

Notes

"The President's Own"
**UNITED STATES
MARINE BAND**
Colonel John R. Bourgeois, Director



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The White House and "The President's Own"

During its 200 years of history the White House has been home to 41 presidents and has undergone several major renovations, yet one fixture has remained constant: the music of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band.

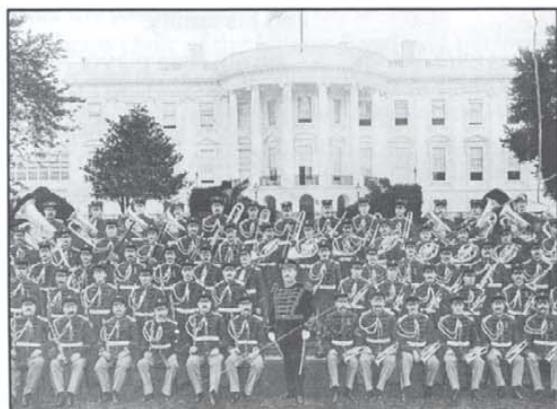
From John Adams' first days in the Executive Mansion the Marine Band's primary mission has been to provide music for the President of the United States. Whether performing for South Lawn arrival ceremonies, State Dinners, receptions or accompanying famous entertainers, Marine Band musicians appear more than 200 times annually at the White House. As the

stone for the "President's House." John and Abigail Adams moved into the still-unfinished White House November 1, 1800, and just two months later, on New Year's Day, 1801, the Marine Band became the first musical ensemble to perform at the mansion when it was invited by the Adamases to perform at their premier public reception. This event established the tradition of Marine Band performances at the White House which exists to the present day. In March of that year, the band performed for the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson and



relationship saying, "By the second half of the nineteenth century the Marine Band was more than just 'The President's Own.' It was the people's as well. It linked the presidential family with the nation like no other social or cultural phenomenon of the period." Today, the Marine Band looks to the future, viewing its history and traditions as foundations on which to build into its third century of bringing music to the White House and to America.

As an 1891 newspaper account of the weekly Marine Band concerts on the White House grounds stated, "Administrations come and go, but the band plays on forever."



Pictured above right, a Marine Band performance during a State Dinner ceremony for the President of Tunisia, May, 1961. The Marine Band led by Lieutenant William H. Santelmann is pictured at left on the White House grounds in 1906.

nation celebrates the bicentennial of this venerable American landmark we look back with pride over our nearly two centuries of performing at the home of our Commander-in-Chief.

The Marine Band was officially established by an Act of Congress signed by the second President of the United States, John Adams, on July 11, 1798, six years after the laying of the corner-

has performed for every Presidential inauguration since that time.

In Jefferson, the band found its most visionary advocate and friend. An astute musician himself, Jefferson recognized the unique relationship between the band and the Chief Executive by giving the Marine Band the title "The President's Own." Dr. Elise Kirk, author of *Music at the White House* commented on the significance of this

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Itzhak Perlman and Yo-Yo Ma sit in with the Marine String Quartet. (White House photo)

Memorable White House Performances

Over the years a number of White House performances have been particularly outstanding in the history of the Marine Band. For instance, at a State Dinner in his honor in July, 1977, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt surprised everyone when he took the baton from Lt. Colonel Jack Kline and led the Marine Orchestra in the final measures of the "Ode to Joy" from Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*.

At a State Dinner in November, 1979 for Prime Minister Jack Lynch of the Irish Republic, the Marine Orchestra had another surprise conductor. Among the dinner guests was composer/conductor Leonard Bernstein who, as *The Washington Post* reported, "Provided the lightest note in an otherwise somber day" when he sauntered across the foyer and to the delight of the musicians, stepped up to the podium to conduct the orchestra in the ballet music from Verdi's *Aida*. When the piece ended Bernstein rated the musicians, "A-1!" Marine Orchestra Concertmaster MSgt Bruce Myers recalls, "Bernstein conducted *Aida* at a lickety split tempo such as we had never seen and I was so impressed by our musicians because no one seemed flustered at all."

In October, 1986 cellist Yo-Yo Ma and violinist Itzhak Perlman were among the guests at a White House reception for which a Marine String Quartet was performing. Violist GySgt Susan Franke recalls the event: "Suddenly Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman came over to the quartet and asked to borrow instruments so they could sit down and play with us. They were both such warm and friendly people we were put at ease. But after we finished playing the first movement of Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* together, it hit me that I had just performed with two of the world's greatest musicians and then I got *really* excited!"

