



# Music Education

Throughout his tenure as Director, Colonel Michael J. Colburn has diligently worked to expand the U.S. Marine Band's educational outreach. He initiated the Music in the High Schools program in the Washington, D.C. area in 1994 and has encouraged frequent master classes and clinics presented by band members at colleges and universities throughout the country. In more recent years, the Marine Band's educational programs have extended beyond the classroom and onto the stage with the introduction of Young People's concerts and the annual concerto competition for high school students.

## Mock Audition Leads to the White House

"It's too perfect to be real," Marine Band clarinetist Staff Sgt. Patrick Morgan remembers thinking as a high school student listening to his band director's recordings of "The President's Own." But as a college student, he had the opportunity to attend a Marine Band clarinet master class on April 5, 2007, at Indiana University (IU) in Bloomington, and he heard for himself just what fantastic musicians are in the band.

"The most interesting part of the class was definitely the time for us to ask questions about their careers," Morgan said. "The trio had performed at the University of Illinois that morning and driven four hours before they came to play for us and yet they were more than happy to answer as many questions as possible in the 90 minutes we had with them."

Marine Band musicians gave more than 150 master classes in 2008 and the feedback they received time and time again is how valuable the question and answer sessions were. Clarinetist Master Sgt. Randy Riffle has had countless students pepper him with questions about playing in a band versus playing in an orchestra.

"Many people don't realize that the Marine Band is a viable career choice," he said. "I ask the students, 'Do you want a career making music? Get to know band literature. You'll open up so many more opportunities for yourself.'"

The master classes provide students the chance to not only hear the quality of Marine Band musicians, but also to learn about their lifestyle. A regular work week may consist of rehearsing with the band or chamber orchestra for an upcoming concert, marching funerals at Arlington National Cemetery, or playing chamber music at the White House.

Another valuable aspect of some Marine Band master classes is the mock audition. The clarinet trio who performed at IU,

made up of Master Sgts. Randy Riffle, Jay Niepoetter, and Jihoon Chang, held such an audition. Of the 15 students who participated, Master Sgt. Chang recalled that Morgan was one of the more mature players, but admitted, "They all must have been so nervous with all three of us and their teacher standing right over them!"

It wasn't nerves that distracted Morgan, but rather a preconceived notion that the audition "committee" would want all of the music to sound like a march. "When I was preparing for the audition, I remember thinking 'these are military musicians, so I need to be very rigid.' The trio's concert wasn't rigid, and I'm not a rigid player, but I thought that's what they would want in an audition setting."

Afterwards, the trio offered feedback and discussed with each of the students what they could expect from a Marine Band audition, even though there weren't any openings for clarinet at the time. "This was so exciting to take the music we love so much and bring it to the students. I'd just hoped we had an impact on them," Master Sgt. Chang said.

Less than two months later the Marine Band announced an opening for clarinet with an audition in September 2007. After having had such a positive experience with the Marine Band clarinetists and learning that the repertoire was the same music he had prepared for the mock audition, Morgan walked into John Philip Sousa Band Hall on Sept. 10 ready for his first professional audition.

He was thrilled to learn he had made it through the first round of excerpts. "At some point my attitude changed from 'I'll do my best' to 'I want to win.' I played the final round with probably more musical conviction than the first round. I remember feeling very proud to have played well, but I was more proud to have not forfeited my instincts like I did for the mock audition," he said.

Morgan won the audition and was offered a position in the Marine Band. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and joined the band in January 2008.

"I have done several performances and master classes since joining the band; most of them were during the band's tour to the Midwest in 2008. I have had great experiences playing for students from 8th grade through college and it's rewarding to tell them about my own audition process. I hope to make it a big part of my career in the Marine Band."



