



*"The President's Own"*

# UNITED STATES MARINE BAND NEWSLETTER

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PUBLISHED FOR FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

## "THE PRESIDENT'S OWN" MARKS 185 YEARS OF OUTDOOR CONCERTS

Summer, 1985 marks the United States Marine Band's 185th outdoor concert season, a record unparalleled by any other U.S. military band. When the national capital was moved from Philadelphia to Washington, the Marine Band went along in July, 1800.

Awaiting a permanent home in the new Federal City, the bandmen pitched their tents on a hill in Georgetown near the present site of the Lincoln Memorial. The first recorded open-air Band concert took place on August 21, 1800 at the temporary camp site.

Friday Evening Parades -- May 10 to Sept. 6, at Marine Barracks, 8th & I Streets, S.E. The program begins promptly at 8:20 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required. Call 202-433-6060.

Sunday Evening Concerts -- June 2 to Aug. 25, at the Sylvan Theater, Washington Monument grounds, 8 p.m. Free.

Wednesday Evening Concerts -- June 5 to Aug. 28, at the West Steps of the Capitol Building, 8 p.m. Free.

The Band, led by its first leader, William Farr, apparently did much with its inspiring music to dispel gloom from the new capital. Then, Washington was nothing but mud, cowpaths and wooden buildings. Today, Washington is our nation's showcase and, as in those early days, the Marine Band continues to inspire Washingtonians and visitors to our nation's capital.

It is with great pride that "The President's Own" continues this long tradition and announces its 1985 outdoor summer concert schedule.

FOR MARINE BAND CONCERT INFORMATION CALL (202) 433-4011

As promised, audiences were treated to an "old fashioned" band concert at our gala concerts dedicated to "The Sousa Heritage" on April 2nd at the Kennedy Center and April 3rd at Baltimore's Meyerhoff Hall.

The concerts featured music in the spirit and style of John Philip Sousa, overtures, soloists, and a parade of Sousa's finest marches entitled "Marching A-long." Highlights of the concert included von Suppe's "Light Cavalry" Overture, Leroy Anderson's "Irish Suite," and Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

But perhaps the most exciting part of each evening was the remarkably effective simulation of cannon fire and church bells in the finale of Tchaikovsky's dramatic "1812" Overture.

Colonel Bourgeois had positioned extra percussionists with bass drums and chimes on stage and in the rear of the concert halls. The bass drums appeared in the audience at precisely the right moment to echo the "cannon fire" from the stage and the effect was quite realistic, as any audience member will tell you! In addition to the percussionists, Colonel Bourgeois also added organ and recorded cathedral bells, making the final moments of "1812" a spectacular and glorious event.

Audiences in both halls demanded encores of the Band and their enthusiastic responses assured repeat performances next year. Dates for next year's performances are as follows: April 22, 1986, 8 p.m. at Meyerhoff Hall in Baltimore and April 23, 1986, 8:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Kennedy Center. Mark your calendars now for these two gala Marine Band concerts in 1986.

The Chamber Orchestra Series, which concluded in March, and the Concert Band Series, presented during April and May, played to enthusiastic crowds, many standing room only.

The Orchestra Series showcased the Band's talented string players and included a special program featuring music of J.S. Bach.

The Band Series began on Easter Sunday and has featured a variety of music including several Marine Band premiers such as Tchaikovsky's Overture Fantasy "Hamlet," and Gustav Mahler's "Songs of a Wayfarer" performed by Marine Band vocalist, baritone Michael Ryan.

#### LATEST RECORDING AVAILABLE

The latest recording by the Marine Band, "Esprit de Corps," is now available for sale at the Marine Corps Museum Shop. It features 13 of the most popular marches and patriotic selections including: Robert Jager's "Esprit de Corps," marches by Sousa, Reeves, Chambers, Bagley and Weldon Sammy Nestico's "Marines' Hymn Apotheosis," and "America the Beautiful" sung by baritone Michael Ryan.

The cost is \$10 if purchased at the shop, \$11.50 by mail. Proceeds benefit the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, the Marine Corps Association, or the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. Write to: Marine Corps Historical Foundation Museum Shop, Washington Navy Yard, Building 58, Washington, D.C. 20374. Or call (202) 433-6330.

## FOURTH OF JULY

What better way to spend the Fourth of July than with an organization that's almost as old and rich in tradition as America itself? "The President's Own" will present a special concert July 4, 1985 at the Filene Center, Wolf Trap Farm Park, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

This celebration is free and no tickets are required. The public is cordially invited to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a program of marches and patriotic music by the Band that plays them best.



