

NOTES

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

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Marine Band Announces 1997 Concerts

The Marine Band, America's oldest professional musical organization, announces its 1997 concert schedule. According to Director LtCol Timothy W. Foley, audiences will have an opportunity to experience the full musical range of "The President's Own" from small ensembles to concert band and chamber orchestra performances.



Autumn Chamber Music Recital Series

October 5 – 26

Recitals by Marine Band chamber ensembles every Sunday at 2 p.m. in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall, Marine Barracks.

1997 Concert Tour

October and November

Visiting northern and eastern Maryland, Delaware, northern and eastern

Winter Chamber Music Recital Series

January 5 – February 23 except January 19

Recitals by Marine Band chamber ensembles on Sundays at 2 p.m. in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall, Marine Barracks, Washington, DC.

Spring Band Concert Series

▪ At George Mason University Center for the Arts, Fairfax, VA, Sundays, March 2 – April 20 *except March 23*, at 2 p.m.

▪ At Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, Baltimore, MD, Thursday, April 24, at 8 p.m.

Marine Chamber Orchestra Concert Series

▪ At George Mason University, Harris Theater, Fairfax, VA, Sunday, April 27, at 2 p.m.

▪ At the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC, Sundays, May 4 – 25, at 2 p.m.

Summer Band Concert Series *June – August*

▪ Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at the U.S. Capitol Building and

▪ Sundays at 8 p.m. at the Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument grounds, weather permitting.

Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. The complete itinerary and ticket information will be published in the September/October 1997 issue of *NOTES*. For more information, please call the Marine Band National Tour Director at (202) 433-5812.

All performances in the 1997 Marine Band concert season are free, however tickets are required for the Spring Band Concert Series and all tour appearances. Performances are subject to change. Watch future issues of *NOTES* for further information or call the 24-hour Marine Band Concert Information Line at (202) 433-4011.

The officers, men, and women of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band invite you to join them for these performances next year.

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ACTIVITIES UPDATE

USMB Salutes Smithsonian's 150th Anniversary



**Cornetist
SSgt Scott Gearhart performs
for the opening ceremonies of the
Smithsonian's 150th birthday
celebration on the Mall.**

“The President’s Own” performed August 10 at opening ceremonies for the Smithsonian Institution’s 150th Anniversary Celebration. Director Lieutenant Colonel Timothy W. Foley conducted the Marine Band during the ceremony which took place at the Smithsonian Castle on the Mall.

The musical program included John Philip Sousa’s march “Transit of Venus,” premiered by the Marine Band and Sousa in 1883 at the unveiling of a statue of Joseph Henry, the Smithsonian Institution’s first secretary. Henry, as president of the National Academy of Sciences, was responsible for proper observation of the transit of the planet Venus across the night sky in 1874.

The Marine Band performed at a number of other significant events during the Smithsonian Institution’s 150-year history. It is believed “The President’s Own” escorted the remains of Smithsonian Institution founder James Smithson when they were reinterred in the Smithsonian Castle in 1904.

The band performed in 1961 at the cornerstone laying ceremony for the National Museum of History and Technology, renamed the National Museum of American History in 1980. The band performed again in 1974 at the opening ceremony for the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden which houses 19th- and 20th-century sculpture, paintings, prints, and drawings.

“As one of the newest members of the band, I was struck by the historical significance of performing for the Smithsonian’s anniversary,” commented cornetist Staff Sergeant Scott Gearhart, who joined the band this summer. “The Marine Band has witnessed some of the most important events in the history of our country.”

“Music in the Schools”

MSgt Celeste Blase demonstrates the proper technique for generating sounds on the violin during a “Music in the Schools” program. Brass, woodwind, and string ensembles from the Marine Band give educational presentations to children in Washington area schools in October and November.



Two Birthday Observances in November

Sousa’s 142nd Birthday

Wednesday, November 6, marks the birthday of John Philip Sousa, the Marine Band’s 17th Director. A native of Washington, DC, Sousa was born in 1854 at 636 G Street, SE, just two blocks away from historic Marine Barracks, the home of “The President’s Own.”

The Marine Band will lay a wreath at Sousa’s grave in Congressional Cemetery in Southeast Washington on November 6 at 10:30 a.m. The public is invited.

USMC’s 221st Birthday

On Sunday, November 3, the Marine Band brass choir, under the direction of First Lieutenant Michael J. Colburn, will perform music for the annual service honoring the birthday of the United States Marine Corps at Washington National Cathedral.

