

Published for the friends of "The President's Own"

notes

November
December



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The Marine Band Recording Process

Sounding “Hail to the Chief” to announce the arrival of the President. The solemn notes of “Taps” echoing through the hills of Arlington National Cemetery. The brilliant brass playing in the final strain of “The Stars and Stripes Forever.” Working with award-winning guest conductors. These are all things for which “The President’s Own” is known throughout the world. But the tradition of recorded music is one of the Marine Band’s most enduring legacies and dates back to 17th Director John Philip Sousa in 1889.



The Marine Band's most recent educational recording, Feste, features musical selections representative of the festival traditions of five different cultures.

“From the earliest days of recorded history, we find evidence of the festival tradition. And music ... provides a common thread shared by festivals of nearly every culture and ethnicity.”

COLONEL MICHAEL J. COLBURN

By 1897, more than 400 different titles were available for sale, placing Sousa’s marches among the first and most popular pieces ever recorded and making the Marine Band one of the world’s first “recording stars.”

As technology evolved from cylinders to records, tapes, compact discs, and digital formats, so has the process of recording the sound of the Marine Band. Audio technicians Master Gunnery Sergeant Karl Jackson and Staff Sergeant Evan Sonderegger strive to create a concert-like experience for the listener; librarian Staff Sergeant Ted Toulouse secures the appropriate rights and licensing for the featured works; and public affairs specialist Staff Sergeant Rachel Ghadiali oversees the graphic design, layout, artwork, and manufacturing process. The 25th installment in the band’s contemporary educational discography, *Feste*, is now available to educators. The project took nearly 16 months to complete, from Colonel Michael J. Colburn’s initial concept in the summer of 2008, to the recording session in June of 2009, and the mixing, editing, manufacturing, and production in the fall.

In February, chief librarian Master Sergeant Jane Cross began to prepare the music. Although most of the titles Col. Colburn had chosen were already available in the Marine Band’s vast library, the band needed to obtain a print license for a brand new transcription of Ottorino Respighi’s *Feste Romane* created by Marine Band arranger Master Sergeant Donald Patterson. Master Sgt. Cross researched and located the rarely performed orchestral score of Andreas Makris’ Aegean Festival Overture for the Director to study and compare to the better-known band transcription by Albert Bader. In addition, she compiled a bibliography of sources to assist Col. Colburn in writing the program notes for the recording.

In preparation for recording rehearsals, Master Sgt. Cross “built the books” for the musicians, which involved inspecting each sheet of music given to the players. Since Col. Colburn’s scores have the most page turns, she spiral-bound the sheets to ensure they made very little noise.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Jackson and Staff Sgt. Sonderegger prepared for recording week sessions by studying the scores to

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WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



- 2008 Major League Soccer Champion Columbus Crew Visit
- “An Evening of Country Music” Event
- Cooper-Hewitt National Design Awards Luncheon
- U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Proclamation Signing
- 2008 WNBA Champion Detroit Shock Visit
- Reception Honoring Ambassadors
- Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor Reception
- Medal of Freedom Presentation Ceremony
- 2009 Stanley Cup Champion Pittsburgh Penguins Visit

“Once the most celebrated musical outfit in the land — John Philip Sousa was its leader from 1880 to 1892 — [the Marine Band] serves as the president's sort of living and breathing iPod, tasked with catering to his every melodic requirement.”

PETER DUFFY, *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*

FEATURED DOWNLOADS



NOVEMBER

March of the Month

“Washington Post”

John Philip Sousa*

Featured Soloist

“Guisganderie”

Paul Jeanjean/arr. Knox*

Featuring the Marine Band
clarinet section

DECEMBER

March of the Month

March of the Toys from

Babes in Toyland

Victor Herbert/trans. Cray

New Music Corner

Soliloquy

Jennifer Higdon

Staff Sergeant Charlie Powers,
cello soloist

*Member, U.S. Marine Band

For more information, visit www.marineband.usmc.mil.

A NEW LOOK FOR NOTES

By Gunnery Sergeant Amanda Simmons

The November/December 2009 issue of *Notes* marks the 25th anniversary of the Marine Band newsletter. To commemorate this special milestone, the band is launching a new design, complete with updated layout and fonts and supplementary pages to accommodate more content.

“With new initiatives like Featured Downloads and our ever-increasing number of educational programs, *Notes* was busting at the seams,” said public affairs chief Gunnery Sergeant Kristin Mergen. “We had so much good news to pass in such a small format that we frequently had to make the editorial decision to choose content over artwork or to print a story in place of the popular Staff Lines questionnaire. The expanded format allows for more in-depth stories about our history and current events

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The November/December issue of *Notes* boasts a new look and marks the 25th anniversary of the Marine Band's newsletter.

