

November - December 1998

NOTES



1999 Season Preview

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

Looking Back...

January 20, 1948

"The President's Own" performed for the Inaugural of President Harry S Truman and Vice President Alvin W. Barkley, including performances for the ceremony at the U.S. Capitol; the President's reception held at the National Gallery of Art; the Inaugural Parade; and the Inaugural Ball.

White House Highlights

Recent Marine Band appearances at the White House include:

- Patient's Bill of Rights event
- Veterans Day breakfast
- Nobel Peace Prize Recipients meeting
- Kennedy Center Honors reception

Marine Band CD Now Available

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation announces the release of its recording "Marches in Concert," featuring live performances of 21 favorite marches performed by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band. Conductors include LtCol Timothy W. Foley, former Directors Colonel John Bourgeois and Colonel Albert Schoepper, and special guest conductor Dr. Frederick Fennell. The recording includes marches by Sousa and other noted composers, many of which had never been recorded by the Marine Band. "Marches in Concert" also includes "Semper Fidelis," "Globe and Eagle," "Marine Corps Institute," "March of the Women Marines," and the Armed Forces Medley, concluding with The Marines' Hymn.

"Marches in Concert" is available in CD format for \$16 and cassette format for \$13. Prices include shipping. (Virginia residents please add 4 1/2% sales tax.) To place an order, please contact the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation at (800) 397-7585.

Marine Band Brings Music to Area Schools

If asked to describe their most memorable moment in "The President's Own," U.S. Marine Band members might recount the time they performed for a foreign dignitary, shook hands with the President, or played a solo before a packed house on a hometown tour stop. For musicians involved in this year's "Music In The Schools" (MITS) program, memories are being made with slightly younger VIPs—elementary school students in the first through eighth grades.

Some 3,300 students in 18 local schools were treated to performances in October by Marine Band brass, string, and woodwind players. MITS affords young listeners in the Washington, DC, area musical experiences they might not have otherwise. Now in its 20th year, the program gives students the opportunity to hear live music, learn how various instruments work, and interact with professional musicians.

In each 45-minute presentation, music comes to life through carefully chosen program themes, lively narration, and eager student participation. At one recent performance for 150 fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders, a Marine Band brass quintet transformed an assembly hall into a White House State Dinner, leading their listeners from the arrival of the first guests to the after-dinner dancing.

This year's string program, "Where in the World is the Marine Band String Quartet?" challenged students to guess the geographical origin of each selection based on musical and visual clues. The woodwind quintet chose to feature the Marine Band's Bicentennial, highlighting the rich musical heritage of "The President's Own" and the group's ties to some of the nation's key moments in history.

"Creativity is really important," cornetist GySgt John Abbracciamento said. "The kids pick up on that, and they can tell when we're having fun. It's our way of giving something back."

The fun really begins with the audience participation. GySgt Charles Casey, trombonist, imitated a speeding car with his slide, and hands shot up with guesses. Cornetist GySgt Kurt Dupuis was asked over and over to repeat his "horse whinny" at MITS performances. Two lucky audience members stepped in for the First Couple while the woodwind quintet honored the "President" with "Hail to the Chief." And GySgt Peter Wilson guided a young volunteer in "Fantasia on One Note," using a violin with only one string played to the accompaniment of Marine Band strings.

"We try to build in a lot of student participation," Wilson said, "because nothing makes an impression like seeing one of their peers take part."

Time and time again, students have shown their appreciation through rapt attention, prolonged applause, eager questions—even handwritten letters. "You realize you've truly made an impact when you receive thank-you notes from an entire class," said Wilson, who has been involved with MITS since joining the band in 1991.

According to first-time MITS participant oboist MSgt James Dickey, the program offers many benefits to students. "Our performances are a way for them to link music with the history that they're learning in school, that the Marine Band has been part of so many important events in our nation's history," he said. "It also lets them see how practice and discipline pay off, whether they choose music or any other endeavor."

An eager volunteer provides rhythmic accompaniment to a Latin selection performed by the string quartet.



Quotable Quotes...

[The Marine Band] has become an integral part of American ceremonial life, a grand tradition that transcends time, partisanship, and political correctness. Traditions do matter.

—Hearst Newspapers Columnist Marianne Means on the band's 200th birthday

White House Highlights

Recent Marine Band appearances at the White House include:

- State Dinner for President and Mrs. Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic
- Arts Education event
- First Lady's tea for Mrs. Nelson Mandela of South Africa
- Colon Cancer Prevention event
- Working lunch for the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia

Ring in the Holidays at Wolf Trap

Celebrate the joyous sounds of the holiday season as the Marine Band performs its annual holiday concert at Wolf Trap, America's only national park for the performing arts.

