

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

notes

November
December



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THE MUSIC LOVER'S GRAINGER

BY GUNNERY SERGEANT KRISTIN Mergen

For four days in June an unusual sound could be heard during the Marine Band's annual recording sessions. Not the whirl of an air conditioner or even the tick-tock of a metronome. It was the sound of voices. Lots of voices. Ninety-three, to be exact as the members of The Choral Arts Society of Washington joined "The President's Own" to create *The Music Lover's Grainger*—an all-Percy Grainger CD marking the 50th anniversary of his death.

"We first worked with the Choral Arts Society back in 2005 in a concert of Grainger's music presented at Strathmore Music Center," Marine Band Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn said. "I had long been aware of the choir's stellar reputation under the direction of Norman Scribner, so I was delighted when he accepted my invitation to collaborate. The concert was such a memorable success that I decided to look for other opportunities to work with this fine ensemble. It took a few years, but this tribute to Percy Grainger's legacy provided the perfect chance to bring these two Washington, D.C., institutions together once again."

The title, *The Music Lover's Grainger*, was borrowed from one of Grainger's many unfinished projects, an intended series of the composer's favorite works arranged for piano. Although Grainger was well known for his virtuoso piano playing and dedication to capturing and preserving the English folksong tradition in its most authentic state, he desperately wanted to be primarily considered a composer. He believed that was how he could make his greatest and most lasting impression, and considered his career as a concert pianist as merely the best means to gain the financial independence he needed to devote all his time to composi-

tion. While he never achieved that goal, he cannily used the concert platform to promote his compositions, often reducing his fee if the performing ensemble agreed to program his music.

In April 1905, Grainger traveled to Brigg, Lincolnshire, in the United Kingdom for a series of festival contests sponsored by the North Lincolnshire Musical Competitions. His primary reason for attending the events was to conduct and/or hear several of his new compositions for chorus and band. While in Brigg, Grainger was on hand for a new event known as the Village Competition.

The published guidelines of the competition stated that, "The prize in this class will be given to whoever can supply the best unpublished old Lincolnshire folk song or plough song It is specially requested that the establishment of this class be brought to the notice of old people in the country who are most likely to remember this kind of song, and that they be urged to come in with the best old song they know."

Although this new competition did not attract numerous entries, it did yield some marvelous tunes. More importantly, it made Grainger fully aware of the dying art of folksong and put him in contact with folksingers Joseph Taylor and Dean Robinson, two of the singers to whom Grainger paid tribute in his *Lincolnshire Posy*. According to Grainger scholar Kay Dreyfus, "At Brigg [Grainger] made his first contact with the living tradition. The experience was definitive. He responded with passionate enthusiasm, as collector and arranger."

Grainger's passion led him into pioneering work as a collector. He quickly became dissatisfied with the limitations of recording folksong through the traditional method of dictation, which made it nearly impossible to capture every melodic and rhythmic nuance of a performance. In 1907 he ventured back out into the countryside with an Edison phonograph strapped to his back, becoming the first person to use a mechanical recording device in the British Isles. In a letter to Karen Holten, Grainger explained that the idea occurred to him when he learned that the gramophone had been used to record North American Indian music.

Over the next three years Grainger collected 216 folksongs on wax cylinders, many of which he notated carefully, scientifically transcribing every performance detail.

This CD, the Marine Band's 26th in its series of educational recordings, offers a tribute to the composer that includes several of his most beloved works for concert band, as well



Grainger continued on page 2

WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



Recent appearances by "The President's Own" at the White House include:

- Remarks on the President's Export Council
- National HIV/AIDS Strategy Reception
- Senate Spouses' Luncheon
- WNBA Champion Phoenix Mercury Visit
- White House Music Series Event Saluting Broadway
- 2010 National Design Awards Luncheon
- Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act Bill Signing
- Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Tribal Law and Order Act Signing
- Town Hall with Young African Leaders
- 2010 Citizens Medal Winners' Presentation
- Reception Honoring Confirmation of Associate Justice Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court
- Super Bowl Champion New Orleans Saints Visit
- Ramadan Iftar Dinner

Grainger continued from page 1



Grainger hiking, 1923

as a number of selections for band and chorus, several of which were recorded for the first time. When one surveys the works and writings of Grainger it becomes clear that he made little, if any, distinction between types of ensembles and styles of music, so the selections are a unique blend of repertoire unified only by the fact that it came from the mind of one of the most distinctive composers of his generation.

