 4 (1934)

MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, July 20
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 pm | Thursday, July 21
Sylvan Theater

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

Edwin Franko Goldman/arr. Lake
March, "On the Mall"

Jean Sibelius
Finlandia, Opus 26

Lawrence Wolfe
Tarantella from *Triptych*
GySgt Karl Johnson, bass trombone soloist

H. Owen Reed
*La Fiesta Mexicana**

John Philip Sousa*
March, "Hands Across the Sea"

MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, July 27
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 pm | Thursday, July 28
Sylvan Theater

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

John Philip Sousa*/ed. Byrne*

March, "The Pathfinder of Panama"*

Dmitri Kabalevsky/trans. Patterson*
Overture to *Colas Breugnon*

Franz Doppler/trans. Bourgeois*
Fantasie Pastorale Hongroise, Opus 26
SSgt Kara Santos, flute soloist

Eric Ewazen
A Hymn for the Lost and the Living (2001)

Frank Ventre
March, "Our United States"

Roy Turk and Fred E. Ahlert/arr. Prather*
"Walkin' My Baby Back Home"
GySgt Kevin Benneer, baritone

John Williams/trans. Lavender
Indiana Jones Suite

MARINE BIG BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, August 3
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 pm | Thursday, August 4
Sylvan Theater

GySgt Alan Prather, conducting

Billy Strayhorn/arr. Holman
"Take the 'A' Train"

Pat Metheny/arr. Curnow
"Every Summer Night"

Hoagy Carmichael/arr. Newsom
"Star Dust"

Greg Adams and Nick Milo
Mr. Toad's Wild Ride

Harry Warren/arr. Holman
"Serenade in Blue"

Pat Metheny/arr. Curnow
"Always and Forever"

MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, August 10
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 pm | Thursday, August 11
Sylvan Theater

*Member, U.S. Marine Band

*Available for download on the Marine Band's website



All concerts are free and open to the public. Schedule is subject to change. For complete program, concert info

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

John Philip Sousa*
Presidential Polonaise*

Morton Gould
"Marches" from Symphony for Band, *West Point**

John Philip Sousa*
March, "The Royal Welch Fusiliers"*
SSgt Benjamin Albright, conducting

Leonard Bernstein/trans. Stith
Three Dance Episodes from *On the Town*
SSgt Benjamin Albright, conducting

John Williams/trans. Lavender
Midway March

MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, August 17

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 pm | Thursday, August 18

Sylvan Theater

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

John Philip Sousa*/ed. Byrne*
March, "Comrades of the Legion"*

Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov/trans. unknown
Overture to *The Maid of Pskov*

Herman Bellstedt/trans. Bulla*
Carmen Fantasy
MSgt Susan Rider, trumpet soloist

arranged by Stephen Bulla*
American Spirituals
GySgt Kevin Benneer, baritone

Adam Gorb
Yiddish Dances (1998)

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

7:30 pm | Saturday, August 20

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and
Arts Center, NOVA, Alexandria, VA

MUSIC OF "DIE NACHT"

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

Arnold Schoenberg
Verklärte Nacht, Opus 4

Johann Sebastian Bach/trans. Sitkovetsky
Goldberg Variations, BWV 988

MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, August 24

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 pm | Thursday, August 25

Sylvan Theater

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

John Philip Sousa*
March, "The Pride of the Wolverines"*

Mikhail Glinka/trans. Patterson*
Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmilla*

Frank Ticheli
An American Elegy (2000)

John Williams/arr. Lavender
Adventures on *Earth from E. T.*
(The Extra-Terrestrial)

MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, August 31

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

Patrick S. Gilmore
March, "The Famous 22nd Regiment"*

Carl Maria von Weber/trans. Patterson*
Jubel Overture, J. 245

Herman Bellstedt/arr. Simon
"Napoli"
GySgt Mark Jenkins, euphonium soloist

Sergie Rachmaninoff/trans. Lavender
Movement No. 3 from *Symphonic Dances*

John Philip Sousa*
March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"*

BAND MEMBER NEWS

VACANCIES

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

Euphonium: Aug. 8-9

Percussion/Drum Set: Aug. 15-16

For information contact:

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

PROMOTION

To Gunnery Sergeant: Clarinetist Harry Ong of Seattle

IN MEMORIAM

Major William D. Rusinak, USMC (Ret.), of Minneapolis, passed away on Nov. 25, 2010. Maj. Rusinak joined the Marine Band in 1955 as a violinist and was named concertmaster in 1956. In 1972, he was appointed assistant director and commissioned a First Lieutenant. He retired from the Marine Band in 1977.

Former Staff Sergeant William J. Cowart, USMC, of Knoxville, Tenn., passed away on March 26, 2011. Staff Sgt. Cowart served as a French horn player in the Marine Band from 1970-74.

Former Gunnery Sergeant Morton D. Silver, USMC, of New York passed away on April 6, 2011. Gunnery Sgt. Silver served as a clarinetist and saxophonist in the Marine Band from 1968-72.

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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the improvements and rewarded the unit with a new concert hall at Marine Barracks Washington in 1906.

A Change in Philosophy

The requirement to double on instruments ceased soon after Col. Schoepper became Director in 1955. According to Ressler, "Schoepper believed that it would improve the quality of both the orchestra and the band if the musicians were permitted to specialize on one instrument. He likely came to this conclusion from his personal experience as a musician who was required to play two instruments."

Schoepper also downsized the orchestra to a chamber group, increasing its versatility for the tight quarters of the White House.



May 28, 1942, Capt. William F. Santelmann conducts the orchestra on the National Mall.

Although there is evidence that the Marine Chamber Orchestra performed occasional public concerts, until 1978 the group's primary responsibility was to perform at the Executive Mansion.

