



"The President's Own"

UNITED STATES MARINE BAND NEWSLETTER

MARCH, APRIL
& MAY, 1985

PUBLISHED FOR FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

MARINE BAND PERFORMS FOR ITS 47TH INAUGURATION

President Reagan's second inauguration marked the 50th inauguration of an American president and "The President's Own" played a prominent role in the official ceremonies as we have since the time of Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson was sworn in at the first inauguration to be held in Washington and the Marine Band played "Jefferson's March" and other patriotic airs. In the 47 inaugurations since that time, the Marine Band has repeated that historic event. Preparations for President Reagan's second inaugural began months ago with extensive planning for the ceremonies and related inaugural events. Rehearsals and recording were the order of the day for weeks including an outdoor rehearsal at the Capitol which began at 6:00 a.m. the Sunday before the actual ceremonies. Following the early morning rehearsal, the Band marched the actual route for the Inaugural Parade, making sure that nothing was left to chance. But the weather became the big news on inauguration day and everyone was sent scurrying to attend to literally thousands of details. With the exception of the Inaugural parade (which was cancelled due to -40 degree wind chill) the Marine Band was present for all other scheduled inaugural events. On January 20th, the date mandated by the Constitution, the President took the oath of office at the White House in a private ceremony with the Marine Chamber Orchestra providing music for the ceremony and the luncheon which followed. Earlier that morning, Colonel Bourgeois and our Brass Choir were at Washington Cathedral for the National Prayer Service. The afternoon of the 20th was reserved for another outdoor rehearsal which was modified due to the cold.

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

MARINE BAND PERFORMS FOR INAUGURATION (CONTINUED)

The public inaugural ceremonies were scheduled for Monday, January 21st, with a 90-minute prelude played by the Marine Band. All of the music for the prelude and the ceremony was on tape in case the Band's instruments were frozen and, until 6:00 p.m. Sunday, the ceremonies were still scheduled to go outdoors. Shortly thereafter, the President cancelled the parade and moved the ceremonies indoors to the Capitol rotunda. Due to the very limited space in the rotunda, only half of the Band could be used but it was possible to perform the prelude and the ceremony live. (There seems little doubt that all the instruments would have frozen outdoors in the 4 degree temperature on Monday) Music for all the inaugural events was chosen by Colonel Bourgeois to focus on American composers including Copland, Chadwick, Barber, Schuman and, of course, Sousa. The Band performed in 2 featured selections during the Capitol ceremony: Aaron Copland's setting of "Simple Gifts" sung by soprano Jessye Norman and the University of Maryland Chorus performed Randall Thompson's "Testament of Freedom" accompanied by the Marine Band. Following the ceremonies, members of the Band prepared for evening appearances at 3 of the inaugural balls. (For those of you who missed seeing the Band on television, there is a birds-eye view of the ceremonies on pp. 21-22 of the February 4th edition of U.S. News & World Report) Though the Marine Band is a frequent visitor to the White House and can often be found at numerous Presidential appearances, nothing can compare with once again taking our traditional place at this historic event.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA SERIES BEGINS IN MARCH

Five Sundays in March have been reserved for the Marine Band's annual Chamber Orchestra series. The concerts will be held on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. in the Sousa Band Hall at Marine Barracks, 8th and Eye Streets, S.E. in Washington. No tickets are required for these concerts and the doors will open at 2:30 p.m. Street parking is available or ride METRO to the Eastern Market station and walk 3 blocks to Marine Barracks. The March 3rd concert will feature works for percussion ensemble. The remaining four concerts will be conducted by the Assistant Directors of the Marine Band, Major Charles Erwin and Captain Timothy Foley. Everyone on our mailing list will receive a complete listing of the concert programs for the Chamber Orchestra series and, as always, the weekly programs will be available on our Concert Information number at 433-4011. Plan to join us for these concerts!