## GRIDIRON CENTENNIAL

Many of you may have seen the Marine Band featured on the PBS program "Politicians On the Griddle: 100 Years of the Gridiron," which highlighted the history of the prestigious Gridiron Club and this year's 100th anniversary dinner.

John Philip Sousa was the first music director of the Club and, since that time, very director of the Marine Band has served in this traditional post.

As in past years, the dinner opened with an appearance by the Marine Band, made even more special this year with the premiere of the "Gridiron Centennial March," composed by Colonel Bourgeois at the Gridiron's request to celebrate their centenary. As Music Director, Colonel Bourgeois is also responsible for rehearsing and conducting the singers and orchestra for Washington's most famous political "roast."

## RETIREMENTS

With nearly 110 years of combined total service to the U.S. Marine Band, four bandmen are retiring from its illustrious ranks this summer. They have served the Band honorably, each enriching its heritage with his own singular talents. We salute these men and extend our sincere wishes that each continues in his own tradition of success.

MGySgt Fredric J. Erdman, one of America's best known cornet soloists, enlisted in the Marine Band in 1955. During his 30-year career with the Band, he was principal cornet soloist and was a featured performer on numerous national Band tours.

In 1976, Erdman was awarded a special commendation for appearing as a soloist with the Royal Marines Band at the Royal Albert Hall in London, England and in 1978 he was named to the Board of Clinicians of the New York Brass Conference. Erdman, a native of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, received his primary musical instruction from his father, Frederick J. Erdman, and later studied with Lloyd Geisler, principal trumpet of the National Symphony.

MGySgt Donald G. Carodiskey, joined the Band in 1955 as a member of the clarinet section.

He is a native of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and was graduated from Valley Forge Military Academy in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania in 1955. He began studying music at the age of 10 and trained under Salvadore Colangelo.

After he retires, Carodiskey plans to teach music at the Landon School for Boys in Bethesda. He resides in Ft. Washington, Maryland with his wife, Dolly. They are the parents of three children.

## RETIREMENTS...CONTINUED

MGySgt Thomas P. Knox, chief arranger and composer for the Marine Band, enlisted in the Band in 1961 as a cornetist/trumpeter and assumed his present position in 1966.

Knox has written music for the White House, movies, videos -- anything that required music to be written for the Marine Band.

He was graduated in 1956 from John Greer High School in Hoopeston, Illinois. He continued his studies at the University of Illinois where he received a B.S. in music in 1961. While at the University, he studied under Mark Hindsley, Gordon Binkerd and Haskell Sexton. He also studied under Adolph Herseth of the Chicago Symphony.

MGySgt Knox plans to move to Florida where he will continue to write for Ludwig Music.

MGySgt Thomas Gautreaux, Marine Band solo clarinetist, enlisted in the Band in 1961 as an oboist and clarinetist. He was named solo clarinetist in 1976.

Gautreaux, a native of Gonzales, Louisiana, began studying music at the age of 12. He was graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in music in 1961. While at LSU, he studied with Paul Dirksmeyer. He also studied under John Mack of the Cleveland Orchestra and Joe Allard.

## PROMOTIONS

MGySgt Thomas Lee, Cordovox  
MSgt Ronal Foster, Trombone  
CySgt Earl Hurrey, Stage Manager

## REENLISTMENTS

MGySgt Michael Ryan, Baritone  
MSgt Gail Bowlin, Piccolo  
MSgt James Rowe, Trumpet  
MSgt John Schaefer, Trombone  
CySgt Roy Griffin, Cornet  
CySgt Michelle Foley, Oboe

## NEW ENLISTMENTS

SSgt Lisa Mitchell, Clarinet

DID YOU KNOW . . . On July 11, 1825, on the birthday of the famous Frenchman Lafayette, as the Marine Band stood by to play the "Marseillaise," President Adams arose and proposed to him the first toast ever drunk in the White House. Lafayette's responding toast was to the "Fourth of July" -- birthday of Liberty in both hemispheres -- an occasion for another appropriate air by the Marine Band.

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS OR RELATIVES WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE ON OUR MARINE BAND MAILING LIST? THEY'LL RECEIVE OUR BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, ADVANCE LISTINGS OF CONCERT PROGRAMS, FORTHCOMING CONCERT SERIES AND SPECIAL TRIPS OR TOURS YEAR ROUND. THERE'S NO CHARGE TO BE ADDED TO OUR "FRIENDS OF THE MARINE BAND" MAILING LIST AND IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE INCLUDED, PLEASE WRITE TO THE MARINE BAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, MARINE BARRACKS, 8TH AND EYE STREETS, S.E. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20390.