The performance, which will be held December 6 at 4 p.m., will feature the full concert band and vocalist Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Ryan. After a prelude concert of seasonal works, the band will accompany local school, church, and community choirs in traditional holiday songs. The evening concludes at dusk with a parade of lights generated by the flickering glow of candlelight.

The concert is free, and tickets are not required. Free parking is available at Wolf Trap. For further information, call the 24-hour Concert Information Line at (202) 433-4011.

Bicentennial Exhibit Goes Online

The Marine Band Bicentennial exhibit, displayed this summer at the White House Visitor Center, can now be viewed online through the World Wide Web.

The 10-panel exhibit, a collaboration between the White House Historical Association and the Marine Band, can be viewed in its entirety in the "Visiting" section of the WHHA website: www.whitehousehistory.org.

In addition to displaying nearly 80 historic photographs and documents, the "virtual exhibit" also includes musical selections played by the Marine Band at the White House and recorded remarks delivered by former Presidents John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan.

According to WHHA Executive Vice President Neil Horstman, the Association's immediate challenge in taking the exhibition into cyberspace was maintaining the outstanding educational content and graphic quality.

"We worked closely with Corporate Micros, Inc. of New York to develop web pages that were logically organized, fast-loading, and high resolution," Horstman explained. "These web pages allow people around the globe to share in the remarkable story of the Marine Band's contributions to American history and cultural life through their service at the White House."

Nearly 1 million people viewed the Bicentennial exhibit at the Visitor Center from June through October. In January, the exhibit will appear at a series of Presidential libraries, beginning with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Grand Rapids, MI.

Two Birthdays in November

USMC Birthday Service

On Sunday, November 1, a Marine Band Brass Choir under the direction of Assistant Director Captain Michael J. Colburn will perform music for the annual service honoring the birthday of the United States Marine Corps at Washington National Cathedral in Northwest Washington.

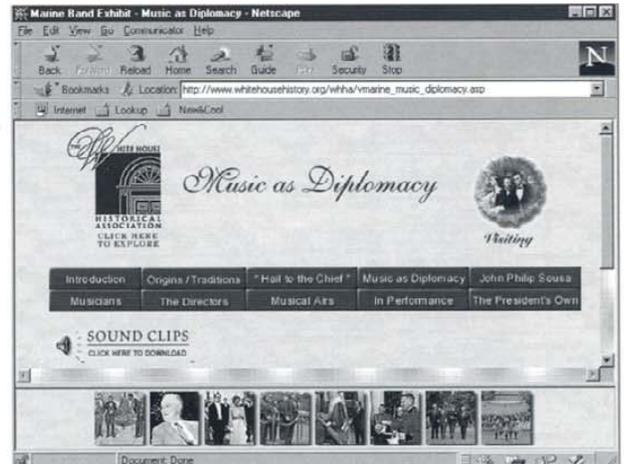
The prelude concert begins at 3:30 p.m. and will be followed by a worship service at 4 p.m. The concert and service are free and open to the public.

John Philip Sousa

The Marine Band will celebrate the life of John Philip Sousa at a graveside ceremony in honor of his 144th birthday. 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."

On Friday, November 6, at 10 a.m., the Marine Band will lay a wreath on Sousa's grave at Congressional Cemetery in Southeast Washington. The ceremony is open to the public.

For more information about either performance, call the Marine Band Public Affairs Office at (202) 433-5809.



Looking Back at the Bicentennial Year

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band celebrated its Bicentennial in 1998 with a year-long schedule of special performances and events.

“The U.S. Marine Band, [is] a band now judged by experts to be the best the world has ever produced,” wrote *Time* magazine’s Hugh Sidey in an article about the Bicentennial.

The gala events of the year were a command performance on the White House South Lawn for the President and First Lady on July 10 and an historic concert on the band’s 200th birthday, July 11, for a full house at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

“The band has never sounded more splendid and precise,” wrote a *Washington Post* reviewer following the Bicentennial concert. Distinguished guest conductors were Dr. Frederick Fennell, founder of the Eastman Wind Ensemble; Director Emeritus Colonel John R. Bourgeois, USMC (Ret); and composer Dr. W. Francis McBeth, who premiered music he wrote especially for the event. Guests of honor included the First Family, Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton, and concert host, Marine Corps Commandant General Charles C. Krulak.

Other Bicentennial highlights included a spectacular concert conducted by Leonard Slatkin, internationally acclaimed Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra, and the band’s induction into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame. “The President’s Own” was the only organization to be inducted along

with a legendary group of distinguished composers, musicians, and educators.