GALA CONCERTS AT KENNEDY CENTER AND MEYERHOFF HALL

The President's Own" will present two gala concerts this spring honoring "The Sousa Heritage." On Tuesday, April 2nd, the Marine Band will perform in the Concert Hall of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Concert time is 8:30 p.m. The following evening, Wednesday, April 3rd, the Band will repeat the concert at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore. Please note that concert time for Meyerhoff Hall is 8:00 p.m. Both Marine Band gala concerts are free and open to the public, however, TICKETS ARE REQUIRED. Approximately two weeks in advance of the concerts, four tickets per person may be obtained at the following locations: for the April 2nd Kennedy Center concert, pick up tickets at the Friends of the Kennedy Center Volunteer Desk. For the April 3rd concert at Meyerhoff Hall, pick up tickets at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall Box Office. On concert nights, seats unfilled 15 minutes prior to concert time will be given to patrons without tickets. Colonel John Bourgeois, Director of the Marine Band, will conduct both concerts. Highlights of the program include Franz von Suppe's "Light Cavalry" overture, Leroy Anderson's "Irish Suite," the popular "Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin, a selection of the March King's finest entitled "Marching Along," and the concert will conclude with Tchaikovsky's dramatic Overture Solenne, "1812." We hope you can be with us to enjoy the music of the Marine Band in these two fine concert halls.

BAND CONCERT SERIES IN APRIL AND MAY

Immediately following the Chamber Orchestra series, the Marine Band will present two full months of Band concerts in the Sousa Band Hall at Marine Barracks, 8th and Eye Streets, S.E. in Washington. The Band series will also be held Sundays at 3:00 p.m., doors opening at 2:30 p.m. The series will be conducted on given weeks by all three of our Directors and will feature a wide variety of music and instrumental soloists as well as our Baritone vocalist Michael Ryan in favorite operatic selections. Concert programs will be available through our Concert Information number at 433-4011 or in local newspapers. This is traditionally a popular series so plan to come early for a good seat! No tickets are required.

MARINE BAND CONCERT TOURS

Each fall the Marine Band tours for approximately 8 weeks. If you would like the Marine Band to appear in your city, please contact Bridget McMinn of WASHINGTON, INC. 2233 Wisconsin Ave, Washington, 20007 Ph. (202)337-9393

EVENING PARADES BEGIN IN MAY

While it may feel like winter to you, summer will be here before you know it and that means the beginning of the popular Evening Parades here at Marine Barracks. For those of you who have attended Evening Parades in the past, you know that it is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Washington. Each week, the seats are filled to capacity for this showcase of the Marine Corps. The parades are held here on the Parade Ground at Marine Barracks and feature the Marine Band as well as the other ceremonial units from the Barracks in a one-hour ceremony featuring marching, music & precision rifle demonstrations. The evening begins with a 30-minute prelude concert by the Marine Band at 8:20 p.m. No tickets are required but reservations ARE A MUST. We recommend that you make reservations several weeks in advance by calling (202) 433-6060. There is a limited amount of unreserved seating but please call ahead to insure a good seat.

JOINT CONCERT WITH SOUSA HIGH SCHOOL HONORS BAND

On Saturday, May 11th, the Marine Band will share the stage at Departmental Auditorium with the Sousa International High School Honors Band. The Sousa High School Honors Band is composed of students representing high schools from around the nation. These outstanding young musicians were selected based on recommendations from their band directors and from their record of musical achievement. Every two years, the band meets here in Washington for a concert conducted by Colonel John Bourgeois, Director of the Marine Band. Following the first half of the concert by the Honors Band, the second half will feature the U.S. Marine Band conducted by Colonel Bourgeois. The event is sponsored by the John Philip Sousa Foundation, a publicly supported educational foundation organized to promote the excellence of bands and band music around the world. Concert time is 8:00 p.m., May 11th. Departmental Auditorium is located on Constitution Ave near 14th St.

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS OR RELATIVES WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE ON OUR MARINE BAND MAILING LIST? THEY WILL RECEIVE OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, ADVANCE LISTINGS OF CONCERT PROGRAMS, UPCOMING CONCERT SERIES AND SPECIAL TRIPS OR TOURS YEAR ROUND. THERE IS NO CHARGE TO BE ADDED TO OUR "FRIENDS OF THE MARINE BAND" MAILING LIST AND IF YOU WOULD 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