

notes

March
April



*First convention of the American Bandmasters Association in Middletown, Ohio, March 13-16, 1930.
Pictured left to right: Henry Fillmore with his dog Mike, Victor Grabel, Dr. Peter Buys, J. F. Boyer, Harry Charlton, J. J. Gagnier, C. D. Pierce, Lt. Philip Egner, Lt. Charles Benter, Dr. Edwin Franko Goldman, Karl L. King, John Philip Sousa, Richard Dunn, George Frey, Charles O'Neill, Ernest Glover, Sam Treloar, Frank Simon, and R. B. Hayward*

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CARETAKERS OF THE AMERICAN BAND TRADITION

BY GUNNERY SERGEANT KRISTIN Mergen

The Marine Band performs for the ABA 77th annual conference

During the summer of 1928, three legendary bandmasters—Dr. Edwin Franko Goldman, Mr. Victor Grabel, and Captain William Stannard—came together to discuss the direction of the concert band movement. These were the first formal steps toward the foundation of the American Bandmasters Association (ABA).

All agreed that through a combined effort they could help develop better bands and better repertoire for bands. They sought to lend credence to their cause by inviting John Philip Sousa to act as honorary president of the association. As America's foremost bandmaster, Sousa's participation was a vital component in motivating other bandmasters throughout the country to unite.

Goldman was determined to improve not only the band profession, but also collegiality among directors. With the increasing impact of radio broadcasts and the decline in the popularity of the touring professional band, concert bands were forced to fiercely compete for performance venues.

In August 1928, Capt. Stannard recorded the original goals of the ABA in a letter to Albert Austin Harding, director of bands at the University of Illinois in Champaign: "We

conceived the idea of creating an ABA for the purpose of ... interesting composers, arrangers, and music publishers in Wind Band music. ... It would be the aim of the ABA to unite in a concerted effort to influence the best composers to write for the Wind Band."

And so the charter members of the newly-formed ABA convened in Middletown, Ohio, in 1930 for its first conference to determine how to further its three main directives: "To influence composers of this generation and generations to come to write seriously for the concert band ensemble; to collectively raise the playing standards of the concert band; and to convince the public that the concert band ... is entitled to their enthusiastic support"

The conference included lectures such as "The Proper Arrangement of Band Instruments" presented by Victor Grabel, "The Proper Use of Cornet and Trumpet in the Concert Band" presented by Herbert L. Clarke, "Qualifications for Bandmasters" presented by Charles O'Neill, and "Suggestions for Improvements of Bands and Band Music" presented by Edwin Franko Goldman.

In addition, Grabel presented Sousa with a gold baton and remarked, "You have done more for bands than any other conductor, written more, done more in reaching out a helping hand to younger musicians. Your great work is self-evident in this organization in which are so many members of the famous Sousa band. ... I wish to present this baton in behalf of this organization for the love, esteem and respect we have for you."

A local newspaper reported that "Sousa graciously accepted the tribute, then launched energetically into the business of the convention with his associates. This business is embodied in the ideal of raising the standard of band music."

This ideal is alive and well in today's ABA, which will meet for its 77th annual convention, titled "Anchors Aweigh," March 2-5 in Norfolk, Va. In addition to meetings and events, the convention will include several live performances and will be capped off with a gala concert by "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band. The concert marks the band's 11th ABA convention appearance and will feature 11 members of the ABA as guest conductors of the Marine Band.

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John Philip Sousa and Dr. Edwin Franko Goldman, 1928. Courtesy of the ABA Research Center, Special Collections in Performing Arts, University of Maryland in College Park.

WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



- National Medals of Science and Technology Awards Ceremony
- Thanksgiving Dinner
- Christmas Tree Arrival
- Holiday Reception for White House Volunteers
- Hanukkah Reception
- Kennedy Center Honors Gala Reception
- Congressional Ball
- Senior Staff Dinner
- National Medals for Museum and Library Services Awards Ceremony
- State Dinner Honoring Chinese President Hu Jintao

“... I experienced a wealth of rich emotions, among which were great joy and deep satisfaction in writing for ‘The President’s Own’ United States Marine Band, the quintessential concert band of our time.”