The prelude concert begins at 3:30 p.m. and will be followed by a worship service at 4 p.m. The concert and service are open to the public.

For more information about either event, please call the 24-hour Concert Information Line at (202) 433-4011.

White House Highlights

Recent Marine Band appearances at the White House include:

- Paralympic Torch send-off on August 6
- Reception for the U.S. Olympic Team on August 7
- Presidential Medal of Freedom ceremony on September 9

FEATURE

Meet the Marine Band's Assistant Directors

The Marine Band's Assistant Directors aren't always in the spotlight, but they play a vital role in the leadership of the band, according to Director Lieutenant Colonel Timothy W. Foley. "I rely on them everyday for their input and experience," he said. "We strive to work together like a precision instrument."

In this issue, *NOTES* profiles the Marine Band's Assistant Directors Major Dennis R. Burian and First Lieutenant Michael J. Colburn.

In addition to conducting duties, Assistant Director Major Dennis R. Burian assumed new responsibilities this summer as the band's Executive Officer.

"My job as Executive Officer is to know where the Director would like to take the organization and help him see that it happens," said Major Burian, the band's second-in-command.

LtCol Foley commented, "Major Burian and I have been friends and colleagues since 1969. We've met many challenges and tough times together. If there's one word that I would use to characterize my attitude toward Major Burian, it is trust. Nobody is more capable and qualified to meet the demands of Marine Band Executive Officer and senior Assistant Director than he."

Major Burian brings more than 26 years of experience, both as a performer and as a support staff member, to his new position. He joined the band in 1969 as a clarinetist.



Major Dennis R. Burian conducts the Marine Chamber Orchestra during a spring concert at the National Academy of Sciences auditorium.

"I was in my junior year at West Chester (PA) State College and saw a notice on the bulletin board that the Marine Band was holding auditions. A buddy of mine had a car, so I called him up and we drove down to Washington," Major Burian recalled. "I didn't even tell my parents."

After five years in the band and completion of his degrees at The Catholic University of America in Washington, Major Burian left to become band director at Muhlenberg College in his hometown of Allentown, PA. "A year later there was an opening in the saxophone section, so I returned to the Marine Band," he said. "I knew this was where I was supposed to be. I enjoyed teaching, but nothing compares to working with the musicians of 'The President's Own.'"

Before being named Assistant Director in 1988, Major Burian served 10 years as Operations Chief and one year as Operations Officer. He was directly involved with scheduling and coordinating the band's commitments as well as serving as the band's operational liaison with the White House and Marine Corps Headquarters.

Major Burian cites his background with the Allentown Band, one of the oldest community bands in the country, as a big influence in his conducting career. "The band was led by Albertus Meyers for 50 years," Burian explained. "He played in Sousa's civilian band and passed on his connection with John Philip Sousa to us. In my Marine Band programs I try for a mixture of this Sousa tradition with original and contemporary band music."

Programming for events at the White House can be a particular challenge. Major Burian said he must be "in tune" with current events so he can plan appropriate music. One of his most memorable performances at the White House involved passing the baton to Sir Georg Solti of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, who conducted the chamber orchestra in Mozart's "Haffner" Symphony. Over the years, the Major has also performed at the Executive Mansion with Neil Diamond, Frank Sinatra, and Sammy Davis, Jr.

While music is his first love, Major Burian also enjoys working around his home in Bowie, MD, and tinkering with cars and electronics. He confesses that he reads "more scores than books." He also plays another official role, as "spouse" for his wife Betsy, a member of the Bowie City Council. They are the parents of two grown children.



President Clinton pauses to speak with Major Burian at a State Dinner for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in 1995.

On July 24, First Lieutenant Michael J. Colburn stepped onto a podium outside the U.S. Capitol building and gave the downbeat for his first formal concert since being selected Assistant Director.

"It seemed surreal," 1stLt Colburn recalled. "Before the concert started, I felt as if I should be occupying my usual seat in the euphonium section. However, once I began conducting, I was surprised at how quickly it became comfortable."

1stLt Colburn, former principal euphonium and a frequently featured soloist, is already familiar to Marine Band audiences across the country. A native of St. Albans, VT, he joined "The President's Own" in 1987 and was appointed principal in 1990. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree from Arizona State University and a Master of Music degree in conducting from George Mason University (VA). In addition to numerous solo performances in Washington and on tour, he has been active as a conductor for the band's Chamber Music Series.