Mrs. John F. Kennedy and her nephew chat with Marine Band violinists at White House childrens party in 1962. (U.S. Marine Corps photo)



Similarly, during a State Dinner in 1985 for which Isaac Stern was scheduled to provide the after-dinner entertainment, according to MSgt Bruce Myers, "He shocked us all when, in order to warm up for his performance, he took out his fiddle and sat down at the back of the second violin section to play along!"

Several band members treasure personal memories of special performances at the White House. The return of the American hostages from Iran in 1981 was one such event for MSgt Phyllis Mauney, Marine Band Harpist since 1977. She recalls: "While we were performing for a reception in their honor at the White House, one of the former hostages came over to me and said, 'It's been so long since we've heard music. This is so beautiful.'" Mauney adds, "It brought tears to my eyes."

MSgt Mauney recounts another unique performance situation: "When President Carter was about to leave office, his staff planned a surprise serenade for the first family. We musicians had to hide so they wouldn't see us as we made our way to the family's quarters. They were really surprised when they saw us there! Amy Carter asked me lots of questions about the harp and tried to play it. Mrs. Carter also had questions about my instrument so I ended up giving a demonstration to the President and his family."

String Bass player Master Gunnery Sergeant Dave Wundrow joined the band in 1956 when President Eisenhower was in his second term. Although he has performed for eight presidents at countless White House events, Wundrow insists the excitement has not diminished. "Playing at the White House is always interesting because it's always current. It's still exciting to stand there performing near the person who makes such important decisions for our country."

"Whether serenading Adams and Jefferson, accompanying Lincoln to Gettysburg or performing here at the White House, the Marine Band has become a national institution and a national treasure."- Ronald Reagan

White House Receptions and Public Concerts

It is difficult for us today to imagine the doors of the White House being thrown wide open to the general public as they were for Marine Band concerts and indoor receptions for over a century, but prior to the existence of such modern communication methods as radio, commercial photography, and television, there was no other way for Americans to see or hear their Commander-in-Chief.

RECEPTIONS

The Marine Band played at every New Year's and Fourth of July reception during Jefferson's terms. An account of his final New Years levee in 1809 indicates that, "An exquisite band of music played at intervals martial, patriotic and enlivening airs."

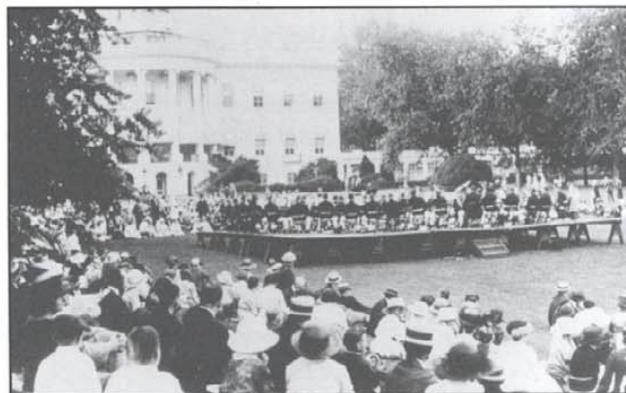
When President John Tyler took office in 1841 he instituted monthly public levees (receptions) in the White House as a means of courting public favor.

Abraham Lincoln felt it was important for the American people to have access to the White House and the President, so he and Mary Todd hosted weekly receptions in the State rooms. As William Seale wrote in *The President's House*, "After these receptions the President and Mrs. Lincoln retired to the Oval Room, where she soaked and rubbed his hand, which was often badly blistered from shaking."

At a public reception during Chester Arthur's presidency (1881-85) one reporter observed, "The crush was so great that the Marine Band was swept from its moorings and could not continue playing because of the pressure of people. So famous a hero as General Phil Sheridan got in only by being helped through a portico window by two policemen."



At left, sketch from "Harper's Weekly" of July, 1868 depicting popular Marine Band concerts on the White House lawn. Below, the Marine Band performing for the public at a 1921 White House concert. (White House photo)



Public receptions at the White House were not abolished until President Hoover's administration when the crowds had become too large to be accommodated.

