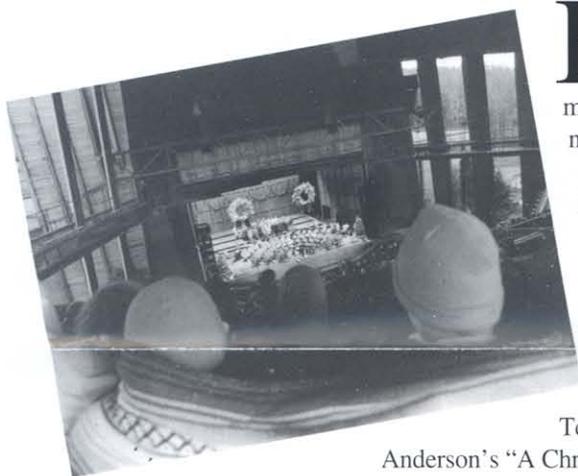


# NOTES

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

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1995

## Festive Concert at Wolf Trap Features Seasonal Music



**B**undle up and join the Marine Band December 3 for its annual concert of seasonal music at Wolf Trap, America's only national park for the performing arts.

Conducted by Marine Band Director Colonel John R. Bourgeois, this outdoor concert features the full concert band. Festivities begin at 4 p.m. with a prelude concert of seasonal works, including Rimsky-Korsakov's Polonaise from *Christmas Night*, Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*,

Anderson's "A Christmas Festival," and Adam's "Cantique de Noel" with baritone Michael Ryan.

Following the prelude concert, the band performs traditional Christmas carols with choirs from local churches, schools, and community groups. At dusk, the chilly air glows with flames from candles brought by audience members. The evening ends with "Silent Night" as everyone heads for home.

*This year's concert takes place Sunday, December 3, at Wolf Trap's Filene Center in Vienna, VA. The performance begins at 4 p.m. The concert is free, and tickets are not required. Free parking is available.*

## The Commandant's New Year's Day Surprise

**E**very New Year's Day, about 70 Marine Band musicians don their scarlet coats and slip into the garden of the Commandant's quarters at historic Marine Barracks, Washington, DC. As the Director brings down his baton, "The President's Own" heralds the New Year with the traditional "surprise" serenade to the Commandant of the Marine Corps and his lady.

During the brief concert, the band plays four selections, which usually include "The Marines' Hymn," "Bless This House," and "Semper Fidelis." New Year's greetings are then exchanged, and the Commandant invites the band members into his house to "splice the main brace," an old naval expression meaning to come in for some hot grog.

This traditional serenade dates to the days of the Civil War but has long since ceased to be a "surprise." A January 1, 1939, entry in the official "Leader's Log" paints a

*continued on page 4*

## Winter Chamber Series Highlights Virtuosity of "The President's Own"

**T**he United States Marine Band will begin its 1996 concert season with the Winter Chamber Music Recital Series on Sunday afternoons in January and February.

This year's programs will feature works spanning nearly three centuries, including music of Gabrieli, Mozart, Beethoven, and Stravinsky.

The Chamber Music Series highlights the individual virtuosity of "The President's Own," providing both the audience and musicians a unique opportunity to experience chamber works ranging from solos and duets to larger mixed ensembles.

*The Winter Chamber Music Recital Series takes place every Sunday, beginning January 7 and running through February 25, at the John Philip Sousa Band Hall, Marine Barracks, 8th and I Streets, SE, Washington, DC. Doors open at 1:30 p.m., and performances begin at 2 p.m. The concerts are free, and tickets are not required. Free parking is available at Marine Barracks or ride METRO to the Eastern Market station and walk three blocks south on 8th Street.*

**Concert Information (202) 433-4011**

**In This Issue:**  
*Activities Update*  
*Band Member News*  
*Staff Lines*

# ACTIVITIES UPDATE

## Marine Band Performs with Noted Film Composer

**M**elodies from the golden age of the silver screen echoed around the U.S. Capitol on August 23 when film composer David Raksin conducted the band in several compositions from his film scores.

Raksin has a long history of achievement in Hollywood. He moved there in 1935 to assist Charlie Chaplin with the music for the film *Modern Times* and subsequently developed a close friendship with the great comedian. After striking out on his own, Raksin composed more than 100 film scores, including *Laura*, *The Bad and the Beautiful*, *Forever Amber*, and *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*.

"David Raksin holds a unique place in the history of film, going all the way back to the first 'talkies.' He is regarded by many as a legend in the industry," said Assistant Director Major Timothy W. Foley. "For musicians, the opportunity to perform original music with the composer is very special and enlightening. This concert with David Raksin gave us that unique opportunity."