**Staff Sgt. Morgan plays his first concert with the Marine Band on March 19, 2008, at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va.**

## White House Highlights

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

- State Dinner in honor of the Prime Minister of Italy
- Fall Garden Tour
- Dinner in honor of Theodore Roosevelt’s 150th Birthday
- NCAA Sports Champions Visit
- Arts and Humanities Medals Presentation
- Dinner with the Prime Minister of Israel
- Presidential “Turkey Pardon”
- White House Christmas Tree Arrival
- Kennedy Center Honors Gala Reception
- Children’s Holiday Reception
- Presidential Citizen’s Medal Presentation
- Hanukkah Reception
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Camp David
- Presidential Medal of Freedom Presentation
- President Bush’s Farewell Address to the Nation

## Featured Downloads

### March

March of the Month  
“Bullets and Bayonets”  
John Philip Sousa

New Music Corner  
To be determined.

### April

March of the Month  
“Sound Off”  
John Philip Sousa

Director’s Choice  
Comes Autumn Time Overture  
Leo Sowerby

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## The Next Generation

“The Fantastic, Elastic, Gymnastic Concert Band!” is the theme for this year’s Young People’s Concert at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 26, conducted by Assistant Director Major Jason K. Fettig. The performance will take families on a musical tour through the entire band to examine the incredible capabilities along with a few of the quirks of each instrument.

“Lively musical demonstrations will give every instrument in the band a chance to ‘strut its stuff,’ making for a playful and entertaining program for band music novices and aficionados alike,” Fettig said.

He has written limericks and “odes” to each instrument, which call out some of their more unique idiosyncrasies. About the flute he writes, “But one cannot dispute/That no other can uproot/Its capacity to compute/A zillion notes (and one to boot).” He also plans to explore what it sounds like to hear familiar music with an unfamiliar sound, such as a tuba playing a piccolo part.

Another highlight of the concert will be a performance by the winner of the Marine Band’s 2009 Concerto Competition for high school students. The winner was determined at the final round of the competition, held in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall on Feb. 21, 2009. At the time of this printing the recital to determine the winner had not yet taken place, but that featured soloist’s concerto will provide the backdrop for a discussion about his or her instrument. This year’s finalists include saxophonist Jorge Olivero of Plano, Texas; oboist Daniel Yi of Flower Mound, Texas; flutist Jennifer Zhou of Columbus, Ohio; percussionist Caleb Easterly of Bowling Green, Ohio; French hornist John Turman of Austin, Texas; euphonium player Zachary Jacobs of Saratoga, Calif.; and trumpeter Eric Millard of Mechanicsburg, Pa.

“It’s no mystery that the preservation of live classical music depends entirely on getting young people excited about the concert experience,” Major Fettig said. “Our Young People’s Concerts largely feature the same kinds of music we present in our more serious performances, just repackaged in a way that helps illuminate why this music is so special. The goal of any Marine Band performance is to entertain our audience, whether they are nine years old or 90.”

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*Inauguration*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Marine Chamber Ensembles  
John Philip Sousa Band Hall  
Marine Barracks Annex  
Sunday, March 1 at 2 p.m.**

Milton Babbitt  
"Homily"

Johann Sebastian Bach  
The Art of Fugue, BWV 1080

Igor Stravinsky  
Three Songs From William Shakespeare

MSgt Christopher McFarlane\*  
Spider Trap

Charles Koechlin  
Septet for Wind Instruments

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Trio in E-flat, K. 498, *Kegelstatt*

**Marine Band  
Center for the Arts  
George Mason University  
Sunday, March 8 at 2 p.m.**

WIND AND SONG  
Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

David Dzubay  
"Myaku"

Richard Strauss  
Serenade in E-flat for Thirteen Winds,  
Opus 7

Michael Tilson Thomas  
Street Song

Mark D. Camphouse  
*Elegy* +

Nicholas Maw  
*American Games* +

Aaron Copland  
*Old American Songs*, Set No. 2  
SSgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano

Percy Grainger  
Marching Song of Democracy

**Marine Chamber Orchestra  
Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert  
Hall and Arts Center  
NOVA Alexandria Campus  
Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m.**

THE VIENNA ROMANTICS

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

Johannes Brahms/arr. Berio  
Clarinet Sonata No. 1 in F minor,  
Opus 120  
SSgt Gina Guhl, soloist

