

notes

May
June



The cover of "The Stars and Stripes Forever" published in 1897 by The John Church Company. Courtesy: Library of Congress

By JOHN PHILIP SOUSA.

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John Philip Sousa wrote 136 marches, many of which became extremely popular during his lifetime, including “The High School Cadets,” “Washington Post,” “Semper Fidelis,” “The Liberty Bell,” and “The Invincible Eagle.” While Sousa marches continue to be staples in band repertoire, none have achieved the continuous worldwide fame of “The Stars and Stripes Forever.”

Sousa was born in southeast Washington, D.C., in 1854 near Marine Barracks Washington where his father Antonio was a trombone player with “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band. At age 13, Sousa’s father enlisted him as an apprentice musician in the Marine Band after the young John Philip threatened to run away with a circus band. He remained in the band until he was 20 then returned at age 25 to accept the position of 17th Director in 1880.

Under his tenure, the Marine Band experienced enormous success, so much so that following the second Marine Band tour in 1892, Sousa left the band at the urging of his manager David Blakely to create the civilian Sousa Band. Blakely became the Sousa Band’s manager and he and Sousa continued to capitalize on the former Marine Band Director’s unique talents. It would be Blakely’s untimely passing that would have direct influence on the composition of “The Stars and Stripes Forever.”

From its inception, the Sousa Band toured extensively and played lengthy engagements at summer resorts, such as Manhattan Beach in New York. After four years of vigorous touring, Sousa was encouraged by Blakely to take a European vacation before commencing the 1897 tour. While in Naples, Italy, Sousa learned of Blakely’s death from a Parisian newspaper, and he immediately departed for the United States.

While sailing from Liverpool, England, to New York, the distressed Sousa was pacing the decks of the steamer when

the now well-known strains of his legendary march began to take shape and play over and over in his mind. In his autobiography, Sousa wrote:

... absorbed in thoughts of my manager’s death and the many duties and decisions which awaited me in New York. Suddenly, I began to sense the rhythmic beat of a band playing in my brain. ... Throughout the whole tense voyage, that imaginary band continued to unfold the same themes, echoing and re-echoing the most distinct melody.

It is believed that Sousa did not pen the piano score for “Stars,” as he commonly referred to the march, until Christmas Day, 1896. On Dec. 27, 1896, the Sousa Band departed for the 1897 tour with the new march in hand.

In addition to being a prolific composer, Sousa was also known as a shrewd showman and likely calculated the perfect event to introduce “The Stars and Stripes Forever” to the world. During the tour, the Sousa Band would be visiting Philadelphia for performances at the Academy of Music and the dedication of a new statue of George Washington. President William McKinley and a long list of high-profile dignitaries would attend this major event, making the ideal audience for the official premiere of his new composition.

When the Sousa Band unveiled “The Stars and Stripes Forever” on May 14, 1897, the audience was so delighted that Sousa repeated the piece three times and the work received rave reviews. On May 15, 1897, the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* said “Stars” “... is of a martial nature throughout and stirring enough to rouse the American eagle from his crag and set him to shriek exultantly while he hurls his arrow at the aurora borealis.”

Today, “The Stars and Stripes Forever” maintains its worldwide popularity and is performed publicly by the Marine Band about 100 times annually. The march is programmed on every tour concert, Friday Evening Parades at Marine Barracks Washington, the Independence Day celebration at the White House, many concerts and patriotic openers, and every year at Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C., for the annual ceremony celebrating Sousa’s birthday on Nov. 6.

According to Marine Band Historian Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Ressler, Sousa often “composed from the podium.” He was known for adding unique flair to pieces without notating such changes in the manuscript. “Sousa would eliminate the brass from certain sections, and have the woodwinds play passages an octave lower than written,” Ressler said. While the piece has been adapted for modern bands, the Marine Band continues to play “The Stars and Stripes Forever” in Sousa’s intended style and close to the original instrumentation designated by the composer.



Master Gunnery Sergeant Betsy Hill performs “The Stars and Stripes Forever” piccolo solo at an Evening Parade on May 7, 2010, at Marine Barracks Washington.

