

July - August 2007

NOTES



A Family Affair



**Three generations in
"The President's Own."
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American Salute

Marine Band Takes Part in National Anthem Project Grand Finale

"The President's Own" United States Marine Band will be joined by The Oak Ridge Boys and thousands of voices on the National Mall and throughout the country singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" for the National Association for Music Educators (MENC) National Anthem Project grand finale. The finale will take place on Flag Day at 1 p.m., Thursday, June 14, at the Sylvan Theater on the grounds of the Washington Monument.

"MENC is thrilled with the continued success of our National Anthem Project," said John Mahlmann, executive director. "The event has brought great attention to music education for children and we are extremely excited that the Marine Band will be joining us for the culmination of this wonderful project."



The Marine Band traditionally opens all performances with the National Anthem.

The National Anthem Project, initiated by MENC in 2005, is dedicated to ensuring that all Americans know the national anthem. The project was launched after a Harris poll revealed that two out of three American adults do not know all of the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner." Additionally, the study found that many cannot identify which American song is the national anthem and why it was written.

The poem "The Star-Spangled Banner" was penned by Washington attorney Francis Scott Key in September 1814, during the War of 1812. The British Navy's attack on Fort McHenry in Baltimore inspired Key's words. After witnessing the rockets and bombs bursting throughout the night, Key expected to find Baltimore under British control in the morning. As dawn broke, he was amazed to see the American flag waving on the horizon.

Key's poem rapidly gained notoriety, and the words were soon set to a tune attributed to English composer John Stafford Smith, "To Anacreon in Heaven," which was composed in 1775 or 1776. "The Star-Spangled Banner" soon became a favorite tune and was frequently performed along with several other patriotic favorites, including "Dixie," "Hail Columbia," and "Yankee Doodle."

"Military bands quickly adopted the piece into their repertoire," said Marine Band Chief Historian and Librarian Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Ressler. "The Marine Band first performed the anthem on Jan. 8, 1816, just two years after the words were written, for a party in honor of Commander Stephen Decatur and Captain Charles Stewart, both heroes of the War of 1812, in Washington, D.C."

The military continued to pave the way for "The Star-Spangled Banner," when in 1889, Secretary of the Navy Benjamin F. Tracy instructed that it be played at morning colors and "Hail Columbia" at evening colors aboard commissioned naval ships. In 1890, the Marine Band was ordered to conclude all public concerts with the song. It was not until Aug. 23, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson approved the recommendation of the Joint Army and Navy Board that "The Star-Spangled Banner" be designated the official national anthem. "The Star-Spangled Banner" became America's national anthem when the 71st Congress passed Public Law No. 823. The bill was signed into law by President Herbert Hoover on March 3, 1931. Today, "The Star-Spangled Banner" is an essential part of America's patriotic heritage.

Join MENC, the Marine Band, The Oak Ridge Boys, and thousands of students from around the country for the National Anthem Project grand finale on June 14. The event is free and open to the public. To practice for the sing-a-long, download "The Star-Spangled Banner" from the Marine Band's Audio Resources section of the website, www.marineband.usmc.mil.

AS PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Please join us for Pre-Concert Ensembles and Post-Concert Chats at most band and orchestra performances until May 20. All concerts are free and no tickets are required.

Marine Band GMU Center for the Arts Sunday, May 6 at 2 p.m.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Colburn,
conducting

SHALL WE DANCE?

Sir Charles Mackerras/based on the music of Sir Arthur Sullivan/
trans. Duthoit
Suite from the ballet *Pineapple Poll*

Mike Mower/orch. Kazik
Bossa merengova from Sonata Latino
SSgt Ellen Dooley, flute soloist

Maurice Ravel/trans. Patterson*
La valse

Jules Strens/trans. Buitenhuis
Danse Funambulesque

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

Marine Chamber Ensembles John Philip Sousa Band Hall Sunday, May 13 at 2 p.m.

John Halvorsen
Passacaglia (after Handel's Suite No. 7 in G minor for Harpsichord)

Donald R. Womack
Blue Ridge Dreams (2006)
(World Première)

Felix Mendelssohn
Piano Trio in C minor, Opus 66

Johannes Brahms
Sextet No. 1 in B-flat, Opus 18

Marine Chamber Orchestra GMU Center for the Arts Sunday, May 20 at 2 p.m.

Captain Jason K. Fetting, conducting

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT: MUSIC UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Ludwig van Beethoven
Symphony No. 6 in F, Opus 68, *Pastoral*

Sergei Prokofiev
Peter and the Wolf, Opus 67 (1936)

Marine Band Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Filene Center Sunday, May 27 at 8 p.m.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Colburn,
conducting

WOLF TRAP SEASON OPENER

Morton Gould/trans. Lang
"American Salute"

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

John Philip Sousa*
March, "Powhatan's Daughter"*

George Gershwin
Rhapsody in Blue
SSgt AnnaMaria Mottola, piano soloist

John Williams/trans. Lavender
March from *Superman*

Richard Rodgers and Oscar
Hammerstein II/arr. Bulla*
Selections from *Oklahoma!*
SSgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano
GySgt Kevin Bennear, baritone

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



GySgt Daniel Orban will be a featured soloist June 13 and 14.