The selections on the recording include *Lincolnshire Posy*; "I'm Seventeen Come Sunday;" "Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon;" "Molly on the Shore;" Joseph Kreines' arrangement of *Danish Folk-Music Suite*; County Derry Air; "Spoon River;" an edition of "The Widow's Party" by scholar Barry Ould; and Marching Song of Democracy. Additional selections will be available on www.marineband.usmc.mil throughout 2011.

The Marine Band produces recordings for educational purposes and to enhance the public affairs and community relations programs of the Marine Corps. The recordings are distributed free of charge to educational institutions, public libraries, and radio stations. Because appropriated funds are used, they may not be distributed for private use and are not for sale. Educators, librarians, and station managers may request that their educational institution, library, or radio station be added to the CD mailing list by writing on official letterhead to: Head, Marine Band Branch, Division of Public Affairs (PAB), Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 3000 Marine Corps Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20350-3000.

CONCERTO COMPETITION DEADLINE

NOVEMBER 15, 2010

INFO: (202) 433-5809

FEATURED DOWNLOADS



NOVEMBER

March of the Month
"Semper Fidelis"
John Philip Sousa*

Featured Soloist

Dances Sacrée et profane
Claude Debussy
MSgt Karen Grimsey, harp soloist

DECEMBER

March of the Month
The Lamb's March
John Philip Sousa*

New Music Corner

Ecstatic Waters (2008)
Steven Bryant

*Member, U.S. Marine Band

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



The Washington Choral Arts Society in concert

MARINE BAND LEGACY CONTINUES

By Staff Sergeant Rachel Ghadiali

It has been said that “a teacher’s purpose is not to create students in his own image, but to develop students who can create their own image.” (author unknown) This is certainly true of many former Marine Band members who have mentored musicians that have gone on to become members of the Marine Band themselves, preserving the legacy of excellent musicianship within the ranks of “The President’s Own.”



SSgt John H. Beck, 1956

One such teacher is former member John H. Beck, professor emeritus of percussion at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. Half of the current Marine Band percussion section studied with Beck, including Master Sgt. Steven Searfoss. Master Sgt. Searfoss appreciated that Beck encouraged his students to think for themselves and develop their own styles. Another of Beck’s former students Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Maloy said, “John taught us to be well-rounded and prepared for anything. I’m really proud to be in the group that he was in.”

Like Beck, former member Frank Kowalsky taught at a university following his career with the Marine Band. Kowalsky, professor of clarinet at Florida State University in Tallahassee, taught current members Master Gunnery Sgt. Chuck Willett, Master Sgt. John Mula,



MSgt Steven Searfoss

and Gunnery Sgt. Tracey Paddock. He mentioned to his students that he had been a member of the band when it played at President Richard Nixon’s first inauguration in 1969. Forty years later, three of his students played at President Barack Obama’s inauguration.

Trombonist Staff Sgt. Preston Hardage was taught by former member Roger Oyster, and marveled at his teacher’s work ethic; Oyster was known for practicing even after the conclusion of a Friday Evening Parade. “It’s great to think that I’m walking in the same shoes as a person I call my mentor,” Staff Sgt. Hardage said of Oyster, now principal trombone of the Kansas City Symphony in Missouri.

Marine Band Operations Chief Gunnery Sgt. and former member of the Marine Band trumpet section Douglas Burian began studying trumpet with his mentor, the late Master Sgt. Roy Griffin, USMC (Ret.), when he was just seven years old.

“I studied with him until I left for college, but I would continually call upon him for advice and come to his home for more lessons and duet playing until his passing this year,” Gunnery Sgt. Burian said. “He was always the second phone call I would make (after my parents) any-time something good happened to me musically. Outside of my own family, he was my biggest fan.”

Principal clarinetist Master Gunnery Sgt. Lisa Kadala began studying with her mentor in 1979 when she joined the studio of former member Dr. John Mohler at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. “As a clarinetist, he had a beautiful, warm sound and a natural sense of phrasing that I tried to emulate,” Master Gunnery Sgt. Kadala said. “I had a hard time trusting my own musical instincts and he helped me to gain confidence and take more risks musically. I am proud that we have the connection of both being Marine Bandsmen.”

The Marine Band connection also pleased Mohler: “I’m so happy that she has been successful in the Marine Band, as I warmly recall the four years I was a member.”

While some former members have gone on to teach at highly regarded conservatories and universities and at all levels of music education, others have recorded their own solo CDs, served on advisory boards, and performed in major symphony orchestras. After his time in the Marine Band, Sidney Forrest went on to



John Mohler and former student MGySgt Lisa Kadala

Legacy continued on page 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATING JOHN PHILIP SOUSA'S BIRTHDAY

11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 6

"The President's Own" will pay homage to its 17th Director John Philip Sousa at Congressional Cemetery located at 1801 E Street, SE, in Washington, D.C., on the 156th anniversary of his birth. Conducted by Assistant Director Captain Michelle A. Rakers, this annual 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.