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WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



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

- NBA Champion Dallas Mavericks Visit
- Insourcing American Jobs Forum
- Government Reform Remarks
- World Series Champion St. Louis Cardinals Visit
- U.S. Mayors Reception
- Stanley Cup Champion Boston Bruins Visit
- Pre-State of the Union Address Reception
- Diplomatic Corps Reception
- No Child Left Behind Reform Remarks
- National Medal of Arts and National Humanities Medal Ceremony
- “In Performance at the White House: Red, White and Blues” Event
- The Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture Groundbreaking Reception
- Governors’ Ball
- National Governors Association Remarks
- Governor Spouses Luncheon
- Dinner in honor of the Armed Forces who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn

A TRIUMPH FOR TRIONFO

By Staff Sergeant Brian Rust

Henry David Thoreau stated that “if you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.” Flutist Anthony Trionfo has been steadily building and strengthening the foundations of his artistic talent, and these skills were on full display during his recent solo performance with the Marine Band of Theobald Boehm’s Grand Polonaise in D, Opus 16 on March 25 at Northern Virginia Community College’s Schlesinger Center in Alexandria.

“Anthony gave a dynamic performance of a difficult and virtuosic work,” said Assistant Director Capt. Michelle A. Rakers, conductor of the concert. “He displayed great command of the instrument and included some very playful phrasing which revealed a level of musicianship beyond his years.”

“The Marine Band is *the* band to play with and I couldn’t wait to be a part of it.”

2012 CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER ANTHONY TRIONFO

Trionfo, winner of the Marine Band’s 2012 Concerto Competition, began playing the flute less than six years ago. At age 15, he won a scholarship to attend the prestigious Interlochen Arts Academy (IAA) in Michigan, and after only his third day there, he won the first chair flute position in the Interlochen Symphony Orchestra. Shortly after, Trionfo won the IAA Concerto Competition. He had known about the Marine Band’s Concerto Competition for quite some time, but one of the main inspirations that prompted him to apply was seeing the accomplishments of the 2009 Concerto Competition winner, flutist Jennifer Zhou. Like Zhou, Trionfo endeavored to achieve a high level of musicianship at a young age.

In preparation for the Marine Band’s Concerto Competition, Trionfo worked extremely hard to perfect the technical aspects of the Boehm composition. Then, he set the piece aside for a while in an effort to truly internalize what he had learned.

“I focused on really making the piece my own,” he said. “Musicality is always extremely important, so I did a lot of experimentation with phrasing and listening to recordings.” For his solo performance with the Marine Band, Trionfo followed roughly the same prescription he employed in learning the work, playing through the music every couple of days to maintain its technical demands. “I definitely didn’t want to overwork it so that the performance could be full of life and musical spontaneity,” he added.

Of his opportunity to perform in concert with “The President’s Own,” Trionfo remarked, “It was such a big honor to perform with the Marine Band. It is surreal to think of performing with an

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FEATURED DOWNLOADS



MAY

March of the Month

“The Stars and Stripes Forever”
John Philip Sousa*

Featured Soloist

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

JUNE

March of the Month

“Sound Off!”
John Philip Sousa*

New Music Corner

Above and Beyond
Gerard Schwarz



*Member, U.S. Marine Band

Scan the QR code for the May/June
Featured Downloads or visit
www.marineband.usmc.mil/audio_resources.

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ensemble with such a rich history that has done so much for this country. The Marine Band is *the* band to play with and I couldn't wait to be a part of it."

As winner of the 2012 Concerto Competition, Trionfo not only won the opportunity to solo with the Marine Band, but also received a check for \$2,500 generously donated by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. He was one of almost 100 students from 31 states that applied for the competition. From the initial entries, seven finalists were chosen to perform in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall in southeast Washington, D.C., in front of a live audience and a panel of judges consisting of Assistant Directors Major Jason K. Fettig and Capt. Rakers, as well as guest judge Dr. Terry Austin, Director of Bands at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. Each finalist had the opportunity to have a coaching session with a Marine Band musician before the recital.