COMPOSER MICHAEL GANDOLFI ON CREATING HIS NEW PIECE FOR THE MARINE BAND TO PREMIÈRE AT THE ABA CONVENTION

FEATURED DOWNLOADS



MARCH

March of the Month

“Valdres”

Johannes Hanssen

New Music Corner

Asphalt Cocktail

John Mackey

**Member, U.S. Marine Band*

APRIL

March of the Month

“U.S. Field Artillery”

John Philip Sousa*/arr. Lake

Director’s Choice

Two Welsh Fighting Songs:

“The Camp” (trans. Ragsdale) and “The March of the Men of Harlech”

Percy Grainger

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

MEET THE ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

By Staff Sergeant Rachel Ghadiali

The Marine Band leadership team has included assistant directors since an Act of Congress established the positions of Leader and Second Leader in March 1899, titles that were later changed to Director and Assistant Director. In 1956, a second assistant director was added to the Marine Band leadership.

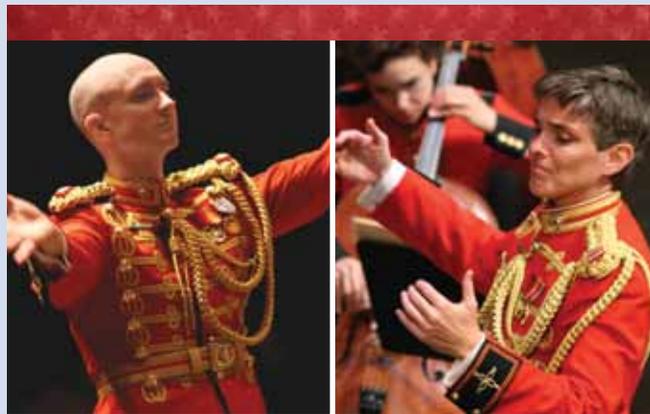
Marine Band assistant directors perform a vital function within the ranks of “The President’s Own.” For several years, Major Jason K. Fettig and Captain Michelle A. Rakers have proudly served in this capacity, carrying out a unified vision for the organization under the leadership of the band’s Director, Colonel Michael J. Colburn.

The current assistant directors were both Marine Band instrumentalists prior to joining the leadership team. Both became involved in music at an early age and attribute their success in music to their families’ support and the encouragement of teachers throughout their schooling. But they decided to set aside their instruments to take on the challenge of joining the Marine Band leadership team.

“In becoming an assistant director in the Marine Band, you’re not just putting down your instrument and picking up a baton,” Maj. Fettig said. “You’re also becoming a leader in this organization. And the non-musical leadership challenges are as daunting as the musical ones.” He continued, “It was a really interesting transition to go from playing in the ensemble to standing up in front of these very accomplished musicians in the position where I was immediately expected to lead, both musically and otherwise.”

Maj. Fettig and Capt. Rakers take the podium of “The President’s Own” to lead Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra performances year-round, but conducting is

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Major Jason K. Fettig

Captain Michelle A. Rakers

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“There’s always been a military band at the convention, but the Marine Band has been out of that rotation for a very long time. In fact, this is seen as a real coup for us to be able to get the Marine Band. ... I think that’s been the most exciting thing that we’ve announced,” explained Dr. Terry Austin, event co-organizer and director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Band in Richmond.

As is tradition, the ABA president will kick off the concert by conducting “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “O Canada.” Current ABA president and former University of Texas band director Paula Crider said she is thrilled about the opportunity. “Never in my imagination as a young director did I ever imagine I would get to stand on the podium in front of the great Marine Band. It’s custom for the president to

“Every band director aspires to become a member of the ABA. I’m honored to have the opportunity to learn from the many distinguished members of this storied organization and to continue the important historic link between the ABA and the Marine Band.”

COLONEL MICHAEL J. COLBURN, MARINE BAND DIRECTOR

conduct the national anthems, but, looking at Col. Colburn’s program, I’m envious of the selections the other conductors get to conduct!”