Major Foley pointed out that Raksin is "a direct link to the incredible community of artists" which settled in Los Angeles after World War II. He studied composition privately with Arnold Schoenberg and collaborated with Igor

Stravinsky on the original band version of *Circus Polka* for George Balanchine's production with the Barnum and Bailey Circus. Both Stravinsky and Schoenberg are considered to be among the most significant composers of the 20th century.

During the performance, Raksin conducted the Marine Band in "Love is for the Very Young," from *The Bad and the Beautiful*; "Amber," from *Forever Amber*; his transcription of Stravinsky's *Circus Polka*; and an

arrangement of his most popular song, "Laura," from the movie of the same title.

After the concert, clarinetist Gunnery Sergeant Chuck Willett commented, "I've seen some of the movies for which Mr. Raksin wrote music and

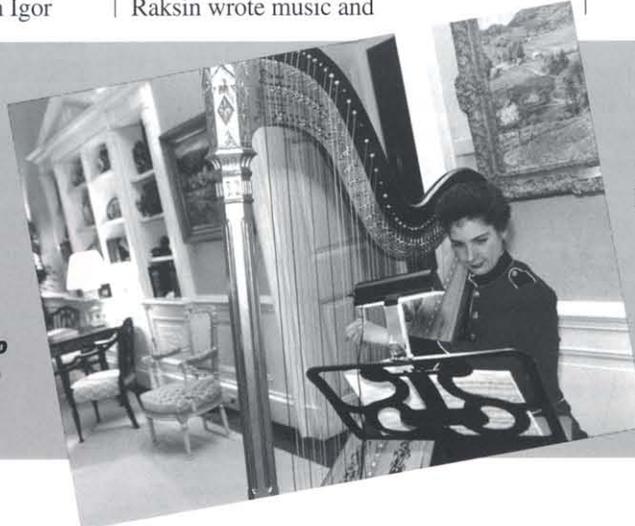
found that performing his music conjured up images from those films. His lush harmonies and imaginative use of tone color translated extremely well into band transcriptions."



**Film composer David Raksin conducts the band in an arrangement from one of his film scores. Raksin has composed music for over 100 films since the first "talkies" were developed.**

### At the White House

**Harpist SSgt Karen Grimsey, a 1995 tour soloist, performs at a recent reception in the private quarters of the White House. She is frequently requested by the First Family to perform at official White House functions.**



### White House Highlights

Recent Marine Band appearances at the White House include:

- Business Leadership Forum on September 11
- State of Ohio Day on September 14
- Presidential Medal of Freedom ceremony on September 29

## Marine Band to Exhibit at Mid-West

The Marine Band will exhibit at the 49th annual Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic, held this year from December 19 through 22 at the Chicago Hilton.

This clinic is one of the largest gatherings of music educators and professional musicians in the nation and features educational workshops, performances by leading soloists and ensembles, and music industry exhibitions.

Two Marine Band members will be featured in the clinic performance of the Montgomery County (MD) Youth Orchestra. Staff Sergeant Frederick Marcellus will be guest soloist in Herman Bellstedt's brilliant cornet solo, "Napoli," with Director Colonel John R. Bourgeois conducting. Colonel Bourgeois will also guest conduct the VanderCook College of Music Band in their convention performance.

Convention attendees are invited to stop by the Marine Band booth (#200-202 in the Hilton exhibition hall) to meet the Public Affairs staff and pick up a 1996 poster/calendar.

## Tour Update

The Marine Band is more than midway through the 1995 Fall Concert Tour of the southwestern United States.

Since leaving Washington, DC, October 1, "The President's Own," conducted by Colonel John R. Bourgeois, has performed for capacity audiences along the route. The tour will continue until November 19.

Next year, the Marine Band will visit southeastern Maryland, eastern Virginia, eastern North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, southern Alabama, and Florida.

Check the last issue of *NOTES* for the remainder of this year's tour concert schedule or phone the Marine Band Public Affairs Office at (202) 433-5809.

## 'Music In The Schools' Programs Introduce Area Students to Musical Instruments

This fall, musicians from "The President's Own" will introduce more than 3,800 area school children to musical instruments and repertoire through the annual "Music in the Schools" program. Brass, string, and woodwind ensembles drawn from the Marine Band will present 41 programs in 26 schools throughout the Washington, DC, metropolitan area between October 4 and November 17.