CONCERTS:

President Tyler began the tradition of weekly Marine Band concerts on the White House grounds. For almost 100 years the Marine Band performed for thousands in public concerts on the President's lawn.

While Lincoln was in office there were weekly concerts on the South Lawn by the Marine Band. Lincoln supported Director Francis Scala's choice of repertory during a time when the band was criticized for playing too many operatic selections and not enough 'national and martial music.' Lincoln attended Marine Band concerts whenever his busy schedule permitted it, but as Dr. Elise Kirk quotes, the fol-

lowing first-hand account illustrates what little peace the Head of State had to pursue such pleasures: "One Saturday afternoon when the lawn in front of the White House was crowded with people listening to the weekly concert of the Marine Band, the President appeared upon the portico. Instantly there was a clapping of hands and clamor for a speech. Bowing his thanks, and excusing himself he stepped back into the retirement of the circular parlor, remarking to me, with a disappointed air, as he reclined upon the sofa, 'I wish they would let me sit out there quietly, and enjoy the music.' "

During William McKinley's term as President the Marine Band concerts on the White House lawn attracted crowds numbering over 5,000 people. The tradition had become so firmly established by the 1890's that one reviewer theorized that people attended habitually, because they had been "inoculated with it in infancy," the babies in their carriages forming a "most entertaining part of these audiences." The review continues:

All kinds and conditions of men are apt to be found in the crowds, from clerks to millionaires, and there is music enough to stir all their souls. There is generally a good deal more music than there are seats to accommodate a tithe of those who could listen best if they could be comfortably seated.... There are oftentimes quite lively battles of words over who shall occupy a bench, and one afternoon last summer two reputable citizens got so excited over their respective rights that they almost came to blows, until a wary policeman whispered a word of warning.

When Herbert Hoover took charge of the White House in 1929, he did away with the public band concerts and the New Year's Day receptions. The population had grown too large to accommodate public events at the White House, and there now were other ways for the public to see and hear the President such as radio and motion picture.

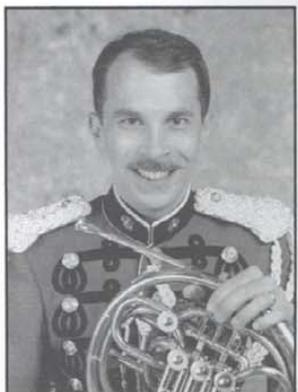
"The United States Marine Band is not only a most attractive ceremonial institution but musically eloquent and highly professional as well. Through the years, it has been a source of comfort and pleasure to the occupant of the White House." - Harry S. Truman

Band Member News

New Members



Percussionist Staff Sergeant David A. Murray of Shreveport, LA, graduated from Caddo Parish Magnet High School in Shreveport in 1986. He earned a bachelor's degree in music from Rice University in Houston, TX, and continued his studies at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. He also toured with the American-Soviet Youth Orchestra in 1990.



French Hornist Staff Sergeant Mark A. Questad of West Orange, NJ, graduated from Ridge High School in Basking Ridge, NJ, in 1978. He earned his bachelor's degree in music from Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. Prior to joining the Marine Band, Questad did freelance work in New York City.



Cornetist Staff Sergeant David W. Haglund of Muskegon, MI, graduated from Muskegon High School in 1982. He earned a bachelor's degree in music from Western Michigan University, and also attended the University of Minnesota. His professional experience includes teaching at Northern Michigan University, and at Garden City High School in Michigan.

Retirements

Cornetist Master Gunnery Sergeant Terrance R. Detwiler (shown below with Colonel Bourgeois) of Altoona, PA, recently retired from the Marine Band after 25 years of service. He graduated from the Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, PA, in 1964 then received his bachelor's degree in music education from Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and his master's degree in music from Catholic University in Washington, DC. He performed as a soloist many times during his tenure with "The President's Own."



Cornetist Master Sergeant Barry J. Stoner of Ruffsedale, PA, (shown with Major Foley) recently retired after serving with the Marine Band since 1974. He graduated from Southmoreland High School in Alverton, PA, in 1968, then received his bachelor's degree in music education from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He started his career in the music program of the Marine Corps, and after joining "The President's Own" performed as a soloist with the band.