Crider said she is indebted to Marine Band Director and ABA member Colonel Michael J. Colburn for including Scott Lindroth’s *Passage* on his program, which was an ABA commission.

“I became a fan of Scott’s music as a result of his ‘Spin Cycle,’ which we recorded in 2005,” Col. Colburn said. “When I learned of this ABA commission, I jumped at the chance to perform it.”

The rest of the program highlights a wide variety of music, both old and new, including Ambroise Thomas’ classic Overture to *Raymond*, re-imagined for concert band in a transcription by Marine Band music production chief Master Sergeant Donald Patterson. The concert will also feature several world premières including the Marine Band’s most recent commission, Michael Gandolfi’s *Flourishes and Meditations on a Renaissance Theme* and James Stephenson’s *Duels and Dances* for oboe and wind ensemble. Commissioned by the Minnesota Commissioning Club, *Duels and Dances* was written for the soloist, Alex Klein, former principal oboe with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

The band will also perform Percy Grainger’s *In a Nutshell* suite in honor of the 50th anniversary of Grainger’s death.



The Marine Band will make its 11th appearance performing for the 77th annual convention of the American Bandmasters Association. The band first performed at the conference in 1932.

“I always thought this orchestral work would lend itself to a wind band setting. When we couldn’t find a readily available version I asked Master Sgt. Patterson to put one together,” Col. Colburn said. Master Sgt. Patterson transcribed the first three movements, while the fourth was arranged for band by Grainger himself. These movements will be available as free audio downloads later this year at www.marineband.usmc.mil/audio_resources/web_exclusives/index.htm.

“Every band director aspires to become a member of the ABA,” Col. Colburn said. “I’m honored to have the opportunity to learn from the many distinguished members of this storied organization and to continue the important historic link between the ABA and the Marine Band.” Terry Austin echoed Col. Colburn’s sentiment. “It’s really wonderful,” he said. “How often do you get to rub shoulders with the giants in your profession?”

Paula Crider promises that the ABA members and Marine Band patrons will experience a performance in Norfolk that is second to none. “All lovers of the Marine Band will leave the concert with a true sense of musical fulfillment,” she said.

🔥 The Marine Band will perform at 8 p.m., Friday, March 4, at the L. Douglas Wilder Performing Arts Center in Norfolk, Va. The concert is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. Patrons may request up to four tickets by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

**ATTN: Marine Band Tickets
Dept. of Music
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA 23529**

Tickets are valid until 7:45 p.m.; standby seating thereafter. For more information, please call (757) 683-4336. Specific program information is available on page 4.

FEATURED PROGRAMS

MARINE BAND

8 PM | Friday, March 4

**L. Douglas Wilder Performing Arts Center
Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA**

*Free, tickets required. Ticket information on page 3

ABA 77TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

John Stafford Smith

National Anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner"
Paula Crider, Professor Emerita, The University of Texas, ABA President, conducting

Calixa Lavallée

Canadian National Anthem, "O Canada"
Paula Crider, Professor Emerita, The University of Texas, ABA President, conducting

Ambrose Thomas/trans. Patterson*

Overture to *Raymond*
Carl (Jeff) Bianchi, Conductor, American Youth Symphonic Orchestra, ABA Past President, conducting

James Stephenson

Duels and Dances (world première)
Alex Klein, guest oboe soloist
Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

Johan Halvorsen/arr. Bourgeois*

In Memoriam, Opus 30
Colonel John R. Bourgeois, USMC (Ret.), Director Emeritus, conducting

Percy Grainger/trans. Patterson*

In a Nutshell
Movements conducted by William Johnson, Director of Bands Emeritus, California Polytechnic State University; Ronald Demkee, Director, The Allentown Band; Thomas Leslie, Director of Bands and Conducting, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and Roy Holder, Band Director, Lake Braddock Secondary School

Robert E. Jager

"Esprit de Corps"
Colonel Thomas Palmatier, Commander and Conductor, U.S. Army Field Band, conducting

Scott Lindroth

Passage (2010)
Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

Charles Ives/trans. Elkus

Memories, Very Pleasant and Rather Sad: A Charles Ives Song Set
Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting
SSgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano

*Member, U.S. Marine Band

Michael Gandolfi

Flourishes and Meditations on a Renaissance Theme (world première)
Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

arranged by **Thomas Knox***

A Salute to the Armed Forces of the United States of America
Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

John Philip Sousa*

March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"
Scott Taylor, Director Emeritus, Richardson High School, ABA President-Elect, conducting

MARINE CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

2 PM | Sunday, March 6

**John Philip Sousa Band Hall
Marine Barracks Annex
Washington, DC**

Paul Hindemith

Two Duets in D, No. 3 from
A Day of Music at Plön (1932)

Vincent Persichetti

Serenade No. 6, Opus 44 (1950)

Johann Sebastian Bach/arr. Self

Concerto No. 3 in D minor for Two Violins, BWV 1043

Jacob ter Veldhuis

Jesus is coming (2003)

Jan Bach

Four Two-Bit Contraptions (1964)

Ellen Taaffe Zwilich

Concerto for Trumpet and Five Players (1985)

Dmitri Shostakovich

String Quartet in C, Opus 49



MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

2 PM | Sunday, March 13

**Hylton Performing Arts Center
Manassas, VA**

*Free tickets distributed at the door beginning at noon the day of the concert

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

LANDMARKS

Igor Stravinsky

Concerto in E-flat, Dumbarton Oaks (1938)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Flute Concerto No. 1 in G, K. 313
GySgt Elisabeth Plunk, soloist

Antonín Dvořák

Notturmo in B, Opus 40

Antonín Dvořák

Czech Suite, Opus 39

MARINE BAND

2 PM | Sunday, March 20

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

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

ANGELS AND DEMONS

Richard Wagner/trans. Singleton

Overture to The Flying Dutchman

Franz Liszt/trans. Patterson*

Totentanz
GySgt AnnaMaria Mottola, piano soloist

Frank Ticheli

Angels in the Architecture
SSgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano

Florent Schmitt

Dionysiaques, Opus 62

Jean Sibelius/trans. Patterson*

Pohjola's Daughter, Opus 49

 All concerts are free and open to the public. Schedule is subject to change. For complete program, concert information, and inclement weather announcements, please visit www.marineband.usmc.mil or call (202) 433-4011.

Sir Malcolm Arnold/trans. Paynter
Tam o'Shanter Overture, Opus 51

MARINE BAND

2 PM | Sunday, March 27

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

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

CELEBRATING A CENTURY

Scott Lindroth
"Spin Cycle" (2001)

Herbert L. Clarke
"The Southern Cross"
GySgt Brian Turnmire, cornet soloist

Warren Benson
The Leaves Are Falling

Gustav Holst/ed. Matthews
Suite in F for Military Band, Opus 28, No. 2

Ingolf Dahl
Sinfonietta

arranged by Stephen Bulla*
Mario Lanza Tribute
GySgt Kevin Benneer, baritone

John Philip Sousa*
March, "A Century of Progress"

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

2 PM | Sunday, April 3

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

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

A SYMPHONY STORY

Franz Joseph Haydn
Symphony No. 22 in E-flat, *The Philosopher*

Bohuslav Martinů
Rhapsody-Concerto, H. 337 (1952)
SSgt Sarah Hart, viola soloist

Gustav Mahler
"Blumine" Movement from Symphony No. 1



SSgt Sarah Hart will perform a viola solo during the orchestra's April 3 concert.



The Marine Band will offer two performances at the new Hylton Performing Arts Center.