MEMORIAL CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THE 235TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

10 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 10

Marine Band Drum Major Master Gunnery Sergeant William L. Browne will lead "The President's Own" at the memorial ceremony commemorating the 235th 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" United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon, and Marine Barracks Washington ceremonial marchers.

VETERAN'S DAY PRESIDENTIAL WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY

10:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 11

The Marine Band will provide musical support for the program following the wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial Amphitheatre at Arlington National Cemetery. For more information, call (703) 607-8000 or visit www.arlingtoncemetery.mil.

MARINE CORPS WORSHIP SERVICE

3:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 14

A brass ensemble from "The President's Own" will perform for the annual Marine Corps Worship Service at the Washington

National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Conducted by Assistant Director Captain Michelle A. Rakers, the prelude will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will include Haydn Wood's *Mannin Veen* and movements from Alfred Reed's *Symphony for Brass and Percussion*.

The 4 p.m. service will feature John Williams' *Liberty Fanfare*, Samuel Augustus Ward's "America, the Beautiful," 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 fee. For detailed directions and further information, please call (202) 537-6200 or visit www.nationalcathedral.org.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG AT WOLF TRAP

4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 5

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 Captain Michelle A. Rakers, the Marine Band—with baritone vocalist Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Bennear—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. 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 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 12

The Marine Brass Quintet (pictured below) 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 Jan Pieterzoon Sweelinck's "Marchens qui traversez tout le ravage more," followed by Raymond Mase's arrangement *Fancies on Italian Madrigals* and Victor Ewald's Quintet No. 4 in A-flat, Opus 8. Other program selections include Anthony Plog's Quintet No. 1, *Four Sketches*; Michael Kamen's Quintet; and Georges Bizet's Farandole from *L'arlésienne*, Suite No. 2, arranged by Marine Band tuba player Master Sergeant Thomas Holtz.

The quintet program will also feature several arrangements of holiday favorites such as Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," Leigh Pilzer's Christmas Medley—an arrangement of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and The Christmas Song—and the traditional pieces Coventry Carol and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

The recital is free and open to the public. The John Philip Sousa Band Hall is located at 7th & L Streets, SE, and is Metro accessible by both the Navy Yard and Eastern Market stations. Free parking is available.



THE MIDWEST CLINIC

The 64th Annual Midwest Clinic, held at McCormick Place, Dec. 15-18, 2010, will be an eventful week for the members of "The President's Own." In addition to offering two feature band performances on the opening day of the conference, members will participate in a chamber program, a composer clinic discussion, and the conference exhibition. Below is an outline of the performances. Don't forget to visit the **Marine Band at booths 732-736.**

MARINE CHAMBER ENSEMBLES COLLABORATE WITH MSU FACULTY

- What:** Members of the Michigan State University (MSU) faculty and the Marine Band will open the conference with a chamber ensemble concert. A Marine Band brass quintet will kick-off the concert with Ira Taxin's Fanfare and Clint Needham's Quintet for Brass No. 1, *Circus*. MSU will continue with Gabriel Fauré's Piano Quartet No. 1 in C minor, Opus 15. A Marine clarinet ensemble will present Camille Saint-Saëns' Marche militaire française arranged by Staff Sergeant Patrick Morgan, as well as Percy Grainger's The Sussex Mimmers' Christmas Carol and "Molly on the Shore." Both Grainger selections were arranged by newly appointed staff arranger Staff Sergeant Ryan Nowlin.
- When:** 9 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 15
- Where:** Skyline Ballroom W375AB

FEATURED BAND PERFORMANCES

- What:** Each year the Midwest Clinic features a different premier military service band. Based on the rotation, the Marine Band only performs at the conference once every six years. Conducted by Colonel Michael J. Colburn, the band will perform back-to-back concerts for the international audience of music educators on Wednesday, Dec. 15. The program will include a tribute to the 100th anniversary of Igor Stravinsky's Suite from *The Firebird* with a performance of former chief arranger Thomas Knox's transcription. Former Marine Band principal trumpet and current member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, John Hagstrom (member of the band from 1989-96), will return to solo with the band, performing Laurence Bitensky's *Awake, You Sleepers!*. Hagstrom premiered the work on July 2, 2002, at the International Trumpet Guild Conference in Manchester, England, and performed the piece with the Marine Band on March 15, 2010, at the Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda, Md. *Awake, You Sleepers!* is based on the calls associated with the blowing of the ancient shofar. Hagstrom is particularly passionate about the work because he collaborated with Bitensky on fine-tuning the dramatic elements of the piece. Another highlight of the program will be the première of a new work by Michael Gandolfi commissioned by the Marine Band.
- When:** 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 15
- Where:** Skyline Ballroom W375AB