Principal flute Master Gunnery Sgt. Betsy Hill, who worked with Trionfo before his performance, was astounded by his skill and musicianship. "Anthony is not just an amazing flutist, he's an amazing musician," she said. "His playing just draws you in as a listener. His interpretation of the Grand Polonaise was so creative and full of life. The whole audience was transfixed."

Hill was so impressed that she really didn't feel the need to give him any tips or advice on his playing. "I just told him to keep doing what he was doing and have fun."

After the recital, the finalists waited patiently as the judges deliberated the performances to choose a winner. Finally, Maj. Fettig went to the front of the hall to announce the result.

"When Maj. Fettig called my name, I was completely shocked," Trionfo said shortly after the competition. "I had no idea that I was going to win and I still don't think that it has really hit me yet. I was so happy and I couldn't stop shaking from joy."



Concerto Competition winner Anthony Trionfo performed with the Marine Band, conducted by Capt. Michelle A. Rakers, on March 25, 2012, at the Schlesinger Center in Alexandria, Va.

While winning the Marine Band's Concerto Competition and performing live with the ensemble is a highlight in his musical life, the high school musician continues to look to the future. What began as a fortuitous choice in middle school to play the flute (he originally was going to play clarinet, but changed his mind at the last minute) has turned into a life-long passion and career intention.

"I know I want to go into music 100 percent," Trionfo said. "As long as I am able to make people smile with my playing, that is the most important thing of all."

The 2013 Marine Band Concerto Competition, presented in conjunction with the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and the National Association for Music Education, is open to high school musicians (grades 9-12) enrolled during the 2012-13 academic year. Performers of woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments may apply, and all applicants must be U.S. citizens. Previous competition winners and immediate family members of U.S. Marine Band members are not eligible. The deadline to submit an application is Nov. 15, 2012. For more information and an application, please visit www.marineband.usmc.mil/whats_new/ConcertoCompetition.htm.

FANFARE IN BALTIMORE

Conducted by Marine Band Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn, the Marine Band will return to Baltimore for a special concert as part of Music Education Week held by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). The performance will take place at 8 p.m., Saturday, June 23, at the Baltimore Convention Center.

"We always enjoy an opportunity to perform for music educators, and playing a concert for NAfME allows us to play for an audience that is comprised of music educators from across the spectrum of band, orchestra, choral, and classroom instruction," said Col. Colburn.

Because of this broad constituency, Col. Colburn has programmed a concert of American music that should appeal to music educators of every variety. In honor of composer John Williams' 80th birthday and the upcoming Summer Olympics, the concert will begin with Williams' Olympic Fanfare and Theme, a concert opener sure to rouse excitement and national pride.

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FEATURED PROGRAMS

MARINE CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

2 pm | Sunday, May 13

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

Claude Debussy
String Quartet in G minor, Opus 10

Eugène Ysaÿe
Sonata, Opus 27, No. 2, *Jacques Thibaud*

Ludwig van Beethoven
String Quartet in G, Opus 18, No. 2

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

2 pm | Sunday, May 20

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

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

AN AFTERNOON WITH EMILY

Einojuhani Rautavaara
Lintukoto (Isle of Bliss) (1995)

Aaron Copland
Eight Poems of Emily Dickinson (1950, arr. 1970)
SSgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano

Joseph Haydn
Symphony No. 90 in C

MARINE BAND

8 pm | Sunday, May 27

**Filene Center, Wolf Trap National
Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, VA**

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

SUMMER BLAST OFF

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

Carl Maria von Weber/trans. Patterson*
Jubel Overture, J. 245*

Herman Bellstedt /arr. Simon
"Napoli"
GySgt Mark Jenkins, euphonium soloist

William Finegan and Eddie Sauter/
trans. Roberts
"Doodletown Fifers"

Michael Kamen/arr. Nowlin*
Suite from *Band of Brothers*

Leonard Bernstein/trans. Nowlin*
Suite from *A White House Cantata*
SSgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano
GySgt Kevin Bennear, baritone

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky/trans. Patterson*
Overture Solennelle, "1812," Opus 49

