



*"The President's Own"*  
**UNITED STATES  
 MARINE BAND**

Colonel John R. Bourgeois, Director

# NOTES

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## Marine Band Announces Concert Program and Soloists for 1990 Tour



*Tour soloists, from left: GySgt Bryan R. Bourne, MSgt Michelle Foley, and MGySgt Merlin O. Petroff, Jr.*

The Marine Band ends its first century of concert tours with challenging repertoire for its 1990 southwest tour. This year, the Marine Band will present a varied schedule of eight different concert programs featuring a total of seven soloists as the band travels to 46 cities in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Two of the eight programs will form the basis of the tour repertoire and will be performed in 32 of the 46 cities. The first program presents highlights from the band's 1990 concert tour of the Soviet Union, featuring music by Soviet composers including Glinka's overture "Russlan and Ludmilla" and Mussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain." This program will also include three concerti for wind instruments and band by Rimsky-Korsakov with clarinetist Merlin Petroff, oboist Michelle Foley, and trombonist Bryan Bourne.

For the second featured tour program, Colonel Bourgeois has chosen music with

an international theme: Verdi's overture "Luisa Miller," Saint Saens' grand march *Orient et Occident*, and H. Owen Reed's *La Fiesta Mexicana*. Trumpet soloists J. Carlton Rowe and John Hagstrom will perform *The Entrance of the Queen of Sheba* from Handel's opera *Solomon*.

The second half of each tour concert program will include American patriotic selections, Sousa marches, and a new vocal arrangement of music from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* featuring baritone vocalist

Michael Ryan.

Colonel Bourgeois has scheduled special performances in several cities. At Radford University in Virginia, the band will perform "Elegy" by Mark Camphouse, Director of Bands at Radford. Clarinetist Christine MacDonnell will perform the premiere of Martin Mailman's *Concertino for Clarinet* at her alma mater, Loyola University in New Orleans, and will repeat the performance in Dallas. Euphoniumist Michael Colburn will perform Jean Baptiste Arban's "Carnival of Venice" at his alma mater Arizona State University in Tempe and also at several other cities on the tour.

Other band members will perform at or near their hometown or alma maters, including cornetist Nancy Taylor (profiled in Band Member News) who will perform in both her hometown and alma mater. Colonel Bourgeois will be honored

during the band's October 17th performance at his alma mater, Loyola University, in his hometown of New Orleans.

All Marine Band tour concerts are free and open to the public. Tickets are required for all performances *except the performance in Tucson, AZ on November 19th*. Tickets for tour concerts are distributed by the sponsoring organization.

A complete listing of the 1990 tour itinerary and sponsor information was sent to readers of Marine Band *Notes* in September. We wish to update that information with the address for tickets to the performance on November 18th in Tempe, Arizona: Marine Band Concert Tickets, Arizona State Univ., Gammage Aud. Box Office, Tempe, AZ 85287. Also, the concert in *Lawton, OK, is scheduled for Fri., Nov. 2nd*, not Nov. 1st as previously announced. For more information about any of the Marine Band's 1990 tour performances, please call the Marine Band tour office at (202) 433-5812.



*Tour trumpet soloists MGySgt J. Carlton Rowe (on left) and SSgt John R. Hagstrom.*

## Upcoming Marine Band Activities

On November 4th, 1990, the Marine Band Brass Choir will perform for a service honoring the 215th birthday of the United States Marine Corps at the Washington National Cathedral.

The pre-service concert will begin at 3:30 p.m. with the ceremony following at 4 p.m. General A.M. Gray, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and

Captain Donald L. Krabbe, USN, Chaplain of the Marine Corps will be among the honored guests participating in the service.

Also, the annual "Carols at Wolftrap" with "The President's Own" United States Marine Band will take place on Sunday, December 9th at 4 p.m. at Wolf Trap's Filene Center.

Concert goers are welcome to participate with the band and area choirs in singing traditional holiday carols, culminating with a finale by candlelight. The concert is free and no tickets are required. For further information, call the Marine Band Concert Information Line at (202) 433-4011.

## Auditions - The First Step to "The President's Own"

Musical auditions are similar to the Olympics. The performer has only a few moments in which to demonstrate the sum of years of training, practice, and experience. In this issue of NOTES, we will take a closer look at the process by which musicians are selected for "The President's Own."

Scheduling and arranging a Marine Band audition is both an administrative and a musical task. It involves close coordination between the Director, band Operations and Public Affairs and the principal player of the section in which the vacancy exists.