COMPOSER CLINIC FEATURING WILLIAM BOLCOM

- What:** American composer William Bolcom will discuss his First Symphony for Band (2008), a work commissioned by the Big Ten Band Directors' Association and premiered by the University of Michigan Symphony Band under the direction of Michael Haitcock. The session provides a look into a symphony grounded in the youth and exuberance of band culture, which is younger than the "culture of orchestra" and historically more oriented to outdoor events and occasions. Throughout the discussion, the Marine Band will perform excerpts of the piece. Bolcom composes chamber, operatic, vocal, choral, cabaret, ragtime, and symphonic music. He was awarded the National Medal of Arts, a Pulitzer Prize, and a Grammy. He joined the faculty of the University of Michigan's School of Music in 1973 and in 1994 was named the Ross Lee Finney Distinguished University Professor of Composition.
- When:** 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 16
- Where:** Skyline Ballroom W375E

McCormick Place is located at 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. Tickets for all events are managed by The Midwest Clinic. For information call (847) 424-4163.

MARINE BAND OFFERS BIRTHDAY BALL MUSIC ONLINE

This November Marines all over the world will recognize the Marine Corps' 235th birthday with celebrations that have become one of the Corps' proudest traditions. A formal Marine Corps birthday ball traditionally includes both dinner and dancing, but the highlight of the event is the official ceremony.

Music plays a critical role in the formal birthday ball ceremony. Bugle calls start the ceremony followed by "Semper Fidelis," the march on of the official party, the march on of the national colors, and "The Star-Spangled Banner." The Marines' Hymn is played while the traditional birthday cake is escorted in. "Auld Lang Syne" marks the passing of cake from the senior Marine to the junior Marine. The ceremony concludes with the playing of "Semper Fidelis" and The Marines' Hymn while the ceremonial party departs.

When a live musical ensemble is not available for a birthday ball, event organizers and Marines across the globe can utilize appropriate ceremonial music by downloading MP3s from the audio resources section of the Marine Band's website. "The President's Own" offers the bugle calls, marches, and other selections required for a birthday ball ceremony as well as many martial pieces available for other military functions. To download birthday ball music and patriotic favorites, visit www.marineband.usmc.mil/audio_resources/ceremonial_music/index.htm.

BAND MEMBER NEWS

Legacy continued from page 3

become principal clarinet of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., and taught Master Gunnery Sgt. Elizabeth Matera at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Principal oboe Master Sgt. Leslye Barrett studied with former Marine Band member Eric Barr, who taught at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and served as principal oboe of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. According to Master Sgt. Barrett, Barr's musical ear, impeccable taste, and high standards pushed her to be competitive in the field. Those standards were handed down to Barr from his teacher—also a former Marine Band member—the late Wayne Rapier, who served on the faculty at New England Conservatory in Boston and performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

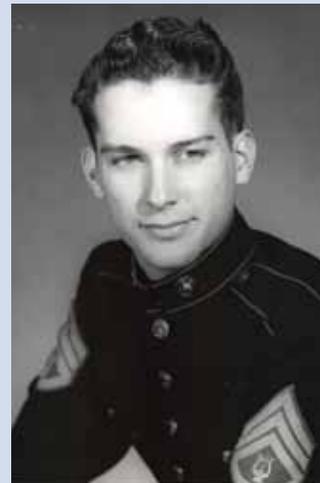
Other current members who have studied with former Marine Band musicians include violinist Master Gunnery Sgt. Peter Wilson, who studied with Dr. Donald Portnoy, and



MSgt Leslye Barrett



SSgt Eric Barr, 1970



SSgt Wayne Rapier, 1951

trumpeter/cornetist Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Strong, who said studying with former member William "Ritchie" Clendenin "had a huge influence on my playing." Principal trumpet Master Gunnery Sgt. Kurt Dupuis studied with former Marine Band principal cornet Master Gunnery Sgt. Terrance Detweiler, USMC (Ret.), and, coincidentally, won the audition held to replace him.

The influence of former Marine Band musicians isn't limited to the enlisted ranks or to those whose interaction was

STAFF LINES



MSgt Mark Questad
French horn

BIRTHDAY
Nov. 21, 1960

HOMETOWN
West Orange, N.J.