Arranged by Thomas Knox*
A Salute to the Armed Forces of the United States of America

Marine Band U.S. Capitol, West Terrace Wednesday, June 6 at 8 p.m. Sylvan Theater Thursday, June 7 at 8 p.m.

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

Frank Ticheli
"Nitro"

Jean-Baptiste Arban/arr. Steiger
Variations on a Theme
from *Norma* by Vincenzo Bellini
MSGT John Abbracciamiento, cornet soloist

Franz Liszt/trans. Hindsley
Les préludes

Carl Maria von Weber/arr. Reed/
ed. McCathren
Concerto for Clarinet, Opus 26
GySgt Vicki Gotcher, soloist

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky/trans. Cramer
Dance of the Jesters
from *The Snow Maiden*

Marine Band U.S. Capitol, West Terrace Wednesday, June 13 at 8 p.m. Sylvan Theater Thursday, June 14 at 1 p.m.

* Selections available for download or streaming on www.marineband.usmc.mil

* Member, U.S. Marine Band

"The President's Own" to Perform at TBA

The U.S. Marine Band will kick off the 2007 Texas Bandmasters Association (TBA) convention with a concert at 7:30 p.m., Friday, July 20, at the Lila Cockrell Theatre located at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio. The Marine Chamber Ensembles, focusing on chamber wind repertoire, will perform on Saturday, July 21, at the same location. The concerts are free and open to the public. No tickets are required.

"Texas has a rich tradition of outstanding school bands at every level, and many of our own musicians are products of these programs," said Marine Band Director Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Colburn. "We greatly appreciate the hard work of music educators, and view this concert as an opportunity to say thanks for a job well done."

Formed in 1920 by a small group of Texas bandmasters, TBA is dedicated to improving the quality of music education in Texas' elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as colleges and universities. Over the past 60 years TBA has evolved into the largest state band organization in the world. TBA hosts the largest annual state bandmasters association convention in the country with over 6,500 people in attendance, including 2,400 band directors. The last time the Marine Band performed at the convention was 1997.

"The President's Own" always presents a musically demanding repertoire performed by extraordinary musicians," said Al Sturchio, executive director of TBA.

The program for the Marine Band concert will include George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* featuring pianist Staff Sergeant AnnaMaria Mottola and Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* featuring baritone vocalist Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Bennear and mezzo-soprano Staff Sergeant Sara Dell'Ormo. In addition to these solo works, the Marine Band will perform Paul Lavender's new transcription of Leonard Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances* from *West Side Story*. Complete program information for both concerts will be listed on www.marineband.usmc.mil.

The TBA convention runs from July 20-23. Visit "The President's Own" at booths 863, 865, and 867. To register for the convention, visit www.texasbandmasters.org.

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Beethoven focused on a revealing and entertaining look at the legendary composer's Symphony No. 6, the Pastoral Symphony. This work is Beethoven's musical ode to nature, complete with thunderstorms, bubbling brooks, and chirping birds.

In the second portion of the concert, actors from the Classika Theatre will join the orchestra on stage for a brand new interpretation of the famous tale, *Peter and the Wolf*. The story is about a young boy named Peter who lives with his grandfather in the countryside. One day, Peter leaves the garden to play by the pond, despite warnings from his grandfather about the dangers of a wolf appearing. There, he meets a duck and a bird, who engage in a playful argument about who is a better example of the species. Soon a cat arrives, planning to make a meal of one of them. Indeed a wolf emerges, catches the duck and sends the cat and bird up a tree for safety. Hunters, who had been tracking the wolf, arrive, but clever Peter finds a way to trap the beast himself. Following his accomplishment, he leads a grand parade through town to bring the wolf to the zoo.

Each character in the story is represented by a different instrument: Peter by the strings, the bird by the flute, the duck by the oboe, the cat by the clarinet, Grandfather by the bassoon, the hunters by the drums, and the wolf by three French horns. This concert is best suited for ages 6 and older.

The Young People's Concert is free and no tickets are required. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall is located at Braddock Road and Route 123 in Fairfax, Va. For information about Classika Theatre, visit www.classika.org.

New Member

Percussionist Staff Sergeant Gerald Novak

of Alamogordo, N.M., earned his bachelor's degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, in 1996, and a master's degree in 1998 from Temple University in Philadelphia.



Prior to joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Novak was principal percussion and a founding member of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra in Kuala Lumpur, and served as acting principal percussion with the London Symphony Orchestra. He also toured with the American Wind Symphony based in Pittsburgh, attended the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado, and was a member of the National Orchestral Institute in College Park, Md., and the Spoleto USA Festival Orchestra in Charleston, S.C.

Vacancies

"The President's Own" announces the following audition dates:

Saxophone: May 21-22

Violin: June 11-12

For information contact:
Operations Officer
U.S. Marine Band
Marine Barracks
8th and I Streets, SE
Washington, DC 20390-5000
(202) 433-5714
USMBOPS@mbw.usmc.mil

Audition repertoire may be found at www.marineband.usmc.mil. The Marine Band is an equal opportunity employer.