



"The President's Own" UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

October—November, 1988

NOTES

Published bi-monthly
for the Friends of the Marine Band

TOUR HISTORY AND CONCERT UPDATES

The Marine Band begins its 79th national tour this month, traveling to New England—the vicinity where the first Marine Band tour began in 1891 under John Philip Sousa.

Sousa's request to take the band on an extended tour was repeatedly turned down by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. But, when the Commandant took ill, Sousa went to the Acting Commandant who advised him to get permission from the Secretary of the Navy. The Secretary of the Navy sent him to see President Benjamin Harrison. In his book *Marching Along*, Sousa recalled what happened;

My years in Washington had taught me that if you wish to see the President, see his wife first. So I asked Mrs. Harrison. She liked the idea of the tour, and promised to speak to the President about it.

Next morning I was summoned to see the President. As I entered the room, he rose, shook hands cordially, and leading me to one of the windows which faced the Potomac River, he said 'Mrs. Harrison tells me that you are anxious to make a tour with the band. I was thinking myself of going out of town, and' with a smile, 'it would be tough on Washington if both of us were away at the same time. I have thought it over, and I believe the country would rather hear you, than see me, so you have my permission to go.'

The Marine Band has toured every year since 1901 except during World War I, the Depression and World War II.

Though every tour is about the same, each year has its own highlights. In 1937, for instance, the band chartered buses for the first time and continues to use buses today. Prior to that time, they

had traveled by train. In 1938 the band missed its only tour concert appearance. The band was scheduled to perform in Worcester, Mass., but a hurricane had flooded the Connecticut River and the band had to turn back after passing through Hartford, Conn. The band's longest tour was in 1970 during a Pacific Coast trip. That year the band toured 21 states, traveling 12,077 miles and performing 131 concerts in 66 days.

In 1987 the Marine Band, for the first time, toured on an admission free basis. Last year the band toured 15 states in the Northwest, traveling 7,230 miles and performing 53 concerts in 51 days before an audience of approximately 106,000 people.

This year the band will visit 10 states; New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maryland.

TOUR UPDATE

Changes have been made to the band's tour itinerary that was mailed last month. The changes are listed below;

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28
BANGOR, MAINE

Concert site has been changed from the Bangor Opera House to the Bangor Auditorium.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

Concert site has been changed from Bronsiegel Auditorium to Zeiterion Theater.

Though we try to get the most up-to-date information about our tour concerts to the members of our mailing list, we suggest you contact a local sponsor if there are any questions about a Marine Band tour concert.

NEW BAND MEMBERS

Four clarinetists recently joined the ranks of the band: **Jeffrey Strouf**, **Randall Riffle**, **Jay Niepoetter** and **Nan Lopata**.

Laramie, Wyo. native **Jeffrey Strouf** earned a bachelor's degree in music performance in 1986 from Temple University where he twice won the Student Soloist Competition. Prior to joining the band, he was in the master's degree program in music performance at Michigan State University where he was a member of the Holyburton Quintet. Strouf has studied with his father, **Ralph Strouf**, **Anthony Gigliotti** and **Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr**.

A native of Grove City, Ohio, **Randall Riffle** earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in music from Ohio State University. He has studied with **Dr. Donald McGinnis**, **John Norton** and **Richard Waller**. Riffle was the principal clarinet in the Ohio State University Symphony Orchestra and was first clarinet in the OSU Band and Wind Ensemble. He was also principal clarinet in the Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra prior to joining the Marine Band.

Jay Niepoetter, from Centralia, Ill., received a bachelor's degree in music performance from Northern Illinois University. He was the associate principal clarinet in the Rockford Symphony Orchestra prior to joining the Marine Band. Niepoetter has studied with **Melvin Warner** and **J. Lawrie Bloom**.

Nan E. Lopata of Boyertown, Pa., earned a bachelor's degree in performance from Boston University. She received an Outstanding Performance Award from Boston University and was

selected for membership in the Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society. She received a master's degree in performance from the New England Conservatory. Lopata has studied with J. Carl Borelli, Donald Montanaro, Robert Genovese, William Wrzesien and Pasquale Cardillo.