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identify which instruments needed special technical attention. After they set up the four main microphones across the front of the stage at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria, Va., they supplemented certain sections with spot mikes, sound shields, and deflectors to direct the sound. They also worked with Col. Colburn and the musicians to identify the best location for unusual musical effects, such as instruments that sound from “off-stage.”

Once the microphones were in place and the musicians warmed up and tuned, Col. Colburn took the podium and led the intense recording sessions. Assistant Directors Major Jason K. Fettig and Captain Michelle A. Rakers and the technicians listened in and took notes from the control room backstage. With powerful computers, the technicians were able to make

“While the music certainly reveals the differences one would expect from such diverse cultures, the similarities are even more striking.”

COLONEL MICHAEL J. COLBURN

instantaneous adjustments and edits to the recording, but that hasn’t always been the case. “On tape in the old days you had to trust that you had it all in the can,” Staff Sgt. Sonderegger said.

After all of the takes were recorded, backed up, logged, and filed, the technicians began editing, mixing, and mastering the final product. Based on feedback from the Directors, they created a rough outline of the best takes and continued making adjustments until it was just right.

While the audio technicians and Directors listened and re-listened to take after take, the CD project manager, Staff Sgt. Ghadiali, turned her attention to the artwork, liner notes, and production aspects of the project. She met with Col. Colburn to brainstorm ideas for the look and feel of the CD cover and she acquired composer portraits and researched other artwork to accompany Col. Colburn’s liner notes. The liner notes went through an extensive editing process before they were sent to the designer for inclusion in the layout. Staff Sgt. Ghadiali packaged up the final design with the master recording and shipped it to the manufacturer with explicit instructions for digital audio resolution, specific ink colors, paper weight and color, fonts, and binding. Finally, after all the preparation work is completed, *Feste* will begin to arrive in educators’ mailboxes next month.

Like most of the Marine Band’s recordings, *Feste* has a distinct flavor or theme. “From the earliest days of recorded history, we find evidence of the festival tradition, often ritualized and religious in nature,” Col. Colburn explained in his notes. “And music, usually present in support of dance, song, and drama, provides a common thread shared by festivals of nearly



Master Gunnery Sgt. Jackson works on mixing and editing during the Marine Band’s recording session.

every culture and ethnicity. Because these festivals feature cultural traditions handed down through countless generations, the music also provides a window into the folk music traditions of each society.”

“This recording offers music representative of the festival traditions of five different cultures: Russia (or more precisely, the former Soviet Union), Mexico, Poland (by way of France), Greece, and Rome.,” he continued. “While the music certainly reveals the differences one would expect from such diverse cultures, the similarities are even more striking. The universal elements of a festival—the exuberance, the gratitude, and the reverence—are present in this music, and serve to remind us of the commonalities of human existence.”

Feste features H. Owen Reed’s *La Fiesta Mexicana*, Albert Bader’s transcription of Andreas Makris’ *Aegean Festival Overture*, and Marine Band arranger Master Sgt. Donald Patterson’s transcriptions of Dmitri Shostakovich’s *Festive Overture*, Opus 96, Emmanuel Chabrier’s “Fete Polonaise” from *Le Roi malgré lui*, and Ottorino Respighi’s *Feste Romane*.

 The Marine Band produces recordings for educational purposes and to enhance the public affairs and community relations of the United States Marine Corps. The recordings are distributed free of charge to educational institutions, public libraries, and radio stations. Because appropriated funds are used, the recordings may not be distributed for private use and are not for sale. Educators, librarians, and station managers can request that their educational institution, library, or radio station be added to the CD mailing list by visiting www.marineband.usmc.mil/audio_resources/educational_recordings/index.htm or submitting their written request on official letterhead to:

HEAD, MARINE BAND BRANCH
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (PAB)
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATING JOHN PHILIP SOUSA'S BIRTHDAY

1 PM | Friday, Nov. 6, 2009

"The President's Own" will pay homage to its 17th Director John Philip Sousa on the 155th anniversary of his birth at Congressional Cemetery located at 1801 E Street, SE, in Washington, D.C. Conducted by Assistant Director Major Jason K. Fettig, the ceremony's musical tribute will include Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and "Semper Fidelis." The gravesite ceremony and traditional wreath-laying is free and open to the public.