"Education is crucial if music is to survive," explained Colonel John R. Bourgeois. "The entertaining performances show young people that it is OK to be enthusiastic about classical music. These children are our future performers and audiences."

For many of the children at the "Music in the Schools" programs, this is the first opportunity to witness a live performance.

"In today's world, most entertainment is recorded or broadcast electronically. This series gives children the opportunity to experience live performance," said violist Master Sergeant Carol Hayes. "We really are musical ambassadors for these youngsters."

In recent years, "Music in the Schools" featured stringed instruments. A string quartet presented programs that ranged from a musical biography of the "father" of the string quartet, Franz Josef Haydn, to a showcase of music typically played at a White House State Dinner.

This year, the program was expanded to include woodwind and brass quintets. Each Marine Band ensemble developed a program to showcase the different instruments and introduce the children to a wide variety of musical repertoire.

During the brass program, Staff Sergeant John Abbracciamento simulates a trumpet with garden hose and a funnel to demonstrate how early brass instruments were played.

Staff Sergeant Max Cripe gives a similar demonstration when he discusses the French horn during the woodwind quintet's program.

"Most people don't realize that a horn has 15 feet of metal tubing. It is a fun way to introduce kids to the origins of brass instruments," SSgt Cripe said.

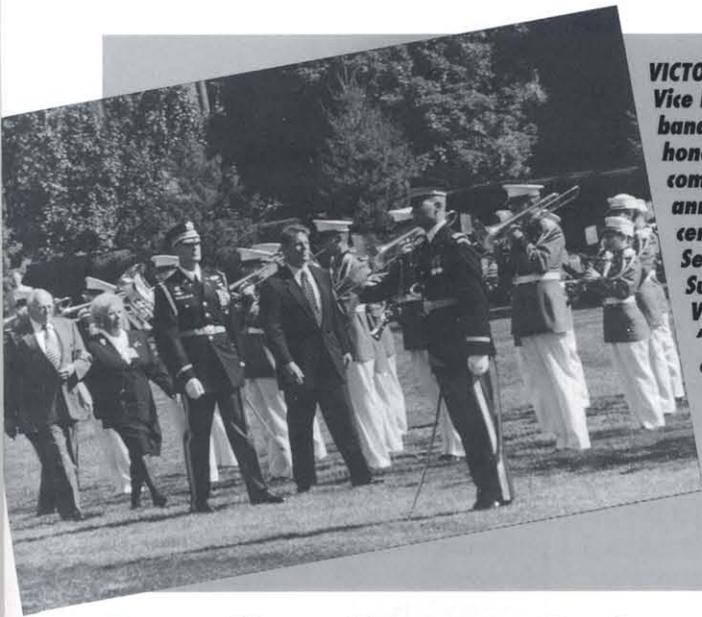
French hornist Gunnery Sergeant Amy Horn composed an original work for her presentation in the brass quintet program. Entitled "Horn Rap, Sure!," the work includes an introduction to the horn using humorous rap music and several familiar orchestral excerpts.

"Our programs were designed to introduce the

instruments in an entertaining way and give the children a realistic understanding of what is involved to play them," Concertmaster Master Sergeant Kim Miller said. "If the enthusiastic response at our performances is any indication, I think we have been very successful. We may even inspire the next Midori or James Galway."



**Violinist GySgt Donna Willingham demonstrates the proper way to hold a violin at a "Music in the Schools" concert.**



**VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC:** Vice President Gore reviews the band at an armed forces full honors review ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of VJ Day. The ceremony, which took place September 2 at Ft. Myer's Summerall Field in Arlington, VA, was part of the national "Victory in Japan Day" celebration. In an address to the nearly 5,000 World War II veterans, their families, and guests at the ceremony, Gore said, "We spoke as one. We worked as one. We fought as one. Let us honor America's heroes."

## Brass Choir Continues Tradition of Performances at Washington National Cathedral

The rich sounds of brass, percussion, and organ drifted toward the towering arches of the Washington National Cathedral on September 30 in celebration of the cathedral's 1995 open house.

The 15-member Marine Band Brass Choir and Cathedral Organist Douglas Major performed Marcel Dupré's *Poème héroïque* and Richard Strauss' *Feierlicher Einzug* in concert together to mark the annual public event.

"As always, it was an honor for the Marine Band Brass Choir to perform at the Washington National Cathedral," said Assistant Director Captain Dennis R. Burian, who conducted the concert. "Douglas Major is an outstanding organist and musician, and it was a great pleasure to work with him."