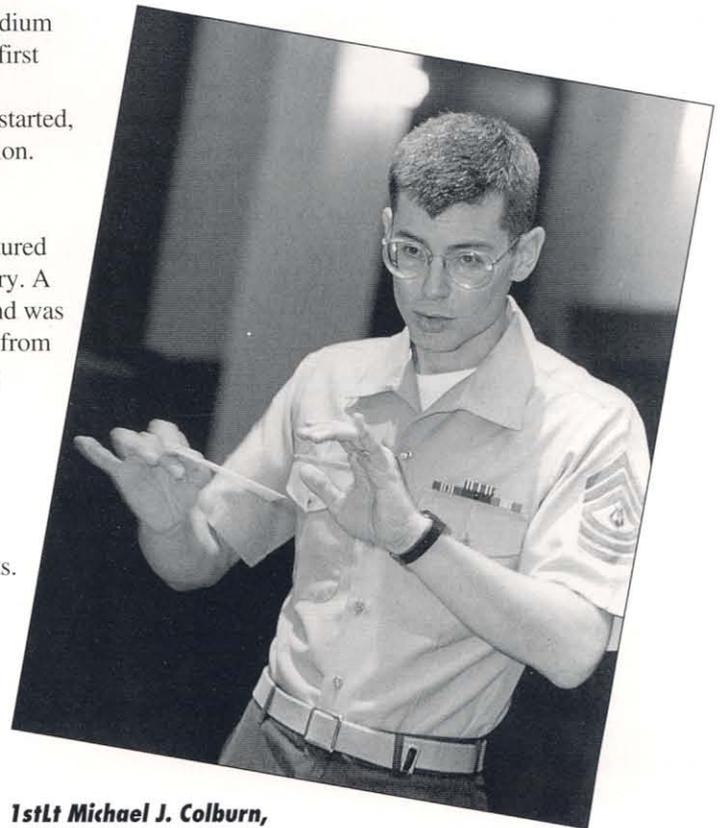
While the tour band is on the road this fall, 1stLt Colburn is responsible for conducting the "homeguard" band which remains in Washington to cover White House and other ceremonial commitments. "Because there is such a wide variety of repertoire that we perform, I have the opportunity to conduct music of virtually every style and genre, and I find that exciting," he said.

LtCol Foley commented, "Mike is a brilliant musician, and he is a conductor of exceptional skill and insight. The members of the Marine Band accord him the highest respect, and we are most fortunate to have an individual of his talent join our conducting staff."

When asked about his choice of repertoire, 1stLt Colburn explained, "The Marine Band is almost as old as the country itself; the band is quintessentially American. It seems appropriate that American composers be featured prominently in our concerts." Plans for upcoming band and chamber orchestra concerts include the music of Sousa, Charles Ives, Walter Piston, and George Whitefield Chadwick.

Reflecting on his career with "The President's Own," 1stLt Colburn said, "I never imagined when I first joined the band as a euphonium player that my interest in conducting might lead to my selection as Assistant Director. It is extremely exciting to conduct such a fine group of musicians and to continue to be part of an organization so rich in tradition."

1stLt Colburn resides in Burke, VA, with his wife, Nancy, and children Jack (2 years) and Claire (6 months).



1stLt Michael J. Colburn, pictured here as a MSgt, rehearses the brass choir for an upcoming performance at the Washington National Cathedral.



Colonel Schoepper (left) and Colonel Bourgeois pin silver oak leaves signifying the rank of LtCol on Director Timothy W. Foley

Band Officers Promoted, Commissioned

Former Directors Colonel Albert F. Schoepper and Colonel John R. Bourgeois returned to John Philip Sousa Band Hall on October 2 to promote and commission officers of "The President's Own." U.S. Marine Band

Director Major Timothy W. Foley was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel; Executive Officer Captain Dennis R. Burian was promoted to Major; Executive Assistant to the Director Master Gunnery Sergeant Franklin P. Byrne, Jr. was commissioned a Captain; and Assistant

Director Master Sergeant Michael J. Colburn was commissioned a First Lieutenant.

Among the guests present at the ceremony were The Honorable Alan P. Sullivan, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of White House Military Office, and former Marine Band Executive Officer Brigadier General Raymond P. Ayres, Jr., now the Commanding General of the 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan.