One of the most effective methods of announcing the audition is through an advertisement in *The International Musician*, the primary source for listings of audition announcements for major musical organizations. In addition, vacancy announcements are sent to the twelve Marine Corps field bands and thousands of band directors and private instrumental instructors through their membership in the College Music Society. By the time these announcements are in the mail, the principal player of the section in which the vacancy exists will have met with the Director and Assistant Directors to discuss audition repertoire.

When an interested musician responds to the vacancy announcement by writing to the band's Operations staff, he or she is sent detailed information about the audition to include a listing of the prepared music to be performed and a packet of career information. When a completed application form is received

the applicant is added to the audition list as a candidate.

The day of the audition is a marathon for both the auditionees and the committee which hears them. While check-in begins around 8:00 a.m., a final decision may not be reached until late that night.

Applicants are auditioned in the order in which they arrive and are directed to an area in which to prepare. A few minutes before the audition, an applicant is brought into another room where he or she can be alone to make final preparations for the preliminary round. Next, the applicant is escorted to the stage in John Philip Sousa Band Hall where the audition is held. A Marine Band member from the section for which the audition is being held is on stage with the auditionee to point out the selections to be played and to ensure that they are performed in the proper order. Every applicant is heard during the preliminaries. "To do well, you have to believe in yourself," said SSgt Nancy Taylor, the most recent addition to the cornet section. "Building up for an audition is taxing."

In the preliminary round, applicants are required to perform a prepared solo and to sight read (to perform music they have never seen before). The prepared solo work gives the audition committee an opportunity to hear how well the applicant performs when thoroughly prepared. Sight reading material is selected from repertoire chosen by the Directors to demonstrate the degree of technical fluency and interpretive ability. "The emphasis on sight reading in the audition made it very frightening because

I didn't know what to expect," said SSgt Taylor. "I had never seen any of the music they put before me."

During the preliminaries, applicants are entirely anonymous to the audition committee. The committee, consisting of the Assistant Directors, principal players and other senior Marine Band members, are seated behind a screen which obstructs all view of the stage. "I really liked performing my audition behind a screen," said SSgt Taylor. "I felt more confident because there were none of the usual audition distractions like judges scribbling notes while you play."

Complete anonymity ensures that the committee makes its selections for the final round of auditions based solely on the individual's musical performance. Auditionees are not allowed to speak to the audition committee upon entering the hall. Questions are quietly directed to the Marine Band member on stage who then communicates with the committee.

After hearing six candidates, the committee takes a short break to discuss these candidates. Those chosen as finalists are notified of the results and begin to prepare for the final round. Unsuccessful candidates are released.

Before the final round of auditions all finalists have a personal interview with the band's Executive Officer, Captain Dennis Carroll, to determine any extra-musical considerations which might disqualify an applicant for membership in the U.S. Marine Band. States Capt. Carroll: "The audition process satisfies only the musical portion of enlistment prerequisites. Therefore, an individual must meet the equally stringent mental,

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## From Our Archives...



*The soloists of the Marine Band during the early 1920's are pictured here from the top, left to right: Albert Bennert (trombone), Adolphe Seidler (French horn), Peter Hazes (euphonium), Robert Clark (trombone), August Pflieger (saxophone), Arthur Whitcomb (cornet), W.D. Kieffer (percussion), John White (cornet), Frank Wiblitzhauser (saxophone), Silvio Onofry (oboe), Clayton Lindsay (flute), Emil Rada (clarinet), Henry Weber (clarinet), Siegfried Scharbau (bassoon), Herman Hoffman (violin), Taylor Branson (2nd leader & concertmaster), F.A. Mueller (cello), and Henry Stephan (violin). (U.S. Marine Corps photo.)*

## Band Member News

### NEW MEMBERS - Cornetist Richard

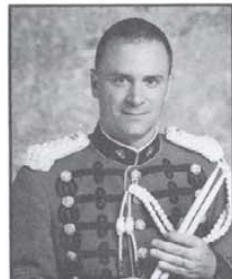


**B. Lehman** of Kettering, OH, graduated from Fairmont West High School in Kettering in 1976. He earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Ohio State University, and a master's degree in performance from the University of Louisville (KY).

**Cornetist Nancy E. Taylor** of El Paso, TX, graduated from Coronado High School in El Paso in 1983. She graduated from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in performance, and from Indiana University in Bloomington with a master's degree in performance.



### Percussionist Matthew G. Watson of



Kalamazoo, MI, graduated from Mattawan High School in Mattawan, MI in 1979. He then attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he received a bachelor's degree with teacher certification in music.