The band produced a 10-CD commemorative collection that documents the recorded history of the Marine Band from 1890 to the present. The set focuses on rare archival recordings and live performances that have never been released or have been out of print for generations. *Marine Band recordings*

are distributed free of charge and are restricted to educational institutions, public libraries, and radio stations. Because recordings are produced with appropriated government funds, they may not be distributed for private use and are not for sale.

Additional Bicentennial activities and promotional materials included: an award-winning website (www.marineband.hqmc.usmc.mil); a poster commemorating the band’s heritage; a performance for more than 6,000 people at the summer season opening of Wolf Trap, America’s only national park for the performing arts; and, with the White House Historical Association, an exhibit of the band’s rare historical artifacts, documents, and photographs viewed by more than 1 million visitors this summer at the White House Visitor Center. *The Bicentennial exhibit can now be viewed on the Internet. See story on page 2.*

The Bicentennial finale will take place this December in Chicago, IL, when the United States Marine Band and chamber ensembles from “The President’s Own” perform at the Midwest Clinic, the world’s largest and most prestigious music convention.

Marine Band to Perform at the 1998 Midwest Clinic in Chicago

The Marine Band will perform and exhibit at this year’s Midwest Clinic, held December 15-19 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers in Illinois. Three performances—two by the band and one by chamber ensembles—will cap the Marine Band’s year-long Bicentennial celebration.

Performances by the Marine Band will take place Wednesday, December 16, at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. in the Hilton’s International Ballroom. Conducted by Marine Band Director LtCol Timothy W. Foley, the program will include George Whitefield Chadwick’s “Jubilee” from *Symphonic Sketches*, Charles Ives’s “The Alcotts” and Finale from Symphony No. 2, William Schuman’s *George Washington Bridge* (“An Impression for

Band”), Warren Benson’s *Daughter of the Stars*, and John Philip Sousa’s march “The Belle of Chicago.”

Chamber ensembles from “The President’s Own” will present a concert on Thursday, December 17, at 4:45 p.m. in the Hilton’s Grand Ballroom. The program will feature William Alwyn’s Concerto for Flute and Eight Wind Instruments, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s Concerto in A for Clarinet, Anthony Plog’s Concerto for Trumpet, and Michael Daugherty’s *Lex*, for Amplified Violin and Percussion Ensemble.

The Marine Band exhibit can be found in its traditional location—booths 200 and 202 in the Chicago Hilton and Towers Southeast Exhibit Hall.

Washington area audiences have a special opportunity to preview the Midwest Clinic program in concert at George Mason University’s Center for the Arts on Saturday, December 12, at 7:30 p.m.

“The Midwest Clinic is the final event in our year-long Bicentennial celebration. I’m pleased that we can share this exciting program with local audiences,” said Director LtCol Timothy W. Foley.

The concert is free and open to the public; however, tickets are required. Patrons can request tickets by calling the Center for the Arts Box Office at (703) 993-8888. Please limit requests to four tickets per person. For more information, call the Marine Band’s 24-hour Concert Information Line at (202) 433-4011.

The Washington Monument and “The President’s Own”

“The President’s Own” performed for the 150th anniversary of the laying of the Washington Monument’s cornerstone in a July 18 ceremony at the Sylvan Theatre on the monument grounds.

The Marine Band has had a long association with this monument, described in 1833 by the Washington National Monument Society as a “great National Monument to the memory of Washington at the seat of the Federal Government.”

In 1848, enroute to the monument’s future site, a wagon hauling the 24,500-pound cornerstone of Maryland marble broke through a bridge over the city canal. (The canal ran the course of present-day Constitution Avenue.) Civilian workers at the Washington Navy Yard volunteered to spend their lunch hour rescuing the stone, and the Marine Band urged them on with spirited melodies.

“The President’s Own” played for the laying of the cornerstone on July 4, 1848, and a century later, the Marine Band returned to perform at the Washington Monument’s centennial.

The Marine Band performs on the White House South Lawn during President Chester A. Arthur’s administration in 1883, a year before the capstone was placed on the Washington Monument.



STAFF LINES

GySgt Betsy Hill

Assistant Principal Flute

Birthday: August 8, 1965

Hometown: Shepherdstown, WV

Family status: Single

Pets: None, but I’m dying to get a Shetland sheepdog!

Education: BA, University of Maryland-Baltimore County; MM, Florida State University

Joined the band: August 1992

Professional experience before the Marine Band: Mexico City Philharmonic; flute instructor, Frederick (MD) Community College

Self-portrait: Hardworking, yet lazy; funny, yet serious; self-reliant

Favorite saying or motto: “Do you need a soloist for that program, Sir?”

