

May - June 2000

NOTES



Baritone vocalist MGySgt Michael Ryan ends his career with the Marine Band on May 21. See Page 1 for details.

PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE U.S. MARINE BAND

Farewell

Retirement of MGySgt Michael Ryan

Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Ryan, baritone vocalist and concert moderator, will perform his final concert with "The President's Own" at George Mason University's Center for the Arts on May 21. The special program will also include his retirement ceremony.

Since joining the band in 1970, Ryan has developed a strong following in the Washington metropolitan area as well as across the country. Only the second vocalist in the band's 200-year history, Ryan has entertained every U.S. President since Lyndon Johnson.

Over the course of his career, he has performed in more than 2,000 Marine Band concerts and 29 national concert tours, and has been a frequent soloist at White House State Dinners. Ryan has also served as principal vocal soloist for the Alfalfa and Gridiron Clubs and the Military Order of the Carabao.

"Michael Ryan's career with 'The President's Own' is unprecedented."



Director Colonel Timothy W. Foley said, "For 30 years his powerful baritone has been the voice of the United States Marine Band. He has performed to the

"Whatever the future holds, it will be hard to equal the opportunities and experiences of the Marine Band."

—MGySgt Michael Ryan

acclaim of countless heads of state, dignitaries, audiences, and music critics across the country and abroad.

"Through his music he has represented all that is great about our country, our Corps, and our Marine Band. All the members of 'The President's Own' join me in congratulating Michael on his most distinguished career," Colonel Foley continued.

In 1981, Ryan won the hearts of his countrymen when he sang "America, the Beautiful" during President Ronald Reagan's Inauguration Ceremony, coinciding with the release of the American hostages from Iran.

Accompanying President Bill Clinton to Hawaii in 1995, he helped mark the 50th anniversary of VJ Day, the end of World War II. In addition, he led a national sing-along in 1996 at President Clinton's second Inauguration Ceremony.

"Whatever the future holds, it will be hard to equal the opportunities and

experiences of the Marine Band," Ryan said. "To have worked with such wonderful colleagues and directors along the way makes it even harder to step aside, but this is the right time. God has truly blessed me."

Ryan will conclude his career at a free public performance conducted by Colonel Timothy W. Foley and Director Emeritus Colonel John R. Bourgeois on May 21 at 2 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts.

Selections for this performance have been chosen by Ryan and include Sousa's "Hail to the Spirit of Liberty," Schoenberg's Theme and Variations, and Master Sergeant Steven Bulla's vocal arrangement of selections from *Man of La Mancha* (see pages 3 and 4 for complete program information).

The performance is free, but tickets are required. At press time, tickets were still available. Please call the Marine Band Public Affairs Office at (202) 433-5809 for more information.



Quotable Quotes...

One of the best musical bargains in the Washington area—or, for that matter, anywhere in the world: free chamber music concerts by the highly skilled members of the U.S. Marine Band.

—Joseph McLellan,
The Washington Post

White House Highlights

Recent Marine Band appearances at the White House include:

- Hispanic Achievement Awards Ceremony
- National Governors Association Dinner
- Science and Technology Awards Ceremony
- Full Honors Arrival Ceremony and State Dinner for the King and Queen of Spain

New Website Features

As part of an ongoing effort to better serve our online audience, the Marine Band is pleased to announce a newly added website search function.

Accessible from the home page and the site's main index pages via the "Search Our Site" link, this feature allows visitors to access Marine Band news, programs, performance dates, and more, by entering keywords, a group of words, or a specific topic. Data from all searches will be used to plan future content and design.

Try this new feature at www.marineband.usmc.mil.

Marine Band to Perform at Wolf Trap

The Marine Band will kick off Wolf Trap's 2000 summer season with a special concert on Wednesday, May 24, at 8 p.m. at the Filene Center. The concert is free, but tickets are required and can be obtained online at www.wolftrap.org or by calling Tickets.com/ProTix at (703) 218-6500. There is no service charge for these tickets, and seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Gates open at 6:30 p.m., and the house opens at 7:30 p.m. Since the band's music and the fireworks that follow traditionally attract a capacity audience, patrons should plan to arrive early for the best seating.