FAMILY
Married to Rebecca, daughter Claire (13) and son Carl (10)

PETS
Derby (Jack Russell Terrier) and Pretzel (hamster)

EDUCATION
The Juilliard School in N.Y.; Indiana University, in Bloomington, BM

JOINED THE BAND
1992

SELF-PORTRAIT
Analytical, altruistic, with a sense of humor

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT
My marriage and family

FAVORITE SAYING OR MOTTO
"Any performance you can walk away from is a good one."

BAD HABITS
My filing system, which consists of piles of pieces of paper; and failing to maintain the family calendar, but it's all on the pieces of paper!

FAVORITE MOVIE
"The Incredibles" I relate to it on so many levels, except the superhero part.

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE
I've been told John Malkovich, but any actor with a "distinguished hairline" would do.

BEST-KEPT SECRET:
My hairline might be receding.

FAVORITE FOODS
Dark chocolate and seafood, but not together

THREE THINGS ALWAYS FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR
Ice cream (it's really in the freezer), half and half, and an unopened bottle of white wine.

PLACE YOU'D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED
Vermont in the summer, Antigua in the winter

PET PEEVE
Restaurants that prepare shrimp dishes, like scampi, and leave the tails on

HOBBIES
Woodworking, Sudoku (more like an addiction)

MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHER
Michael Hatfield from Indiana University helped me to discover the horn player I wanted to become.

FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC
Johannes Brahms Second Intermezzo from Klavierstücke, Opus 118

LAST WORDS
"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Romans 8:37

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN BAND
President Barack Obama's inauguration. Seeing that many people assembled on the National Mall that day was an awe-inspiring experience.

WALTER MITTY FANTASY
To travel back in time to the 18th century and play in the Eszterházy court orchestra

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE
Big Man by Clarence Clemons and *Super Sudoku*

strictly within their own studios. In 1982, the summer before Marine Band Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn started high school, he attended a week-long music camp at the University of Vermont in Burlington where he participated in classes led by former Marine Band member Master Gunnery Sgt. Luke Spiros, USMC (Ret).



*Top, SSgt Terrance Detweiler, 1969
Bottom, MSgt Kurt Dupuis*

Known for his time as principal euphonium and soloist with “The President’s Own,” Spiros described to the teenage campers what life was like playing in a military band. This was Col. Colburn’s first exposure to a professional euphonium player, and the experience made quite an impression on him.

Col. Colburn recalled another particularly consequential meeting with Spiros vividly:

“It was my very first military audition (and last, as luck would have it), and I was pretty nervous. Luke served as proctor for the audition, and I still remember him leaning over after I played an excerpt and whispering to me ‘nice sound.’ Those two simple words from someone for whom I had so much respect (but didn’t know me at all) gave me more self-confidence than I probably had a right to have, and I’m convinced were a big part of the reason why I was able to relax and perform well enough to be offered a position in the Marine Band.”

Long after the next inauguration, the next parade, the next concert season, and the next national tour, Marine Band members will continue to teach and influence aspiring musicians, carrying on the legacy of “The President’s Own.”

NEW MEMBER

Staff arranger Staff Sergeant Ryan Nowlin of Broadview Heights, Ohio, earned his bachelor of music and master of music in music education and conducting at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) in Ohio. Prior to joining the band, Staff Sgt. Nowlin was an instructor at BGSU and served as a staff arranger for the BGSU Falcon Marching Band as well as the Kansas State University Marching Band in Manhattan. He was the band director at Jackson City Schools in Ohio and most recently was the director of bands at Brecksville-Broadview Heights School District in Ohio.



RETIREMENT

Chief arranger Master Sergeant Stephen Bulla retired in September after 30 years with “The President’s Own.”

IN MEMORIAM

Donato Ranelli of New Haven, Conn., passed away on Aug. 1, 2010. Ranelli was a percussionist with the Marine Band from 1970-73.

William Capps of St. Louis, passed away on Aug. 10, 2010. Capps was a member of the Marine Band French horn section from 1965-69. Following his service with the band, he was a professor of French horn at the Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Master Sergeant Roy Griffin, USMC (Ret.) of Beltsville, Md., passed away on Aug. 19, 2010. Master Sgt. Griffin was a cornetist with the Marine Band from 1974-94. Prior to his service with the band, Griffin was bandmaster at West End High School in Birmingham, Ala., and a member of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and Alabama Pops Orchestra in Birmingham.

ABOUT THE COVER ART

This painting by artist Chuck Fischer was commissioned by the White House Historical Association for its 2010 Christmas Card to celebrate the traditions of music in the White House. It is inspired by many recent holiday performances of the Marine Chamber Orchestra. They are seen seated in the North Entrance Hall of the White House and led by their conductor in a holiday program for White House guests. The card is available from the White House Historical Association gift shops.

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