Franz Schubert  
Symphony No. 9 in C, D. 944, *The Great*

**Marine Chamber Ensembles  
John Philip Sousa Band Hall  
Marine Barracks Annex  
Sunday, March 22 at 2 p.m.**

Leonard Bernstein  
*Dance Suite*

Lori Laitman/texts by children of the  
Holocaust  
*I Never Saw Another Butterfly*

arranged by GySgt Kenneth Wolin\*  
*Celtic Instrument Suite*

Astor Piazzolla/trans. Voirpy/  
adapt. Edwards  
*Histoire du Tango*

+Selections available for download or  
streaming on [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil)

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Chick Corea/arr. Deviney  
"Armando's Rhumba" and "Spain"

Mildred Hill/arr. Heidrich  
"Happy Birthday" Variations

**Marine Band**  
**Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert**  
**Hall and Arts Center**  
**NOVA Alexandria Campus**  
**Sunday, March 29 at 2 p.m.**

THE DREAM HOUR

*Narrated by Mark Shields of the*  
*NEWSHOUR with Jim Lehrer.*  
Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

Johan Svendsen  
*Carnival in Paris*, Opus 9

John Philip Sousa\*  
March, "The Royal Welch Fusiliers" +

Joseph De Luca  
"Beautiful Colorado" +  
*GySgt Matthew Summers,*  
*euphonium soloist*

Johann Strauss Jr.  
*Voices of Spring*

Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov/  
arr. O'Donnell and Knox\*  
"The Flight of the Bumble-Bee" from  
*The Tale of Tsar Sultan*

Modest Mussorgsky  
*Night on Bald Mountain*

Jean Sibelius  
*Finlandia*, Opus 26

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

Pablo de Sarasate  
*Zigeunerweisen*, Opus 20 +  
*SSgt Jonathan Bisesi, xylophone soloist*

Frédéric Chopin  
Polonaise in A, Opus 40, No. 1, "Military" +

Henri Kling  
"Two Little Finches"

A. Emmett Adams/arr. Clark  
"The Bells of Saint Mary's"

Richard Wagner  
Prelude to Act III, Dance of the  
Apprentices and Entrance of the  
Meistersingers from *Die Meistersinger*  
*von Nürnberg*

**Marine Chamber Ensembles**  
**John Philip Sousa Band Hall**  
**Marine Barracks Annex**  
**Sunday, April 5 at 2 p.m.**

Béla Kovács  
Hommage à Manuel de Falla

Franz Schubert  
"Auf dem Strom," Opus 119, D. 943

Ernst Toch  
Geographical Fugue

Bohuslav Martinů  
Quartet, H. 139

P. D. Q. Bach/ed. Schickele  
*Suite No. 1 for Cello All By Its Lonesome*,  
S. la

Camille Saint-Saëns  
*Carnival of the Animals*

**Marine Band**  
**Maryland Hall, Annapolis, Md.**  
**Wednesday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m.**

AMERICAN DANCE

*Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting*

John Philip Sousa\*  
La Reine de la Mer Waltzes +

Giulio Briccialdi/trans. Heffler\*  
Concertino No. 2 in G, Opus 45, on  
Themes of Verdi's *MacBeth*  
*MGySgt Gail Gillespie, flute soloist*

John Corigliano  
*Gazebo Dances*

Leonard Bernstein/trans. Lavender  
Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story* +

**Marine Chamber Orchestra**  
**Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert**  
**Hall and Arts Center**  
**NOVA Alexandria Campus**  
**Sunday, April 19 at 2 p.m.**

AN AFTERNOON AT THE OPERA  
Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

*Featuring SSgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-*  
*soprano, and GySgt Kevin Bennear,*  
*baritone, in excerpts from:*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
*The Marriage of Figaro*, K. 492  
*Don Giovanni*, K. 527  
*The Magic Flute*, K. 620

Georges Bizet  
*Carmen*

Amilcare Ponchielli  
*La Gioconda*

Gaetano Donizetti  
*The Elixir of Love*

**Marine Band**  
**Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert**  
**Hall and Arts Center**  
**NOVA Alexandria Campus**  
**Sunday, April 26 at 2 p.m.**

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT:

THE FANTASTIC, ELASTIC,  
GYMNASTIC CONCERT BAND!  
*Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting*

Program description can be found in the  
story on page 2.