The Marine Band's association with Wolf Trap dates to the park's inception in the late 1960s. During the Filene Center's Groundbreaking Ceremony in May 1968, the Marine Band premiered the Wolf Trap Park Fanfare, a musical selection specifically composed for the event. Through the years, the Marine Band has continued its close relationship with Wolf Trap, performing annually at the park's Holiday Sing-Along and during the summer season.

Located in Vienna, VA, Wolf Trap is America's only national park for the performing arts. Operated by the Wolf Trap Foundation, this non-profit organization's variety of artistic and educational programs seek to ensure the "... arts remain accessible and affordable to the broadest possible audience." Founded upon Catherine Filene Shouse's donation of 100 acres of farmland in Northern Virginia, the Wolf Trap Foundation's typical season includes performances that range from pop, country and classical music to musical theater and opera.

For directions and parking information for the summer opener, please contact Wolf Trap Ticket Services at (703) 255-1860 or visit their website at www.wolftrap.org.

Memorial Day Observances

On Memorial Day, America pauses to remember those who have given their lives in service to their country. Originally known as Decoration Day, the holiday traces its origins to post-Civil War commemorations during which the graves of Civil War soldiers were decorated with flower arrangements and other items. These unofficial observances were consolidated by the U.S. Congress in 1971, when Memorial Day was declared a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday of May.

The Marine Band will be participating in two holiday observances in the Washington, DC, area: on **Sunday, May 28**, the annual star-studded Memorial Day tribute at the U.S. Capitol, time to be determined; and a memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery on **Monday, May 29**, at 11 a.m. Both events are free and open to the public. The Sunday observance will be aired on WETA-TV in the Washington area; check local listings for times and dates. For additional information contact the Marine Band Public Affairs Office at (202) 433-5809.

Band Continues in Sousa Tradition

On March 25 the Marine Band, under the baton of Director Colonel Timothy W. Foley, presented a patriotic opening of music for the annual dinner of Washington's venerable Gridiron Club, whose membership comprises many of the nation's finest journalists.

The band's presentation continues an historic tradition in which the Director of "The President's Own" serves as the Club's Music Director, a post first held by John Philip Sousa during his tenure as Marine Band Director from 1880-92. Sousa composed "The Gridiron Club"—one of his finest marches—for the organization in 1926, and the band premiered the piece at the Club's dinner that year. "The Gridiron Club" remains in the band's repertoire today.

CONCERT PROGRAMS

**U.S. Marine Band
GMU Center for the Arts
Sunday, May 14 at 2 p.m.**

Captain Michael J. Colburn, conducting

Jacques Offenbach/trans. Odom
Overture to *La Belle Hélène*

Francis Poulenc
Aubade
Robert Boguslaw, piano

Claude Debussy/trans. Clarke
"La Cathédrale engloutie"

Emmanuel Chabrier/trans. Dupont
"Fête Polonaise" from *Le Roi malgré lui*

Karel Husa
Les Couleurs fauves (1995)

Maurice Ravel/trans. Knox
Song Cycle, "Don Quichotte à Dulcinée"
Kevin Benneer, baritone

Edouard Lalo/trans. Cailliet
Overture to *Le Roi d'Ys*

**U.S. Marine Band
Dodd Auditorium
Mary Washington College
Fredericksburg, VA
Saturday, May 20 at 8 p.m.**

Colonel Timothy W. Foley conducting

**GMU Center for the Arts
Sunday, May 21 at 2 p.m.**

*Colonel Timothy W. Foley and
Director Emeritus
Colonel John R. Bourgeois, conducting*

John Philip Sousa
March, "Hail to the Spirit of Liberty"

Franz von Suppé/arr. Knox
Overture to *Faust*

Johann Sebastian Bach/trans. Knox
Toccat, Adagio and Fugue in C

Arnold Schoenberg
Theme and Variations, Opus 43a

Jacques Offenbach/arr. Bourgeois
Galop from *Geneviève de Brabant*

John Philip Sousa
March, "Washington Post"

John Philip Sousa
March, "Semper Fidelis"