"Speaking for the cathedral, I can only say how honored we were to have the U.S. Marine Band perform at the cathedral," Major said. "I was absolutely thrilled to play with the finest brass ensemble in the United States."

From the foundation stone ceremony on September 29, 1907, with President Theodore Roosevelt present, to the completion ceremony on that same day in 1990 with President George Bush present, the Marine Band has been on hand for a variety of ceremonies at the Gothic-style cathedral.

Every November since 1963, for example, the Marine Band Brass Choir performs at the birthday service for the United States Marine Corps.

In 1965, the Brass Choir performed at a memorial service for Sir Winston Churchill. And four years later, the band performed there at the funeral services for President Dwight Eisenhower.

At a June 8, 1976, ceremony attended by President Gerald Ford and the Queen of England, the Brass Choir performed for the dedication of the cathedral's nave.

Eighty-eight years since the foundation stone ceremony, the Marine Band continues to help celebrate President George Washington's vision of a "great church for national purposes in the capital city."

Said Captain Burian, "I look forward to continuing our association with the National Cathedral for many years to come."

## Surprise Serenade continued from page 1

characteristic picture of this tradition:

*Annual New Year's serenade to the Major General Commandant and Mrs. Thomas Holcomb. Carrying out cherished custom of the United States Marine Band that antedates long before the Civil War according to the late John Philip Sousa. Band reported to Barracks at 10:30 a.m. Marched away from arcade at 10:55 a.m. Serenade at 11 a.m. promptly. Leader directing. ... After serenade, the band was invited into the Major General Commandant's house. The band was introduced to General and Mrs. Holcomb by Leader. Fine refreshments. Hot punch, hot biscuits, Smithfield Ham sandwiches. All officers of the Post and ladies present. Leader extended New Year's greetings on behalf of the band, and General Holcomb wished the band a Happy New Year. Very fine satisfactory serenade.*

## Saluting Korean War Veterans



**"The President's Own" marches in a parade down Constitution Avenue on July 27 to honor veterans of the Korean War. The parade concluded a week of events which included an international muster of veterans near the Washington Monument.**

# BAND MEMBER NEWS

## Violinist is the Voice Behind the Barracks

Marine Band string players normally spend most of their working hours at the White House. Since July, violinist Staff Sergeant Peter Wilson has pulled "double duty" by volunteering his free time — and his voice — to Marine Barracks, Washington, DC.

The 26-year-old native of Morgantown, WV, is the "Voice of Marine Barracks," the narrator for performances and events hosted by the Barracks. He auditioned for the position earlier this year and was selected by the Barracks Commanding Officer.

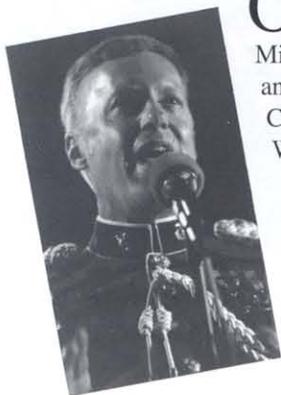
"As a string player, I never have the opportunity to participate in parades, yet I've always enjoyed the ceremonial aspects of the Marine Corps. This gives me the chance to be directly involved," said SSgt Wilson, who worked part time as a radio announcer while pursuing a music degree at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

As narrator, SSgt Wilson welcomes visitors, introduces reviewing officials, announces music, and describes the history of participating ceremonial units.

Because Wilson is "Voice of Marine Barracks" only when his Marine Band schedule allows, his participation is usually limited to ceremonies performed at the Barracks. Recently, though, he had the opportunity to travel to Omaha, NE, for an official Battle Colors Ceremony and to Honolulu, HI, with the Silent Drill Platoon. Both events were part of the national VJ Day commemoration.

In Hawaii, SSgt Wilson's double duty intersected. While waiting to begin his "Voice" duties at a ceremony, the Commandant of the Marine Corps General Charles C. Krulak approached him, Wilson said. "He walked toward me, and I saluted. He stopped, pointed at me, and squinted like he was trying to remember where he had seen me before." Then he recognized Wilson as a violinist with "The President's Own."

## Baritone Featured at National VJ Day Ceremony



On a Hawaiian mountainside above the Pacific, near a field of small fluttering American flags, Marine Band baritone Michael Ryan sang the National Anthem, "God Bless America," and "God Bless the USA" for President Clinton, Marine Corps Commandant General Charles C. Krulak, and some 8,000 World War II veterans.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Ryan, accompanied by the Marine Forces Pacific Band, was the featured vocalist at the "National Memorial Service" on September 2 at the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. The ceremony marked the 50th anniversary of VJ Day and the end of World War II.