ANNUAL MARINE CORPS WORSHIP SERVICE

3:30 PM | Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009

The Marine Band brass ensemble will perform for the annual Marine Corps Worship Service at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Conducted by Assistant Director Major Jason K. Fettig, the prelude will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will include Ludovico Viadana's Sinfonia, "La Bergamasca;" Giovanni Gabrieli's Sonata XVIII à 14 from *Canzoni e Sonate*; Fisher Tull's "Variations on an Advent Hymn;" and Master Sergeant Stephen Bulla's *Uncommon Valor*—"Images of Iwo Jima."

The 4 p.m. service will include John Williams' Liberty Fanfare, Sammy Nestico's The Marines' Hymn, *Apotheosis*, and Henry Purcell's Voluntary on "Old Hundredth." The Marine Corps' annual worship service offers civilians, service members, and their families the chance to pause in prayer and pay tribute to Marines who have given the ultimate sacrifice to their country.

The Washington National Cathedral is located at the intersection of Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues in northwest Washington, D.C., and is easily reached by Metro. It is

handicapped accessible and parking is available in the adjacent garage for a small fee. For detailed directions and further information, please call (202) 537-6200 or visit www.cathedral.org.

MEMORIAL CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THE 234TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

10 AM | Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009

Marine Band Drum Major Master Gunnery Sergeant William L. Browne will lead "The President's Own" at the Memorial Ceremony Commemorating the 234th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va. The band will perform along with "The Commandant's Own" The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon, and Marine Barracks Washington ceremonial marchers.

Commandant of the Marine Corps General James T. Conway will speak at the birthday celebration and lay a wreath in honor of all Marines who have given their lives in the service of our country since 1775. The event is free and open to the public and Metro accessible.



Painting by Col. Donna Neary, USMCR (Ret.), of the Marine Band standing outside the main gate of the cemetery at Gettysburg in 1863

146TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

10 AM | Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009

In honor of Abraham Lincoln's Bicentennial year, the Marine Band will participate in an observation of President Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," hosted by the National Park Service and sponsored by the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania, the Gettysburg National Military Park, the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, and the Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

Formally designated as Dedication Day by a joint resolution of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in 1946, the reenactment ceremony will take place at the Soldiers National Cemetery at Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania.

The activities celebrating the 146th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a wreath-laying ceremony.

The event is free and open to the public. In case of inclement weather, patrons should proceed to Christ Chapel at Gettysburg College. For more information, visit www.gettysburg.edu/civilwar/institute or call the Civil War Institute at (717) 337-6590.

Photos from the festivities will be

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

available on the Marine Band's Lincoln bicentennial Web page located at www.marineband.usmc.mil/learning_tools/our_history/lincoln.htm.



The Marine Band Brass Quintet will perform holiday music at 2 p.m., Dec. 13.



The Marine Band performs during the annual Wolf Trap Holiday Sing-A-Long.

LIGHTING OF THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE

6 PM | Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009

"The President's Own" will perform along with guest artists and entertainers for the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree Ceremony on the Ellipse, south of the White House. This is the 86th year Americans have come together to celebrate the season with the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree, formerly known as the Pageant of Peace.

Conducted by Colonel Michael J. Colburn, the prelude will begin at 5 p.m. and will include holiday favorites and music of the season. Following the performance, President Barack Obama will share a message of peace with the nation and light the living Colorado blue spruce.

Tickets are required for the ceremony and will be distributed in limited quantity. For more information visit www.thenationaltree.org or call the National Park Service at (202) 208-1631.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG AT WOLF TRAP

4 PM | Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009

The Marine Band will perform at Wolf Trap's Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long at the Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Va.

Conducted by Assistant Director Major Jason K. Fettig, the Marine Band—with vocalists Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Benaar and Staff Sergeant Sara Dell'Omo—will lead the audience in traditional Christmas carols and Hanukkah songs such as "Joy to the World," "Feliz Navidad," "Jingle Bells," "Silent Night," and The Dreidel Song.

Gates to the Filene Center will open at 3 p.m., and free parking is available. The Metro shuttle bus will not run for this event and attendees are encouraged to arrive early. The event is free and tickets are not required. For directions and parking, visit www.wolftrap.org or call (703) 255-1900.

MARINE BRASS QUINTET RECITAL

2 PM | Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009

"The President's Own" United States Marine Band Brass Quintet will perform a recital in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall at Marine Barracks Annex in southeast Washington, D.C. Group members Master Sergeant Matthew Harding, and Gunnery Sergeants Michael Mergen, Chris Clark, Hilary Hart, and Christopher Tiedeman have collaborated on a program of engaging music that showcases the impressive capabilities of the ensemble.