*All concerts are free and open to the*  
*public. Schedule is subject to change.*

\* Member, U.S. Marine Band

## STAFF LINES

### **MSgt John Mula**

**Clarinet, Tour Coordinator**



**Birthday:** June 17, 1963

**Hometown:** Monticello, Ill.

**Pets:** German shorthair pointer, German shepherd

**Education:** BS music education, University of Illinois; MM in clarinet performance, San Diego State University; DMA in clarinet performance, Florida State University in Tallahassee

**Joined the band:** June 1996

**Self-portrait:** Fun-loving, empathetic, goal-oriented, gutsy, motivated

**Favorite saying or motto:** Nothing is an accident

**Pet peeves:** Double parkers, condescension

**Walter Mitty fantasy:** To write music or be

a puppeteer for Sesame Street, preferably Grover or Cookie Monster

**Most memorable moment in band:**

210th Anniversary Concert at the Kennedy Center with John Williams conducting

**Inspiration:** My colleagues

**Favorite movie:** The Harry Potter Series

**Who would play you in a movie:** Beaker from the *Muppet Show*

**Best-kept secret:** For one year during my master's degree, I lived in a shed with an orange electric cord for electricity and no bathroom.

**Favorite foods:** Filippo's Pizza in Monticello, peanut M&Ms, lasagna, pa ram long song, Five Guy's Burgers and Fries

**Hobbies:** Teaching, playing piano, tour coordinating, going to the gym

**Bad habits:** Procrastinating, beating myself up

**Three things always found in your refrigerator:** Parmesan cheese, Diet Coke, black bean burgers

**Most influential teacher:** My father, Frank Mula, art teacher, musician, WWII veteran

**Professional experience before the band:** Junior high band director, mortuary night attendant

**Books at bedside:** *The Tao of Pooh* by Benjamin Hoff, *The Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*, *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz

**Favorite piece of music:** Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony

**Place you'd most like to be stranded:** Disney World

**Last words:** Live with integrity

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### **Music in the Schools**

From Feb. 16 through March 13, ensembles from the Marine Band will present free educational programs and vocal coaching sessions to high school music students throughout the Washington, D.C., region. Music in the High Schools (MITHS) offers young musicians professional insight into performing on their instruments, and gives educators the chance to bring high-quality performances to their students. This year's MITHS ensembles include a brass quintet, saxophone quartet, jazz combo, and vocalists mezzo-soprano Staff Sgt. Sara Dell'Omo and baritone Gunnery Sgt. Kevin Benbear.

Music educators who are interested in signing up for a MITHS performance may contact Ms. Vadya Dillon at the Marine Band Branch of Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps at (703) 614-2267 or [vayda.dillon@usmc.mil](mailto:vayda.dillon@usmc.mil).

### **In Memoriam**

Trombonist Master Sgt. Harold Bayes, USMC, (Ret.) passed away in December 2008 at the age of 96. Master Sgt. Bayes enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1929 and played in the Quantico Marine Band. From Quantico, he took the steamboat to Marine Barracks for lessons with principal trombone of "The President's Own" Robert Clark. Bayes joined the Marine Band in 1932, replacing Clark upon his retirement. Bayes was a tour soloist in 1935 and retired Sept. 30, 1955.



*Photo courtesy of President George W. Bush Library*

**Marine Band Director Michael J. Colburn and members of "The President's Own" bid farewell to President and Mrs. Bush at the White House on Dec. 19, 2008. On April 26, 2008, Bush became the first President to take the Marine Band podium and conduct "The Stars and Stripes Forever." In honor of this occasion, the ensemble presented President Bush with a baton case inscribed "To President George W. Bush, our conductor-in-chief from the members of 'The President's Own.' "**