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

John Philip Sousa*
March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"*

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

MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, June 6

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 pm | Thursday, June 7

Sylvan Theatre

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

D. W. Reeves
March, "Second Regiment Connecticut N. G."

Ambrose Thomas/trans. Patterson*
Overture to *Raymond*

George Gershwin/arr. Norris
Three Preludes
SSgt Patrick Morgan, clarinet soloist

Morten Lauridsen/trans. Reynolds
"O Magnum Mysterium"

Leroy Anderson/trans. Werle
"The Typewriter"
GySgt Glenn Paulson, typewriter soloist

Leroy Anderson
Blue Tango

John Philip Sousa*
March, "The Free Lance"

MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, June 13

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 pm | Thursday, June 14

Sylvan Theatre

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

John Philip Sousa*
March, "Bullets and Bayonets"

Aaron Copland
An Outdoor Overture

Carl Maria von Weber
Fantasia and Rondo from Clarinet Quintet in B-flat,
Opus 34
MSgt John Mula, clarinet soloist (pictured left)

Thomas Knox*
Sea Songs

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky/trans. Godfrey II
Marche slave, Opus 31



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

*Member, U.S. Marine Band

*Available for download on the Marine Band's website

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

7:30 pm | Saturday, June 16

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

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

George Fridric Handel
Concerto Grosso in G minor, Opus 6, No. 6, HWV 324

Uuno Klami
Hommage à Haendel, Opus 21 (1931)

Jean Rivier
Concerto for Flute and Strings (1956)
SSgt Kara Santos, soloist

Sir Edward Elgar
Introduction and Allegro, Opus 47 (1905)

MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, June 20
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 pm | Thursday, June 21
Sylvan Theatre

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

John Williams/trans. Bocook
Olympic Fanfare and Theme

Franz von Suppé/trans. Godfrey II
Overture to *Light Cavalry*

Arthur Pryor
"Blue Bells of Scotland"
SSgt Preston Hardage, trombone soloist

Morton Gould
Family Album Suite

Leonard Bernstein/trans. Nowlin*
Suite from *A White House Cantata*
SSgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano
GySgt Kevin Bennear, baritone

John Philip Sousa*
March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"*

MARINE BAND

8 pm | Saturday, June 23

NAfME Music Education Week Concert
Baltimore Convention Center,
Rooms 307-310
Baltimore, MD

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

John Williams/trans. Bocook
Olympic Fanfare and Theme

Michael Gandolfi
*Flourishes and Meditations on a Renaissance
Theme* (2010)*

Morton Gould
Family Album Suite

John Philip Sousa*
March, "Semper Fidelis"*
Conducted by Nancy Ditmer, NAfME President

Leonard Bernstein/trans. Nowlin*
Suite from *A White House Cantata*
SSgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano
GySgt Kevin Bennear, baritone

John Philip Sousa*
March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"*

MARINE CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

6 pm | Sunday, June 24

NAfME Music Education Week Concert
Millenium Stage, The John F. Kennedy
Center for the Performing Arts,
Washington, DC

Musicians from "The President's Own" will perform music written by the winners of NAfME's 2012 Student Composers Competition. The program will feature music composed by students of NAfME members at the elementary/middle school, high school, and undergraduate/graduate school levels.

For more information on the winning composers and compositions, visit www.nafme.org.



Marine Band vocalists GySgt Kevin Bennear and SSgt Sara Dell'Omo will perform Suite from *A White House Cantata* by Leonard Bernstein on May 27 at Wolf Trap in Vienna, Va., June 20-21 in Washington, D.C., and June 23 in Baltimore.

MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, June 27
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 pm | Thursday, June 28
Sylvan Theatre

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

Vasilij Agapkin/ed. Bourgeois*
March, "A Slavic Farewell"

Jacques Offenbach/trans. Lake/ed. Kent
Overture to *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Camille Saint-Saëns /trans. Basta*
Tarentelle, Opus 6
SSgt Ellen Dooley, flute soloist
MGySgt Jeffrey Strouf, clarinet soloist

Aaron Copland/trans. Singleton
"The Promise of Living" from *The Tender Land*

Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov/arr. Leidzén
Procession of Nobles from *Mlada*

John Philip Sousa*
March, "U.S. Field Artillery"

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

Visit the Marine Band's YouTube channel to see "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and more Sousa marches—
www.youtube.com/usmarineband



 The Evening Parades at Marine Barracks Washington take place at 8:45 p.m., Fridays from May 4 to Aug. 31. The parades are free; however, reservations are recommended. Please visit www.mbw.usmc.mil/parades.asp or call (202) 433-6060 for reservations and parade information.