New band members also joined the French horn, trombone and saxophone sections:

Max Cripe of Garden City, Kan., is a new member of the French horn section. He earned a bachelor's degree in music performance from the University of Kansas and a master's degree from Wichita State University. He also attended the "Mozarteum" Conservatory in Salzburg, Austria. Cripe was a member of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra. His teachers include Josef Mayr of Salzburg, David Wakefield and Dr. Nicholas Smith.

Patrick Corbett, new bass trombonist, is a native of Houston, Texas. He received a bachelor's degree in music education from Sam Houston State University. He earned a master's degree in music from Rice University. Corbett has studied with Douglas Yeo and David Waters.

Audrey Cupples, a native of Rome, New York, is the newest member of the saxophone section. She earned a bachelor's degree in music from the Eastman School of Music. She was a member of the Eastman Wind Ensemble and played lead sax on the Winston Marsalis record "Carnival." Cupples has studied with Ramon Ricker, Jean Marie Londeix, James Stoltie and Eugene Rousseau.

MARINE BAND BRASS CHOIR PERFORMS

The Marine Band Brass Choir, conducted by 1stLt Dennis Burian, will perform at Washington Cathedral on Sunday, November 6 as part of the an-

nual service in observance of the Marine Corps birthday. This service, honoring the 213th anniversary of the Marine Corps, will begin with a prelude concert at 3:30 p.m., followed by the service which will begin at 4 p.m.

The Brass Choir will perform music of Diemer, Palestrina, Bliss, Pachelbel and Knox. This performance is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Marine Band Public Affairs Office at (202) 433-5809.

CONCERT INFORMATION:
(202) 433-4011

MARINE BAND RETURNS TO GETTYSBURG

In November 1863, the Marine Band accompanied President Abraham Lincoln to Gettysburg to consecrate a cemetery to soldiers killed in one of the Civil War's bloodiest battles. On the train to Gettysburg, the band played martial airs for the President.

On dedication day, November 19, 1863, a grand military and civic procession, which included the Marine Band, accompanied the Presidential party to the cemetery.

Following a prayer, the Marine Band performed selections popular during the war. Following a two-hour oration delivered by the principal speaker, President Lincoln gave his historic two-minute speech.

The band returned to Gettysburg in 1963 for the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. The Marine Band will return to Gettysburg this November to take part in the commemoration of the 125th anniversary of Lincoln's eloquent address.

COMIC STRIP CHARACTER JOINS THE BAND

Skyler Fishhawk recently became an honorary member of the Marine Band's tuba section. Skyler, a character from Jeff MacNelly's comic strip "Shoe", is sent to various summer camps by his Uncle Cosmo—always under the pretense of it being for his own good.

Unfortunately for Skyler, the summer retreats are not what he imagines—going to such places as Camp Lejeune, Parris Island, etc. His break came this summer when his "old reserve unit" was called to duty and he had the opportunity to audition for the Marine Band.

Skyler thought he'd get light duty with the band after he passed the audition. He never realized how much work it is to polish an "M-1 Sousaphone" to suit Sarge. Yes, Skyler concludes, the infantry has it easy. They can clean their "little M-16s" with a pipe cleaner. Skyler needs a ladder and a mop to get his Sousaphone clean. "Combat?" asks Skyler, "You call that pressure? Hah! I'd like to see these infantry guys handle the kind of pressure we get in the band. Like playing a gig at the White House... and having to empty your spit valve."

During a recent rehearsal in John Philip Sousa Band Hall, MacNelly, on Skyler's behalf, accepted the honorary membership from Marine Band Director Colonel John R. Bourgeois.

MOVING?

Please be sure to send us your new address so you won't miss an issue of *Notes*.

For more information about these or other Marine Band performances, or if you would like to be added to the "Friends of the Marine Band" mailing list, write to:

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