Franz Schreker
Kammersymphonie (1916)

MARINE CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

2 PM | Sunday, April 10

**John Philip Sousa Band Hall
Marine Barracks Annex
Washington, DC**

Jean-Philippe Rameau/arr. Lawrence
Overture to *Les fêtes de l'Hymen et de l'Amour*,
ou Les Dieux d'Égypte

Ernest John Moeran
Fantasy Quartet (1946)

Charles Koechlin
"Építaphe de Jean Harlow," Opus 164 (1937)

Jiří Jaroš
Detská Suite (Children's Suite) (1952)

Henri Tomasi
Concert champêtre (1938)

Jan Koetsier
Five Impromptus

Paul Schoenfield
Café Music

MARINE BAND

2 PM | Sunday, April 17

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

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

TIME CAPSULE: 1981

John Williams/arr. Lavender
Raiders March from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*

Cindy McTee
Circuits

Dana Wilson
Trumpet Concerto, *Leader Lieder* (2002)
SSgt Amy McCabe, soloist

Samuel Augustus Ward/arr. Dragon
"America, the Beautiful"

Joan Tower
Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman, No. 1

William Schuman
American Hymn

Robert Russell Bennett
Autobiography

George W. Warren/arr. Knox*
"God of Our Fathers"

MARINE BAND

7:30 PM | Thursday, April 21

**Hylton Performing Arts Center
Manassas, VA**

**Free tickets distributed at the door beginning at noon the day of the concert*

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

THE WITCHING HOUR

Antonín Dvořák/trans. Somers
The Noon Witch, Opus 108

Michael Colgrass
Winds of Nagual

John Philip Sousa*
March, "Harmonica Wizard"

Johan de Meij
"Gandalf," The Wizard from Symphony No. 1,
The Lord of the Rings

Paul Dukas/trans. Winterbottom
The Sorcerer's Apprentice

This concert will also feature a solo performance by the winner of the 2011 Marine Band Concerto Competition for high school musicians.

BAND MEMBER NEWS

continued from page 2

just one facet of the responsibilities of the band's assistant directors. They also oversee daily operations of the organization including concert scheduling, music production, auditions, educational outreach, promotions, and the management and ongoing training of Marine Band personnel.

In collaboration with Col. Colburn, the assistant directors program, coordinate, and conduct during the organization's seasonal Showcase Series and summer concert season, as well as the annual national tour, military ceremonies, and White House holiday receptions and special events. Maj. Fettig and Capt. Rakers spend a great deal of time structuring their concert programs, making sure the pieces work together and fit just right. According to Capt. Rakers, "The goal is to take listeners on a journey and keep audiences engaged from the very beginning of the performance to the very end."

To prepare for a concert, they spend at least a month studying the scores of the selections. They also listen to recordings of other groups performing the pieces to hear a variety of interpretations. "The score is the most important document," Maj. Fettig said. "You always want to try to

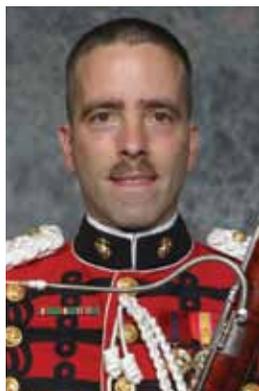
"Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine that I would be playing my clarinet at the White House, let alone conducting performances in the presence of the President and his guests."

MAJOR JASON K. FETTIG

adhere to the composer's wishes as much as possible. But it's illuminating to hear what other conductors and other ensembles have done with the same piece."

Capt. Rakers added that "some band directors may say a conductor should never listen to a recording because they

STAFF LINES



MSgt Christopher McFarlane

Principal bassoon

BIRTHDAY
March 28

HOMETOWN
Williamsville, N.Y.

CHILDREN
John, 11 and David, 8

EDUCATION
B.M., Indiana

University in Bloomington and M.M., Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge

JOINED THE BAND
1994

PET
Gary the leopard gecko

SELF-PORTRAIT
Introspective, intense, yet affable

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT
I would say my children, but they're not done yet, so I guess learning to play the bassoon.

PET PEEVES
Aggressive drivers, technology that doesn't work

WALTER MITTY FANTASY
Teleportation, definitely

INSPIRATION
My teachers, their teachers, and the giants of the past on whose shoulders we stand

FAVORITE MOVIES
The Princess Bride, Monty Python and the Holy Grail, Casablanca

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE
Steve Buscemi or Johnny Depp

BEST-KEPT SECRET
I'm actually 6 foot 7

FAVORITE FOODS
Cured meats, ice cream, pad thai

HOBBIES
Triathlons, Irish traditional music, cooking

BAD HABIT
Biting my nails

THREE THINGS ALWAYS FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR
Milk, coffee, and banana-chocolate chip bread (my kids' favorite breakfast!)

MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHER
They were all so important! But to choose one, Sidney Rosenberg at Indiana University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE BAND
The Baton Rouge Symphony and the Ohio Light Opera in Wooster

LUXURY DEFINED
A whole day off to do whatever I want (happens about twice a year!)

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE
Collected Stories of William Faulkner, Robert Alter's The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary, Selected Writings of William Hazlitt

FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC
This changes often, but you can't go wrong with J. S. Bach's *St. John Passion*.

PLACE YOU'D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED
The New York Public Library

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN BAND
Playing in the White House grand foyer when the Queen of England walked in.

FAVORITE SAYING OR MOTTO
"No matter where you go ... there you are."

LAST WORDS
"I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Virginia."

could be swayed to another's version. But a good musician will make his or her own decisions and still remain true to the composer's intent. Listening to a variety of recordings can simply help stir that creative process and keep one informed of other interpretations."

Conducting the Marine Band on a regular basis is an opportunity relatively few have had throughout the 212-year history of "The President's Own." One of those who stood on the band's podium well before Maj. Fettig and Capt. Rakers had the privilege was John Philip Sousa. When asked how it feels to lead the band knowing that they are standing where Sousa once stood, both assistant directors admitted it is a humbling experience, as is regularly performing for the President of the United States.



Major Jason K. Fettig conducts the Marine Chamber Orchestra during a concert at the Schlesinger Concert Hall in Alexandria, Va.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine that I would be playing my clarinet at the White House, let alone conducting performances in the presence of the President and his guests," Maj. Fettig said. "It's an amazing experience and it continues to be. After 10 years as an assistant director, I still have to pinch myself when I'm conducting in the grand foyer of the White House and the President walks by."

As for what the future holds for the assistant directors, both feel a tremendous responsibility to preserve and perpetuate the organization. "So many great musicians have come through these doors over the past 212 years, and because of them, the Marine Band has developed into a world-class ensemble and maintains a truly special relationship with the presidency," Maj. Fettig said. "I want to do whatever I can to continue to build upon these accomplishments and make sure the Marine Band is around for a very long time."

Meet the assistant directors in person at a post-concert chat during the 2011 Showcase Series or learn more by visiting www.marineband.usmc.mil/WHO_WE_ARE/members/popups/assistant_director.htm. For the extended article visit www.facebook.com/marineband and click on the tab "Notes."

2011 CONCERTO COMPETITION FINALS

The Marine Band is pleased to announce the following seven finalists for the 2011 Concerto Competition for high school musicians:

- Jeemini Lee of Plano, Texas (Flute)
- Andrew Kim of Annandale, Va. (Oboe)
- Ana Nelson of Ripon, Wis. (Clarinet)
- Arekson Sunwood of Huntsville, Ala. (Bassoon)
- Dustin Tharp of Plano, Texas (Euphonium)
- Paul Radke of Overland Park, Kan. (Trombone)
- Zachary Sherburn of Little Elm, Texas (Marimba)

The finalists performed in the final round of the competition on Feb. 19 in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall at the Marine Barracks Annex in southeast Washington, D.C. The winner received a \$2,500 cash prize and will appear as a guest soloist with the U.S. Marine Band at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 21 at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas, Va. This issue of *Notes* went to print prior to the final round. Please visit www.marineband.usmc.mil for the results.

The Jan/Feb issue of *Notes* highlighted Marine Band members who served in combat during World War II. An addition to that list is:

- MGySgt Boyd Conway, USMC (Ret.)
29th Army Air Corps Band, served as gunner on B-29 in Saipan Percussion 1947-64; 1972-75

IN MEMORIAM

Gunnery Sergeant Peter Soo Hoo, USMC (Ret.), of Philadelphia, passed away on Jan. 19, 2011. Gunnery Sgt. Soo Hoo served as a violist in the Marine Chamber Orchestra from 1971-1991. He received a bachelor's degree in music from Philadelphia Musical Academy and a master's degree in music from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

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