Mitch Leigh and Joe Darion/arr. Bulla
Selections from *Man of La Mancha*
Michael Ryan, baritone

**U.S. Marine Band
Wolf Trap Filene Center
Wednesday, May 24 at 8 p.m.**

Colonel Timothy W. Foley conducting

Joseph Willcox Jenkins
American Overture for Band

Bill Finegan & Eddie Sauter/trans.
Roberts
"Doodletown Fifers"

Aaron Copland/trans. Patterson
"Down a Country Lane"

Leroy Anderson
"Blue Tango"

William Schuman
Chester Overture

George Gershwin/arr. Bennett
Selections from *Porgy and Bess*

Samuel Barber
Commando March

**U.S. Marine Band
The Mall
Sunday, June 4**

Colonel Timothy W. Foley conducting

Camille Saint-Saëns/trans.
Franckenpohl
Pas Redoublé, Opus 86

John Philip Sousa
"Presidential Polonaise"

Percy Grainger
"Shepherd's Hey"

Percy Grainger/trans. Kreines
"Early One Morning"

W. Paris Chambers
March, "Chicago Tribune"

Jean Sibelius/trans. Winterbottom
Finlandia, Opus 26

John Philip Sousa/ed. Byrne
March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"

**Marine Jazz Combo
U.S. Capitol Building
Wednesday, June 7 at 8 p.m.
The Mall
Sunday, June 11**

Visit website for program information.

**U.S. Marine Band
U.S. Capitol Building
Wednesday, June 14 at 8 p.m.
The Mall
Sunday, June 18**

Captain Michael J. Colburn, conducting

Visit website for program information.

**U.S. Marine Band
U.S. Capitol Building
Wednesday, June 21 at 8 p.m.
The Mall
Sunday, June 25**

Colonel Timothy W. Foley, conducting

John Philip Sousa
March, "The Corcoran Cadets"

Hector Berlioz/trans. Henning
Overture to *Béatrice et Bénédict*

Frank Ticheli
Vesuvius

Leonard Bernstein/trans. Grundman
Divertimento for Symphonic Band

J. J. Richards
March, "Shield of Liberty"

U.S. Marine Band
U.S. Capitol Building
Wednesday, June 28 at 8 p.m.

Major Dennis R. Burian, conducting

John Philip Sousa
March, "On the Campus"

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

Felix Mendelssohn/trans. Knox
Concertpiece No. 1 in F minor, Op. 113
Jeffrey Strouf, clarinet soloist
Olive Blackall, bass horn soloist

Norman Dello Joio
Scenes from *The Louvre*

arr. Werle
"The Golden Age of the Xylophone"
Kenneth Wolin, soloist

Richard Rodgers/trans. Bennett
Symphonic Scenario from
Victory at Sea

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II/arr. Knox
Vocal Solo, "Soliloquy" from *Carousel*
Kevin Bennear, baritone

Henry Fillmore
March, "Americans We"

Programs subject to change.
For most current information,
call (202) 433-4011.

200th Year of Summer Concerts

"The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band continues its long-running summer concert series when it returns to the Mall to present weekly evening performances in June, July, and August.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the band's outdoor public performances, a tradition that began on August 21, 1800, on a hill overlooking the Potomac near the



"The President's Own" on the South Lawn of the White House, July 1921.

present site of the Lincoln Memorial. (See the next issue of *NOTES* for information about a special commemorative concert to mark this historic date.)

The 2000 series is scheduled to take place June through August on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at the U.S. Capitol Building, and on Sundays on the Mall (exact time and location not finalized at press time). The outdoor performances are free, and tickets are not required.

Limited street parking is usually available near the concert sites, or concertgoers may prefer METRO:

For concerts at the Capitol, take the red line to Union Station or the blue/orange line to Capitol South. To reach the Mall, use the Smithsonian, on the blue/orange line.

Inclement weather cancellations will be announced the day of the performance after 6 p.m. on the band's 24-hour Concert Information Line at (202) 433-4011.