Greatest accomplishment: Performing as a soloist on the 1995 and 1998 concert tours

Pet peeves: A fuzzy flute tone, weak coffee

Walter Mitty Fantasy: Performing with flutist Paula Robison on a lengthy cross-country duo recital tour

Inspiration: Wonderful people and exotic experiences

Most memorable moment in Marine Band: Playing a solo at Meyerson Symphony Hall in Dallas after being bitten by a Rottweiler that morning

Favorite movie: *Gone with the Wind*
Who would play you in a movie: Lea Thompson (Caroline from the TV show *Caroline in the City*)

Best kept secret: When I retire, I want to join the Peace Corps

Hobbies: Making greeting cards, hiking, biking, and watching *The Young and the Restless*

Bad habits: Watching *The Young and the Restless*

Favorite piece of music: Richard Strauss’s Four Last Songs

Favorite food: Eggs, bacon, and fried potatoes cooked on a camp stove high in the Shenandoah Mountains

Three things always found in your refrigerator: Soy protein products, pickles, and Ben and Jerry’s Cherry Garcia frozen yogurt

Luxury defined: Enjoying a gourmet meal and luxurious accommodations at The Inn at Little Washington with my boyfriend, followed by a marriage proposal, an emerald-diamond engagement ring, and a gold Brannen-Cooper flute!

Place you’d most like to be stranded: At my aunt and uncle’s house on Deep Creek Lake, MD, during a huge snowstorm

Last words: “I’m grateful for the life I have lived.”



New Members

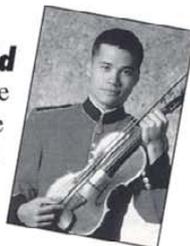


Percussionist SSgt Janis M. Potter-Paulson

of Tampa, FL, earned a BM and MM from The Juilliard School. Prior to joining the band, she was the 1996 winner of The Juilliard School Concerto Competition and 1994 winner of the Debut Orchestra Concerto Competition.

Violinist SSgt Regino B. Madrid

of Panorama City, CA, earned a BM from The Cleveland Institute of Music. Prior to joining the band, he performed with the Canton (OH) Symphony, Erie (PA) Philharmonic, and Hamilton (CA) String Quartet.



Sound Technician SSgt Kevan D. Lewis

of Salt Lake City, UT, earned a BM with a certificate in audio engineering from Brigham Young University. Prior to joining the band, he was an independent recording and sound reinforcement engineer.

Tubist SSgt Mark R. Thiele

of Vienna, VA, earned a BM from James Madison University and studied music performance in the University of Michigan master's program. He placed first in the tuba solo competition at the 1995 International Tuba/Euphonium Conference.

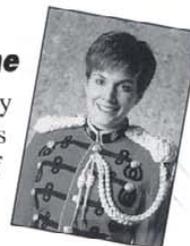


Cornetist SSgt Daniel E. Orban, Jr.

of Bowie, MD, earned a BM and MM from the University of Maryland. Prior to joining the band, he was a member of the Naval Academy Band, Annapolis, MD, and was a trumpet instructor and Director of Jazz at Salisbury (MD) State University.

Public Affairs Specialist SSgt Bonnie L. Eiche

of Cookeville, TN, earned a BA in journalism from the University of Memphis. Prior to joining the band, she was Communications Manager for the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America in Washington, DC.



Percussionist SSgt Meredith L. Nelson

of Houston, TX, earned a BM from Northwestern University and a MM from Rice University. Prior to joining the band, she was an extra with the Houston Symphony and the Houston Grand Opera.

Retirements

Master Gunnery Sergeant Leslie L. Hunt, flutist, retired after 30 years with the Marine Band. A native of Dallas, TX, MGySgt Hunt received a BM in music from the Manhattan School of Music in New York City and was featured as a soloist on many occasions.

Promotions

To Captain: Assistant Director Michael J. Colburn of St. Albans, VT.

To Master Gunnery Sergeant: euphonium player Philip D. Franke of Quincy, IL; and oboist James T. Dickey of Dayton, OH.

To Master Sergeant: clarinetist Jeffrey M. Strouf of Laramie, WY; Operations Assistant William A. Perry of Houston, TX; and horn player Max E. Cripe of Garden City, KS.

To Gunnery Sergeant: harpist Karen A. Grimsey of Wheaton, IL; trombonist Charles A. Casey of Baltimore, MD; clarinetist Jon F. Agazzi of Plainfield, IL; Sound Technician Karl J. Jackson of Buena Vista, CO; and Copyist Thomas A. Ginsberg of Baltimore, MD.

Vacancies

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

Guitar/Vocalist:
November 30 - December 1

Piano/Keyboard:
December 7 - 8

Public Affairs Specialist:
Resumes due January 8

Trumpet/Cornet:
January 15 - 16

Saxophone: January 25

For more information, please write to:

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

For audition repertoire, visit the Marine Band website:

www.marineband.hqmc.usmc.mil