The orchestra did not make regular public performances until the Directorships of Colonels John R. Bourgeois (1979-96) and Timothy W. Foley (1996-2004). Col. Foley's personal dedication to the group as both an Assistant



Col. Schoepper and the orchestra pose with the Nixons in the White House Grand Foyer, Dec. 17, 1970.

STAFF LINES



MGySgt William L. Browne
Drum Major

HOMETOWN
Jacksonville, Fla.

FAMILY
Wife: Shawna
Children: Kailey, 17,
Tanner, 13

JOINED THE BAND
Entered the Marine
Corps in 1989, joined

the Marine Band in 2001

PETS

Bear (dog), Penny and Riley (cats), and Spike (bearded dragon)

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

Becoming a Marine

SELF-PORTRAIT

Funny, loyal, and thoughtful

PET PEEVE

Slow people in front of me, especially driving

WALTER MITTY FANTASY

Racing "The Hell of the North" Paris-Roubaix; hitting the Arenberg Forest at the front of the peloton. A small group has a 15-second lead by

the end of the cobbles. I'm in that break away with cyclists Fabian Cancellara, George Hincapie, Tom Boonen, Filippo Pozzato, and Alessandro Ballan. We manage to stay off the front for the 178-mile race. On the cobbles of Carrefour, I put the hammer down and Cancellara is the only rider who can stay with me. We attack each other over the final 10 miles, but we arrive together at the velodrome and fight it out for the win.

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE
The Bible

FAVORITE MOVIE
"Gallipoli"

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE
Robert Downey Jr.

BEST-KEPT SECRET
My superpower

FAVORITE FOOD
Neapolitan pizza

HOBBIES
Cycling and sports photography

BAD HABIT
Driving too fast

PLACE YOU'D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED
Naples, Italy

THREE THINGS ALWAYS FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR
Chocolate, hazelnut creamer, and red wine

MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHER
Dr. Dale Blackwell. He was my trumpet instructor and challenged me at every turn. He recently completed a distinguished career as professor of music and director of bands at Florida State College in Jacksonville, a position he has held since Aug. 1971.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE BAND
CINCSOUTH Band (now known as Allied Forces Band Naples) in Italy, and the 1st Marine Division Band in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

INSPIRATION
My family

LUXURY DEFINED
Four hour bike ride in the mountains with my friends and teammates followed by a great meal with friends and family then a shower and a nap.

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN THE BAND
Turning the band over to President George W. Bush at the White House Correspondents Dinner so he could conduct "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC
"Last Post" (It's a bugle call that sums up why I serve.)

Director and later as Director played a major role in the orchestra's evolution.

"Rehearsing the Chamber Orchestra for public concerts was one of my first assignments as Assistant Director under the leadership of Col. Bourgeois," Col. Foley said. "It has been exciting to observe the ensemble's capabilities and popularity grow over the past 25 years."

When Col. Foley assumed leadership of "The President's



Col. Foley conducts the orchestra in the White House Grand Foyer, 2000.



May 7, 2007, Col. Colburn conducts the orchestra in the White House Grand Foyer for Queen Elizabeth's arrival.

Own" in 1996, he continued to program the most challenging works for chamber orchestra by composers such as Maurice Ravel, Richard Strauss, Walter Piston, Lukas Foss, Samuel Barber, Charles Ives, Béla Bartók, and Igor Stravinsky.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Kim Miller, USMC (Ret.), joined the orchestra in 1976 and served as concertmaster from 1994-2007. At the time of his enlistment, the orchestra "was not a regular public performing ensemble. We were basically White House support," he said.

Miller's fondest memories from the White House include the visit of England's Queen Elizabeth II for the bicentennial in 1976 (his first White House performance) and her trip for the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown in 2007 (pictured above), which coincidentally was one of his last White House performances.

The orchestra's current concertmaster, Master Gunnery Sergeant Claudia Chudacoff, who like Miller has countless memories at the White House, recalls performing Nov. 9, 2000, for the White House bicentennial celebration, which was attended by all living Presidents. "Seeing the President is always a thrill, but that day felt like a live version of Mount Rushmore," she said.

While she treasures her experiences at the White House, Chudacoff equally values her concert experiences with the Marine Chamber Orchestra. Now 20 years into her career, she feels that the dynamic group is extremely multidimensional and credits the leadership and the ever increasing caliber of players for its significant growth. Not only has the orchestra

become a mainstay in the Spring Showcase Series, but it also gained its own Summer Series in 2002.

Marine Chamber Orchestra In Concert

The Marine Chamber Orchestra's final two concerts this season will be held at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, July 16 and Aug. 20 at the Schlesinger Concert Hall at Northern Virginia Community College's (NOVA) Alexandria Campus. The varied programs

will feature both classics and modern works.

"The Directors' diligent research and ability to program interesting and challenging repertoire has enabled our patrons to hear many pieces that would not typically be heard live," concludes Chudacoff.

The July 16 program, conducted by Major Jason K. Fettig, will celebrate "Simple Gifts"

with performances of John Williams' setting of the famous Shaker tune, commissioned for the Inauguration of President Barack Obama; Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Moravec's *Morph*; Benjamin Britten's Simple Symphony; and Arvo Pärt's Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten. Complete program information can be found on page 4.

Conducted by Col. Michael J. Colburn, the Aug. 20 program, titled "Music of 'die Nacht,'" will feature two German masterpieces: Arnold Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht* (*Transfigured Night*), inspired by Dehmel's poem of the same name and J. S. Bach's monumental Goldberg Variations, transcribed by Dmitry Sitkovetsky. Both concerts are free and no tickets are required. Parking is available for a \$6 fee. NOVA is located at 3001 North Beauregard Street in Alexandria, Va.

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