Ryan, who has served with the Marine Band as vocalist and concert moderator for more than 25 years, frequently performs for the President and the Commandant. But for

MGySgt Ryan, this ceremony had special significance. "Three of my uncles fought in World War II. All three came home with purple hearts," Ryan said. "It was truly a privilege to be a part of such a historic event."

## Promotions

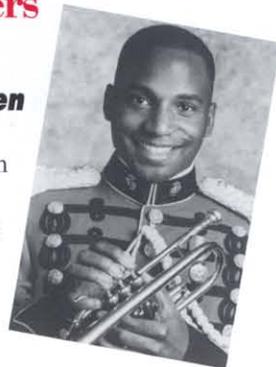
To **Master Sergeant**: violinist **Michael H. Faulkner** of Ridgewood, NJ.

To **Gunnery Sergeant**: Solo Cornetist **Richard B. Lehman** of Kettering, OH.

## New Members

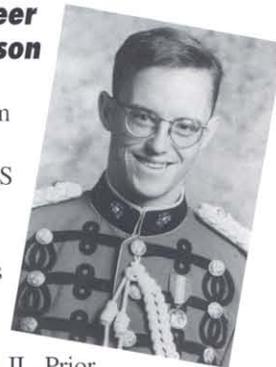
### Cornetist SSgt Tage I. Larsen

of Cambridge, MA, graduated in 1988 from Cambridge Rindge & Latin High School. He earned a BM in performance from Michigan State University in East Lansing and pursued graduate studies at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. Prior to joining the band he played with the Dallas (TX) Brass and the Millbrook Symphony Orchestra in Shepherdstown, WV.



### Sound Technician / Recording Engineer SSgt Karl J. Jackson

of Buena Vista, CO, graduated in 1991 from Buena Vista High School. He earned a BS in sound recording technology with minors in mathematics and microelectronics from DePaul University in Chicago, IL. Prior to joining the band, he interned at several commercial and music recording studios in Chicago.



### Vacancy Announcement

#### Trombone

Auditions will take place on  
Monday, December 4.

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

## STAFF LINES

### **SSgt J. Frederick Marcellus** **Cornet, 1995 Tour Soloist**

**Birth day:** December 22, 1966

**Family status:** Single

**Pets:** A border collie named Bandit

**Education:** BM, Eastman School of Music,  
Rochester, NY; MM, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS

**Joined the band:** June 1991

**Self-portrait:** a perfectionist; calm and reliable

**Favorite saying or motto:** "Just do it!"

**Greatest accomplishment:** TBA (to be announced)

**Pet peeves:** Washington drivers, waiting in lines

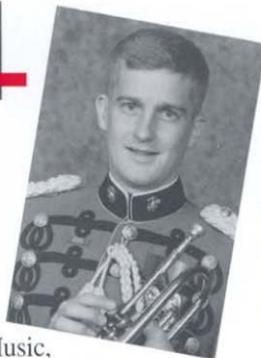
**Walter Mitty fantasy:** Owning the Miami Dolphins

**Most memorable moment in band:** Easter services  
for President Clinton at Camp David

**Inspiration:** Perfection

**Favorite movie:** *Grumpy Old Men*

**Who would play you in a movie:** Neil Patrick Harris  
(*Doogie Howser, M.D.*)



**Favorite food:** Anything off the grill, Cajun crawfish,  
"real" buffalo chicken wings

**Hobbies:** soccer, golf

**Bad habits:** Running the gas tank to empty,  
trying to do everything

**Three things always found in your refrigerator:** BBQ sauce,  
some unidentifiable leftovers, three empty shelves

**Most influential teacher:** Recordings and a tape recorder

**Professional experience before Marine Band:**  
Rochester Philharmonic and Wichita Symphony

**Books at bedside:**  
*Money* magazine, Arban  
*Complete Method for*  
*Cornet*

**Favorite piece of music:**  
Telemann Concerto for  
Oboe and Trumpet in  
D Major

**Place you'd most like to  
be stranded:** New York or  
New Orleans for good food,  
good music, and good fun  
**Last words:** "Work hard,  
play hard"

## NOTES

"THE PRESIDENT'S OWN"  
United States Marine Band  
Public Affairs Office  
Marine Barracks  
8th and I Streets, SE  
Washington, DC 20390-5000  
*Colonel John R. Bourgeois, Director*  
Public Affairs Office: (202) 433-5809



*U.S. Marine Band photos*