Evening Parades

The Marine Band, along with the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, will continue its participation in the Friday Evening Parades held throughout the summer at Marine Barracks. Reservations are highly recommended. For more information, please call (202) 433-6060.

Marine Band to Perform in Fredericksburg

"The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band will bring its unique brand of music to Fredericksburg, VA, on Saturday, May 20. The free performance is scheduled for 8 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium at Mary Washington College (MWC).

Following concerts in St. Mary's City, MD, and Winchester, VA, this performance completes the season's round of concerts outside the immediate Washington, DC, area.

Although the performance is free, tickets are required. Patrons may reserve tickets by calling the MWC Office of College Relations at (540) 654-1055, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mary Washington College, Attn: Marine Band Tickets/Susan Knick, Events and Facilities Coordinator, 1301 College Ave., Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Please limit requests to four tickets.

Dodd Auditorium is located in George Washington Hall, which is named for the first U.S. President and son of Mary Washington, the College's namesake. Doors will open at 7:15 p.m., and the concert will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are valid until 7:45 p.m., when patrons without tickets will be allowed to fill in available seats.

STAFF LINES



GySgt Diana L. Fish

Cellist

Birthday: March 23, 1965
Hometown: Louisville, KY
Family Status: Married to Daniel
Pet: Dog named Korak
Education: BM from the Curtis Institute of Music (PA); graduate studies, Indiana University
Joined the Band: January 1994
Self portrait: Professionally dependable; personally fickle
Favorite Saying: "The proof of the pudding is in the tasting."

Greatest Accomplishment: Being happily married

Pet Peeves: People who chew gum while playing (usually string players), people who warm up while others are tuning their instruments

Favorite movie: *Let It Ride*

Who would play you in a movie: Julia Ormond

Walter Mitty Fantasy: Playing on a Stradivarius cello at Coolidge Auditorium in the Library of Congress

Most Memorable Moment in Band: Being joined by Yo Yo Ma while playing the "South Pacific" medley at the White House

Inspiration: Great music to be learned and beautiful sunsets to be seen

Best kept secret: I love to argue.

Favorite foods: Scallops in black pepper sauce; garlic and feta cheese pizza

Hobbies: Reading, cooking, and shopping (for just about anything)

Bad Habit: Procrastinating (when I have difficult music to learn)

Three things always found in your refrigerator: Lettuce, eggs, and Tabasco sauce

Most influential teachers: My first and latest—Louise Harris and Janos Starker

Professional experience before the band: Private cello teacher and founding member of the Whitney Trio

Luxury defined: A day at the spa followed by an evening in an outdoor hot tub

Books at bedside: *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson and *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott

Favorite piece of music: Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 32 in C minor Op. 111

Place you'd most like to be stranded: Any Caribbean island with a luxury resort

Last words: "Thank you, God, for a wonderful life. Can I do it all again?"

Vacancies

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

Co-Principal Oboe: May 8-9

Saxophone: May 15

B-flat Clarinet: June 12-13

For more information, please write to:
Operations Officer, U.S. Marine Band
 8th and I Streets, SE
 Washington, DC 20390-5000
 (202) 433-5714

E-Mail: HurleyJM@mbw.usmc.mil
 Audition repertoire may be found at
www.marineband.usmc.mil

New Member

Vocalist SSgt Kevin L. Bennear

of Keyser, WV, earned a bachelor's degree from West Virginia University (WVU) in Morgantown, and a master's degree from the University of Tennessee (UT) in Knoxville. Bennear's professional experience before joining the band included roles with the Knoxville Opera Company, UT Opera Theater, WVU Opera Theater, Theater West Virginia, and Sight and Sound, Inc. (Lancaster, PA).



Retirement

Clarinetist Gunnery Sergeant Beverly C. Burroughs of East Rockaway, NY, retired in February after 20 years with "The President's Own." Burroughs earned a bachelor's degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, and a master's degree from Michigan State University in East Lansing.

In Memoriam

Master Gunnery Sergeant Boyd Conway, the Marine Band's principal snare drummer for many years, passed away in February. A native of Union City, PA, Conway served two separate terms of duty with "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band. His second term with the band began in 1972 and culminated in his retirement in 1975.

