



"The President's Own"

UNITED STATES MARINE BAND NEWSLETTER

OCT-NOV
1986

PUBLISHED FOR FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

U.S. MARINE BAND SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO IRELAND

The Marine Band is a traditional organization. That's natural. When you look over your shoulder at 188 years of history, you take traditions seriously. Touring is one of those traditions. John Philip Sousa began a new tradition when he took the Marine Band on tour in 1891 and we've been at it ever since. In 1985, the full Marine Concert Band made its first overseas appearance. (Other small groups from the Marine Band had appeared on several previous occasions but this was a first for the full band) It may be too soon to call it a tradition but we're about to go overseas again and it looks like a trend may be starting. Last year we went to the Netherlands in November. The Royal Netherlands Marine Corps was celebrating its 320th birthday (now that's tradition) and we helped them make an event of it with joint concerts between the U.S. and the Dutch Marine Bands in Rotterdam's famous de Doelen. We were honored to have Princess Margriet, Queen Beatrix' sister, in attendance along with General Paul X. Kelley, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. The warmth of our Dutch hosts took the chill off the damp weather and helped the Band enjoy Thanksgiving Day even though that Thursday in November is just another day in their country.

This year we have been invited to the Republic of Ireland to present a concert in Dublin, the nation's capital. The Band will be performing at "An Geolaras Naisiunta," the Gaelic title for The National Concert Hall. Opened in 1981, this beautiful auditorium is a showcase for the arts in Ireland. The Marine Band concert scheduled for the evening of November 12th is expected to be the social event of the year. Col. Bourgeois and Capt. John Zimmerman, the Marine Band's Operations Officer, were in Dublin recently to make arrangements for the Band's upcoming appearance. They learned that the entire televised broadcast of the Marine Band from New York City last July 5th had been carried live by satellite in Ireland. During commercial and station breaks which were not carried live by ABC, the Marine Band was performing live in Central Park and this entire event was carried commercial-free in Europe, giving those audiences a great preview of "The President's Own." Among the honored guests in Ireland will be Ambassador Margaret Heckler, General P.X. Kelley and the leading diplomatic representatives of Ireland. We promise to have more details in the next issue!

FOR MARINE BAND CONCERT INFORMATION CALL (202) 433-4011

SMITHSONIAN CONCERTS CONCLUDE

Once again this year the Marine Band presented a series of special turn-of-the-century band concerts at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. The concerts were presented in the picturesque Jacksonville Bandstand which is situated directly adjacent to the Museum. The Bandstand was originally constructed in 1878-79 in Jacksonville, Illinois and served for many years as a multi-purpose structure in the community and was used for all kinds of outdoor activities, including band concerts. This structure was disassembled in 1983, restored and reconstructed using the original 1879 color scheme: cream for the basic structure, Venetian red trim, blue-grey ceiling and red-stained shingles. Add the red-coated Marine Band and you have the picture-perfect setting for these concerts. LtCol. Charles Erwin, Assistant Director of the Marine Band, conducted all three concerts and served as concert moderator, just as many bandmasters would have done in the early days of the bandstand's history. Delighted audience members filled the grassy hill nearby and tables and chairs on the museum's outdoor patio. LtCol. Erwin researched actual concert programs of the period and created programs which duplicated the music one could have heard years ago. Response to the concerts was quite enthusiastic and we hope to be repeating this concert series again next October.

MARINE BAND WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

It is always a pleasure to welcome newcomers to the Marine Band family. We have three new members who have joined us this summer:

Jim Klages is our new cornet soloist, a position won in a very competitive audition for an opportunity to be featured in that capacity. Klages will play alongside his colleagues in the first cornet section of the Band on all jobs but must be prepared to perform a solo on short notice. With a repertoire of over 40 cornet solos committed to memory, he will be more than equal to the task. A native of Islip, New York, Klages studied with the late James Burke, cornet soloist of the famous Goldman Band. He comes to the Marine Band from his position as Director of Bands at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro. He has traded his baton for a cornet but is currently completing his doctorate at Indiana University when not busy with the Marine Band. This fall, Klages is featured soloist on the Band's evening concert performing Herbert L. Clarke's "From the Shores of the Mighty Pacific."