BAND MEMBER NEWS

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The program continues with Michael Gandolfi's *Flourishes and Meditations on a Renaissance Theme* (2010), a work commissioned by "The President's Own" and featured on the Marine Band's 2012 educational recording titled *Flourishes and Meditations*. Morton Gould's *Family Album Suite* will follow, and the first half of the concert will conclude with John Philip Sousa's tribute to the Marine Corps, "Semper Fidelis," conducted by NAFME President Nancy Ditmer.

The second half of the concert will showcase a little-known collaboration between Leonard Bernstein and Alan Jay Lerner. In 1976 these two legendary figures created a Broadway musical titled *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*, a work that takes listeners on a trip through American history from the viewpoint of the occupants of the presidential mansion. Songs are offered from the perspective of George Washington, Abigail Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Buchanan, Julia Grant, Lucy Hayes, and even two members of the servant staff which has been part of the White House since its inception. This musical odyssey was later revised for the concert stage and retitled *A White House Cantata*, from which Marine Band arranger Staff Sergeant Ryan Nowlin adapted a new arrangement, featuring the vocal talents of Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Bennear and Staff Sergeant Sara Dell'Omo.

In addition to the band's concert in Baltimore, musicians from "The President's Own" will perform music written by the winners of NAFME's 2012 Student Composers Competition at 6 p.m., Sunday, June 24, at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage in Washington, D.C. The program will feature music composed by students of NAFME members at the elementary/middle school, high school, and undergraduate/graduate school levels.

"What a thrill it will be for these gifted young composers to hear their music performed by such an outstanding group," said Dr. Daniel Deutsch, chair of the NAFME Council for Music Compositions. "We at NAFME are deeply grateful that such superb performers will lend their talents to help bring these original musical creations to life!"

Both concerts are free, open to the public, and general admission; no tickets are required. The Baltimore Convention Center is located at 1 West Pratt Street. For more information call 1-800-336-3768 or visit www.nafme.org. 🍷

STAFF LINES



GySgt Regino Madrid

*Violinist/
Assistant
Concertmaster*

BIRTHDAY
May 3

HOMETOWN
Los Angeles

JOINED THE BAND
July 1998

EDUCATION

BM from The Cleveland Institute of Music in Ohio

PET

French Bulldog—"JP" or "Jean-Philippe"

SELF-PORTRAIT

Kind, optimistic, diplomatic, enjoy life. I won't mention any negatives. Did I mention I'm optimistic?

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

Having a happy life playing the violin and sharing music with people for a living

PET PEEVES

Bad driving, extraneous noise

WALTER MITTY FANTASY

Working as a furniture designer for the Eames Office in California in the 1960s

INSPIRATION

Architecture and Scandinavian furniture of Hans Wegner and Finn Juhl

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

BEST-KEPT SECRET

I was in the movie "Sister Act 2." I still get royalties every year.

FAVORITE MOVIE

"Sister Act 2"

FAVORITE FOODS

The best meal I ever had was in Barcelona, Spain, in 2011. A two Michelin star restaurant served 15 courses and took 3 hours. But I also love hot buffalo wings.

HOBBIES

Photography, furniture design, fixing up the Sousa House (where I live)

THREE THINGS ALWAYS FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR

Regular Coke in bottles, coconut water, wings "spicy garlic" sauce

MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHER

Linda Cerone, The Cleveland Institute of Music. She taught me more than I could have imagined and pushed me to never stop learning.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE BAND

Studio film musician in Los Angeles, 1st violinist with the Canton Symphony in Ohio

LUXURY DEFINED

Having great friends over for a nice dinner and good conversation

PLACE YOU'D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED

Big Sur, Calif.

FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC

Björk's "Hyperballad"

BOOK AT BEDSIDE

My iPad

LAST WORDS

"I had a great run!"

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN BAND

While playing string trios at the White House, President George W. Bush walked past me and gave my bow arm a light jab, causing me to make an unpleasant sound on my fiddle.

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According to Sousa, “Stars” was conceived with three themes that represent the United States: North, South and West. The main melody is the North, the West is portrayed in the heroic countermelody introduced by the trombones in the final strain, and the South is represented by the famous piccolo obbligato.

“I really enjoy playing the piece on tour, specifically in gymnasiums,” stated principal flute Master Gunnery Sergeant Betsy Hill. “In the gyms we can see the excitement in the audience and visually connect with them. As we prepare to walk out for the solo, they are clapping, and then everything becomes silent in anticipation of the piccolos.”

The piccolo players have many fond memories of special events where “The Stars and Stripes Forever” was featured, including Presidential inaugurations, President George W. Bush conducting the band on April 26, 2008, and especially the 200th anniversary of the Marine Band in July 1998. For the anniversary concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., the section experienced an anomaly. One member of the flute section was soon retiring, and his replacement had already arrived, so for the first (and possibly the last) time, seven piccolos were on hand to march to the front of the stage for “The Stars and Stripes Forever.”

The piccolo players are not the only Marine Band musicians who have had the opportunity to bring “The Stars and Stripes Forever” to life. Violinists Gunnery Sergeants Erika Sato and Regino Madrid (who currently owns the house where Sousa was born) recently released a performance of “The Stars and Stripes Forever” arranged by Bruce Dukov on the Marine Band’s YouTube channel—www.youtube.com/usmarineband.

“Regino and I had performed the Dukov arrangement for a previous chamber music concert and I thought it was fantastic—both patriotic and virtuosic,” explained Sato. “I had been using YouTube as a reference resource to hear music we’d be performing and it seemed an incredibly easy way to reach a global audience..”

Sousa’s immortal march continues to inspire patriotism in audiences and remains one of the most identifiable pieces of music ever written. In December 1987, “The Stars and Stripes Forever” was named the National March by an act of Congress signed by President Ronald Reagan. “The March King” himself considered it one of his greatest works, and it was the last piece he conducted before he died in Reading, Pa., on March 6, 1932. Appropriately, the famous four-measure melody is engraved on his tombstone at Congressional Cemetery. 🇺🇸

NEW MEMBER

Euphonium player Staff Sergeant Hiram Diaz of Miami graduated in 2003 from the New World School of the Arts in Miami and continued his education at the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music in Ohio where he earned a bachelor’s degree in music performance in 2007. He is currently pursuing his master’s degree from the University of North Texas in Denton. Prior to joining “The President’s Own,” Staff Sgt. Diaz was a member of the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence Band (283d Army Band) in Ft. Benning, Ga.



PROMOTIONS

To Master Gunnery Sergeant: Solo Cornet Matthew Harding of North Dartmouth, Mass.

To Master Sergeant: Public Affairs Chief Kristin Mergen of Westfield, Mass.; Principal Viola Christopher Shieh of Upper Marlboro, Md.

To Gunnery Sergeant: Percussionist Steven Owen of Eugene, Ore.; Assistant Stage Manager Richard Dickerson of Woodland Hills, Calif.

VACANCIES

“The President’s Own” announces auditions for the following vacancies:

Trombone: Aug. 20-21

B-flat clarinet: Aug. 27-28

For information contact the Marine Band Operations Officer at marineband.operations@usmc.mil or (202) 433-5714.

IN MEMORIAM

Master Gunnery Sergeant Johannes “Joe” Rasmussen, USMC (Ret.), originally of Yankton, S.D., passed away on Feb. 13, 2012, at his home in Leonardtown, Md. Following four years in the U.S. Navy, Rasmussen joined the band as a cornetist in 1947 where he served until he retired in 1976. He traveled with the Marine Band on 25 national concert tours; 23 of those were consecutive tours during which he served as stage manager in addition to playing cornet.

MARINE BAND CONTACT INFORMATION

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