### RECENT RETIREMENT - Pianist

**Master Gunnery Sergeant Thomas F. Lee** of St. Paris OH, is retiring this November after 24 years with the Marine Band. Lee has been a frequently featured soloist at the White House for state dinners and receptions.



**David L. Baesel**, an alumnus of Arizona State Univ. (Tempe, AZ) . . . **Michael J. Colburn**, an alumnus of Arizona State Univ. (Tempe, AZ) . . . **Patrick S. Corbett** of Houston, TX and alumnus of both Sam Houston State and Rice University (Houston, TX). . . **Ronal W. Foster** of Jonesboro, AR, and alumnus of Arkansas State Univ. (Jonesboro, AR). . . **Ricardo A. Hernandez**, an alumnus of East Texas State Univ. (Commerce, TX) . . . **Leslie L. Hunt** of Dallas, TX (Dallas) . . . **Frederick D. Lemmons** of Chattanooga, TN (Cleveland, TN), and alumnus of both Univ. of TN/Chattanooga and Louisiana State Univ. in Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge, LA). . . **Christine A. MacDonnell**, an alumna of Loyola Univ. (New Orleans, LA) . . . **John C. Norton**, of Silver Point, TN (Nashville, TN), and alumnus of Univ. of Tenn/Knoxville (Knoxville, TN). . . **Irvin D. Peterson, Jr.** of Bryan, TX (Houston, TX), and alumnus of Univ. of TX/Austin (Austin). . . **J. Carlton Rowe**, an alumnus of Shenandoah Conservatory (Lexington, VA). . . **Janice Snedecor**, a former Dallas resident (Dallas, TX) . . . **Nancy E. Taylor** of El Paso, TX (El Paso) and alumna of Arizona State Univ. (Tempe, AZ) . . . **Brett B. Widenhouse** of Belmont, NC (Lincolnton, NC). . . **Dyane L. Wright**, an alumna of Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA (Lexington, VA). . . **John C. Wright**, an alumnus of Central State Univ. in Guthrie OK (Norman, OK).

**RECENT REENLISTMENTS - Percussionist Master Sergeant Matthew B. Becker** of Allentown, PA, for four years . . . **Trombonist Staff Sergeant Dale H. Fredericks** of Marion, NY, for two years.

**AUGUST PROMOTION - Cornetist Steven M. Matera** of Antioch, CA,

was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant.

**HOMETOWNERS** - the following Marine Band members will travel on tour to their hometowns and/or almaters. The local tour performance site is listed in parentheses:

## Assistant Director Dennis R. Burian Promoted to Captain

Pictured in a ceremony officiated by Colonel John R. Bourgeois (on left), Assistant Director Dennis R. Burian was promoted to Captain on July 20th. Colonel Albert F. Schoepper (director 1955-1972), Director of the Marine Band when Burian enlisted, was also in attendance at the ceremony.

Captain Burian, of Allentown PA, attended West Chester University then completed his education at the Catholic University of America earning both a bachelor's and a master's degree in music.

Prior to his appointment as Assistant Director of the Marine Band, Capt. Burian was Operations Chief and leader of the White House Dance Band from 1977-1987. He was then promoted to First Lieutenant and served as Operations Officer from 1987-1988.



physical, and security clearance requirements to qualify for enlistment. The purpose of the interview is to determine if problems exist in any of these areas."

In the final round of the auditions, the Director joins the committee and the screen is removed in order to observe each applicant's demeanor and playing style. During the final round additional sight reading material is presented. Finalists are called back to play as many times as may be necessary to ensure that the committee has made the correct decision.

After the playing portion of the final round is completed, the committee compares written comments recorded about the musicians during the audition, studies resumes, and makes a recommendation to the Director for the position. At this time

the Director solicits opinions from each committee member. On rare occasions, no candidate is chosen. More frequently, however, a successful candidate is identified and is offered the position.

SSgt Matt Watson, who won a percussion position in the band in a June audition, explained: "I realized I had to be flexible and stay loose in order to get through it. Although I wasn't terribly nervous, I couldn't help thinking how incredible it would be if I won the job. Now that I'm here, I feel that being a member of the Marine Band is a great honor."

## Watch Your Mail

*In the beginning of November, we will be sending cards to all "Friends of the Marine Band" asking if you wish to remain on our mailing list. We encourage you to reply as soon as possible, in order to help us keep our list up to date.*

*John Philip Sousa was born on November 6th, 1854 at 636 G Street, S.E. in Washington D.C. near Marine Barracks 8th and I., home of "The President's Own". Sousa, director of the Marine Band from 1880-1892, will be remembered this year in a ceremony on November 6th at Congressional Cemetery, marking the 136th anniversary of his birth.*

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