The recital will begin with Centone No. 2 arranged for brass quintet by legendary Eastman School of Music horn professor Verne Reynolds for the Eastman Brass Quintet. Centone No. 2, a collection of short pieces by baroque composer Johann Joseph Fux (1660-1741), contains an overture, aria, three dance movements, minuet, *aire la volage*, and *gigue*.

"We enjoyed the interesting melody of the aria and the spirited dance movements which give this work lots of exciting energy," said trumpeter/cornetist Gunnery Sgt. Michael Mergen.

The program will also celebrate the holiday season with festive selections, such as John Harbison's *Fantasy* on "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker Suite*.

The performance will conclude with Eric Ewazen's *Colchester Fantasy*, a piece that is "a virtuoso tour de force for the quintet," according to the International Trumpet Guild, and "should easily capture the attention and interest of any listeners, not just brass music lovers."

The recital is free and open to the public. The John Philip Sousa Band Hall is located at 600 Virginia Ave., SE, and is Metro accessible by both the Navy Yard and Eastern Market stations.

THE MIDWEST CLINIC

8:45 PM | Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009

Marine Band Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn will appear as a guest conductor with the Buchholz Wind Symphony from Gainesville, Fla., at the Skyline Ballroom during the 63rd Annual Midwest Clinic, an international conference of band and orchestra educators, students, musicians, conductors, and composers in Chicago. He will conduct Simone Mantia's *Auld Lang Syne Fantasia*, a euphonium solo which will be performed by Jason Ham from West Point, N.Y.

Concerts in conjunction with The Midwest Clinic are open to conference participants only. For more information, please visit www.themidwestclinic.org or call (847) 424-4163.

Also, representatives from the Marine Band will exhibit at booths 732, 734, and 736 during the clinic Dec. 15-19, 2009, at McCormick Place West on Cermak Road and Indiana Avenue.

BAND MEMBER NEWS

VACANCIES

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

Clarinet: Jan. 25-26

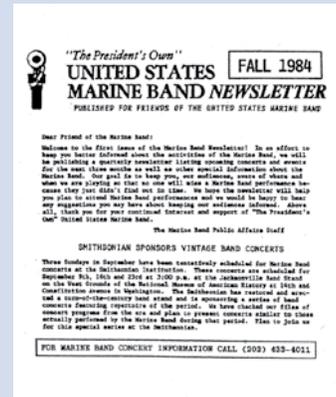
Staff Arranger: Date TBD (Please visit the Marine Band Web site for updated details.)

For information contact:
 Operations Officer, U.S. Marine Band
 Marine Barracks
 8th and I Streets, SE
 Washington, DC 20390-5000
 (202) 433-5714
 marineband.operations@usmc.mil
 Audition repertoire is available at www.marineband.usmc.mil.

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and more opportunities to showcase our photography, while finding a permanent home for Staff Lines, Concert Programs, and Featured Downloads.”

The *Marine Band Newsletter* was first introduced in a short format in the fall of 1984 by then-chief librarian Master Sergeant Frank Byrne. The early issues were double-sided, 7” x 8.5” mimeographs, which were produced entirely in-house. It



The Marine Band produced its first newsletter in the fall of 1984. It was originally called the Marine Band Newsletter but changed to Notes in 1989.

STAFF LINES



MSgt Jay Niepoetter,
Principal bass clarinet

BIRTHDAY
 Aug. 7, 1965

HOMETOWN
 Centralia, Ill.

FAMILY STATUS
 Married

CHILD
 Henry, 8

PET
 A fish named Kitty

EDUCATION
 BM from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb; MM and DMA from the University of Maryland in College Park

JOINED THE BAND
 June 1988

SELF-PORTRAIT
 Happy, fun, passionate, obsessive, uninhibited, and sometimes lazy

FAVORITE SAYING OR MOTTO
 Jay is loving life!

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT
 My 8-year-old

PET PEEVES
 People or things that inconvenience me and don't play by my rules

WALTER MITTY FANTASY
 Making the game-winning free throw to win the NCAA championship for the Maryland Terrapins' basketball team

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN BAND
 Soviet Union tour in 1990

FAVORITE MOVIE
 Anything by Quentin Tarantino

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE
 Steve Martin

BEST-KEPT SECRET
 I wrecked the car on the way to get my first driver's license.

FAVORITE FOODS
 Barbecued ribs, Maryland blue crab (I don't pick it), and General Tso's chicken every Monday night

HOBBIES
 I'm a game freak. Name it, I'll play it. You'll lose, I'll win.