BAND MEMBER NEWS

STAFF LINES

MGySgt Darrell Grabau Cornetist

Birthday: June 11, 1946

Hometown: Spring Valley, MN

Family status: Married to Marlene

Children: Michelle (22), Kenneth (19), and Stephen (16)

Pets: A cat named Skyler

Education: Rochester (MN) Community College, University of Minnesota, and Mankato (MN) State University (BS in Music Education)

Joined the band: June 1975

Professional experience before Marine Band: United States Military Academy Band, West Point, NY, and high school band director in Minnesota and Wisconsin

Self-portrait: Impatient, a perfectionist, confident, humble, mellowing

Walter Mitty fantasy: To play a round of golf at Pebble Beach with Arnold Palmer, Chi Chi Rodriguez, and Lee Trevino

Favorite saying or motto: "When are we going to get there? Are we there yet?"

Most memorable moment in band: The band's trip to Norway in 1989 – the band performed 20 miles away from my grandfather's hometown



Pet peeves: Slow drivers, slow golfers, people who are late, and events that start late
Best kept secret: The more you play a cornet, the easier it gets

Favorite food: Gino's East Pizza (Chicago) and Tom Thumb donuts

Favorite movie: *When Harry Met Sally*

Who would play you in a movie: Leslie Nielsen

Hobbies: Golf, tennis, boating, hiking, camping

Bad Habits: Driving too fast, arriving too early, staying too late

Books at bedside: Anything by Garrison Keillor, *TV Guide*

Favorite piece of music: Anything with a lot of brass

Luxury defined: Being on tour and always staying in a nice hotel with a beach-front view

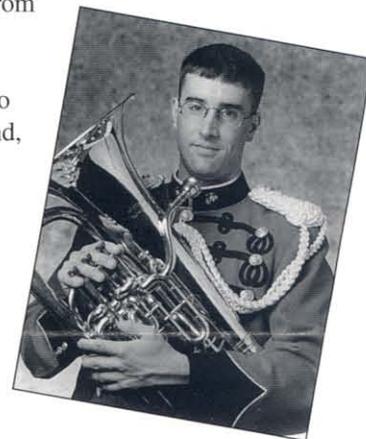
Place you'd most like to be stranded: In a log cabin on a mountain top in Acadia National Park (ME)

Last words: "I love you!"

New Member

Euphonium player **SSgt Matthew J. Tropman**

of Ann Arbor, MI, graduated in 1991 from Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor. He earned a BMA in performance from the University of Michigan and a MM in performance from Arizona State University in Tempe. Prior to joining the band, SSgt Tropman won several national and international low brass competitions.



Retirement

Gunnery Sergeant **Stephanie M. Myers**, violinist, of Iowa City, IA, retired in August after 20 years of service. GySgt Myers performed at the White House with the Marine Chamber Orchestra and was a soloist on orchestra and chamber music concerts.

Vacancies

The Marine Band announces auditions/interviews for the following vacancies:

Oboe: December 2

Librarian: Dates to be announced

For information, write to:

Operations Officer
U.S. Marine Band
8th & I Streets, SE
Washington, DC 20390-5000
or call (202) 433-5714

Promotion

Drum Major Dennis R. Wolfe of Lebanon, PA, was promoted in August to Master Gunnery Sergeant. Drum Major Wolfe, in addition to leading the band in ceremonial commitments, serves as the senior enlisted member of the organization. Drum Major Wolfe joined "The President's Own" in 1994 after serving as drum major for Marine Corps bands at Quantico (VA), Parris Island (SC), San Diego (CA), and Pearl Harbor (HI).



Celebrate the Season with “The President’s Own”

Ring in the holidays with the Marine Band on December 8 at Wolf Trap, America’s only national park for the performing arts.

The annual event, beginning at 4 p.m., will be conducted by Director LtCol Timothy W. Foley and will feature the full concert band and

vocalist Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Ryan. After a prelude concert of seasonal works, the band will accompany choirs from local schools, churches, and community groups in favorite holiday songs. At dusk, concert goes traditionally leave the Filene Center to the flickering glow of candlelight.

This year’s concert takes place Sunday, December 8, at Wolf Trap’s Filene Center in Vienna, VA. The concert begins at 4 p.m. The performance is free, and tickets are not required. Free parking is available.

Ssgt David Murray puts some “jingle” into the band’s rendition of the Leroy Anderson favorite, “Sleigh Ride.”



Moved?

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In order to update our mailing list we must have the keyline printed at the top of the label.

NOTES

“The President’s Own”
United States Marine Band
LtCol Timothy W. Foley,
Director
Marine Barracks
8th and I Streets, SE
Washington, DC 20390-5000

Public Affairs Office: (202) 433-5809
U.S. Marine Band photos