(continued)

NEW MEMBERS (continued)

Dale Fredericks won a similar position in our trombone section as a featured soloist. He was working as a free-lance musician in New York City when he tried for and won the job with the Marine Band. He considers Marion, New York, to be his hometown and has earned degrees from the Crane School of Music of the State University of Potsdam (N.Y.) and his M.M. degree from the Manhattan School of Music in New York City. He has studied with John Swallow and Hal Janks and has performed with the Winchester Symphony Orchestra and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

Dianna Eiland is our newest music librarian. Specializing in musicology, her experience in historical research is impressive. She is the editor of the Newsletter of American Band History Research, has written numerous articles for various publications and is in the process of compiling a bibliography of doctoral dissertations on the subject of band history. A native of Dallas, Texas, she received her BMusEd degree from Baylor University and her MMusEd from the University of Kansas. Before joining "The President's Own," Eiland was band director in the public schools of Dublin, Texas.

CHILDREN'S CONCERTS IN SOUSA BAND HALL

A tradition for many years, the Marine Band will present children's concerts this fall for area elementary school audiences. During the time when the tour band is on the road, the "home guard" band presents these entertaining and educational concerts for children in grades from K through 6. LtCol. Charles Erwin will be conducting these concerts and has chosen a program which provides 60 minutes of exciting and fast-moving music. Instrument demonstrations and musical skits encourage the participation of the young people while teaching them the names and sounds of the instruments. Several lucky boys and girls are even invited to conduct the Marine Band, a thrill for both the "junior conductors" and their classmates. We have received over 100 requests from area schools...more than we can possibly accomodate, but we hope to allow different schools to come each year, thereby allowing every school the opportunity to see these unique programs:

FALL CONCERT TOUR UPDATE

The tour band, under the direction of Colonel John Bourgeois and Major Timothy Foley, continues its travels in the southeastern U.S. through the final concerts on October 30th in Greensboro, N.C. Audiences from Virginia to Florida have greeted the Band with capacity houses and standing ovations. If the Marine Band is coming to your area, don't miss this opportunity to hear "The President's Own" in person.

BRASS CHOIR PERFORMANCE AT WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL

The Marine Band Brass Choir will be performing as part of the annual Marine Corps worship service at the Washington Cathedral on Sunday, November 2nd. The prelude concert will begin at 3:30 p.m. with the service at 4:00 p.m. LtCol. Charles Erwin will conduct the brass choir in music by Gordon Jacob, Sir Arthur Bliss, Giovanni Gabrieli and Washington's own Russell Woolen. For centuries, great cathedrals have been the favored acoustic setting for brass ensembles, beginning with the music of Gabrieli at the Cathedral of St. Mark's in Venice. Experience this glorious sound with the Marine Band Brass Choir on November 2nd at 3:30 p.m.

FIFTY YEARS AGO WITH THE MARINE BAND

Did you ever look into an old family scrapbook? Not only photographs, but old programs and newspaper clippings. We tend to forget some of the events of the past and then we'll come across an old news clipping in the family scrapbook which brings it all back to mind. The Marine Band has grown into a rather large family over the years and we thought you might like to know what the Marine Band was up to fifty years ago, in the fall of 1936...

1936 was an election year. We were still digging our way out of the great depression. Capt. Taylor Branson was Leader of the Marine Band and Franklin Delano Roosevelt had been re-elected President. The Marine Band was on hand to welcome him back to the White House on the morning of November 6th. The rain cleared up in time for the Band to form up on Executive Avenue to play "Happy Days are Here Again" as the president's carriage drove through the east gate...Radio was just coming into its prime in 1936. The Marine Band was an important part of broadcasting, providing many Americans with weekly concerts. Every Wednesday afternoon from 3:00 to 3:45, the Marine Band presented a live broadcast, the "Dream Hour for Shut-ins." NBC sent this popular show nationwide and faithful listeners would send their musical requests by letter to Capt. Branson. The Marine Band's tradition of nationwide radio broadcasts may once again become a reality with a proposed series of broadcasts over National Public Radio in 1987. More details later.

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS OR RELATIVES WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE ON OUR MARINE BAND MAILING LIST? THEY'LL RECEIVE OUR BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, ADVANCE LISTINGS OF CONCERT PROGRAMS, FORTHCOMING CONCERT SERIES AND SPECIAL TRIPS OR TOURS YEAR ROUND. THERE'S NO CHARGE TO BE ADDED TO OUR "FRIENDS OF THE MARINE BAND" MAILING LIST AND IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE INCLUDED, PLEASE WRITE TO THE MARINE BAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, MARINE BARRACKS, 8TH AND EYE STREETS, S.E. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20390.