BAD HABITS
 I'm easily addicted (iPhone, computer, etc). Sometimes I'm impatient. I always have to be entertained.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE BAND
 DeKalb and Wheaton Municipal Bands and the Rockford Symphony Orchestra in Illinois

FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC
 Sergei Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*

PLACE YOU'D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED
 Santorini, Greece

LAST WORDS
 It's over already? Did we all have fun?

THREE THINGS ALWAYS FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR
 Diet Mt. Dew (in the day), Diet Caffeine Free Coke (at night), and white wine (after concerts!)

INSPIRATION
 Someone who tells me I can't do something

LUXURY DEFINED
 A world where there are no bugs

contained an introductory paragraph from the public affairs staff, short stories about upcoming events, and a calendar listing of concerts. When demand for the fledgling *Marine Band Newsletter* increased and the content and production requirements expanded, the public affairs office responded to the challenge and published the newsletter six times a year.

“As interest in the newsletter grew, we were determined to develop a more refined product for our readers,” former public affairs chief (now national tour director) Master Gunnery Sergeant Andrew Linden, USMC (Ret.) said. “In 1987, the public affairs office shaped the piece into a more formal newsletter and the printing production was outsourced.”

In 1988, the newsletter name changed from the generic *Marine Band Newsletter* to *Notes* and in 1989 the office included its first photo of the band, a huge production milestone according to Linden. During this time the subscriber list continued to grow and stories became more comprehensive.

Hints of color, such as “Marine Band red,” first lined the pages of *Notes* in 1993 and by 1998 the newsletter was redesigned for the Marine Band bicentennial

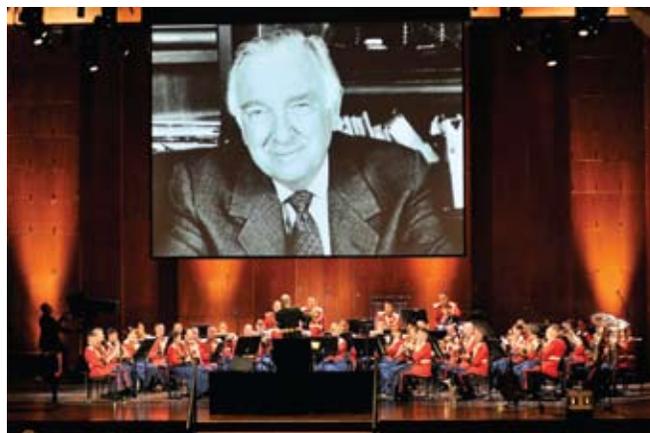
“With new initiatives like Featured Downloads and our ever-increasing number of educational programs, *Notes* was busting at the seams.”

GUNNERY SERGEANT KRISTIN MERGEN
PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF

year and featured cover art for the first time. *Notes* received a small facelift for the September/October 2003 national tour issue, when the tour soloists were featured in full color.

Through *Notes*, the public affairs office remains committed to informing the more than 50,000 subscribers about the new activities, innovative concerts, and educational programs and resources presented by “The President’s Own.”

We want to hear from you! Please send any comments to marineband.publicaffairs@usmc.mil or mail to Marine Band PAO, Marine Barracks, 8th & I Streets, Washington, DC, 20390-5000.



The Marine Band supported CBS News as it honored legendary newsman Walter Cronkite at a special tribute on Sept. 9, 2009, in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York. The band opened the tribute with John Philip Sousa’s march “The Stars and Stripes Forever” and closed the event with George W. Warren’s God of Our Fathers and Irving Berlin’s God Bless America. The program featured presentations by former President Bill Clinton, Buzz Aldrin, Katie Couric, Andy Rooney, Bob Schieffer, and Tom Brokaw. President Barack Obama concluded the speeches honoring Cronkite as a man that practiced “a standard [of honesty and integrity] that is a little bit harder to find today.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF CBS NEWS

PROMOTIONS

- To Master Gunnery Sergeant:** Percussionist Mark Latimer of St. Louis
- To Master Gunnery Sergeant:** Drum Major William L. Browne of Jacksonville, Fla.
- To Master Sergeant:** Trumpeter/cornetist Susan Rider of Cedar Falls, Iowa
- To Gunnery Sergeant:** Pianist Russell Wilson of Clinton, Md.
- To Corporal:** Stage Crewman Daniel Christmann of Richboro, Pa.

RETIREMENT

Operations Chief Master Gunnery Sergeant Frederick Lemmons of Chattanooga, Tenn., retired in September after 21 years with “The President’s Own.” He joined the Marine Band in September 1988 as a clarinetist.

MARINE BAND CONTACT INFORMATION

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