Reenlistments

For two years: Clarinetist Gunnery Sergeant Robert W. Cassell of Hershey, PA . . . Bass Trombonist Staff Sergeant Patrick S. Corbett of Houston, TX . . . French Hornist Staff Sergeant Max E. Cripe of Garden City, KS . . . Violinist Gunnery Sergeant James L. Diehl of Cumberland, MD . . . Trombonist Gunnery Sergeant Dale H. Fredericks of Marion, NY . . . Violinist Master Sergeant Carol L. Hayes of Mishakawa, IN . . . Saxophonist Master Gunnery Sergeant Ronald C. Hockett of Evanston, IL . . . Clarinetist Staff Sergeant Nan E. Lopata of Reading, PA . . . Clarinetist Staff Sergeant Jay E. Niepoetter of Centralia, IL . . . Clarinetist Staff Sergeant Randall A. Riffle of Grove City, OH . . . Clarinetist Staff Sergeant Jeffrey M. Strouf of Laramie, WY . . . French Hornist Gunnery Sergeant Brett B. Widenhouse of Belmont, NC . . . Librarian Gunnery Sergeant Susan M. Zaffke of Germantown, NY.

For three years: Violinist Gunnery Sergeant Vicki J. Yanics of Paterson, NJ.

For four years: French Hornist Gunnery Sergeant Cheryl J. Sager of Elmwood Park, IL.

Activities Update

Texas Bandmasters Association (TBA) Convention

On July 27th, the Marine Band performed the featured concert of the 1992 TBA Convention before a capacity audience at the Lila Cockrell Theatre in San Antonio, TX.

Special Events

On August 7th, the Marine Band participated in a special ceremony at the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, VA, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal.

An Olympic Welcome

On August 11th, the Marine Band performed during a picnic and welcome home ceremony for the 1992 summer olympic athletes. This event took place on the South Lawn of the White House and was hosted by President and Mrs. Bush.

Vacancies

Interviews will be held in October & November for vacancies on the Music Library Staff and the Public Affairs Staff. Please write for more information to Operations Officer, c/o U.S. Marine Band, Marine Barracks, 8th and I Sts., SE. Washington, D.C. 20390-5000.

Tour Update

The Marine Band departs for its annual concert tour on Thursday, October 1st. The band will perform in 44 cities and towns throughout the states of West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming.

Marine Corps Anniversary

The brass choir of the Marine Band will perform for a concert and worship service honoring the 217th birthday of the United States Marine Corps at the Washington (DC) National Cathedral on Sunday, November 1st at 3:30 p.m. It's free and no tickets are required.

Long-time Friend of the Marine Band

Mary Doran, (pictured at right with Col Bourgeois), is honored at a summer concert on her 30th anniversary of attending every Marine Band concert in Washington, D.C.



Sousa's Birthday

On November 6th, the Marine Band will celebrate the 138th birthday of John Philip Sousa, with a wreath-laying ceremony at his gravesite in Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

Staff Lines

MGySgt Gail A. Bowlin



Position in Band: Piccolo, Flute section leader

Birthday: May 22, 1951

Hometown: Fairfield, CA

Family Status: Married, daughter - Rachel Marie (5 years old) & a cat named "Millie"

Education: B.A. in geography, minor in music from California State University, Sacramento (1973)

When Joined Marine Band: August, 1973

Self-Portrait: Spunky, good-humored, but sufferer of no fools

Greatest Accomplishment: A happy marriage and family life

Pet Peeves: Traffic, dirty air filters in motel rooms, pollen count

Walter Mitty Fantasy: To be a co-pilot with Dr. Who

Most Memorable Moment in Band: Being present with the orchestra at the White House when former President Nixon left office. We watched as he and his family departed by helicopter and then we returned to our seats to play for the swearing-in ceremony for President Ford, a short time later.

Favorite Movie: Comedy: *Naked Gun*; Drama: *The Elephant Man*

Who would play you in a movie: Ann Bancroft

Best Kept Secret: My life is an open book

Favorite Food: Seafood, especially soft-shell crabs

Hobbies: Camping, needlework, astronomy

Bad Habits: I'm somewhat of a "pack-rat" and I've been known to curse in traffic.

Three things always found in your refrigerator: Milk, fresh fruit and something that is growing mold

Most influential teacher: Mrs. Bronson (4th grade); Britton Johnson, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

Luxury Defined: Unlimited time, unlimited funds, and unlimited energy

Books at Bedside: Among my favorite authors are Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Graham Greene, and J.R.R. Tolkien

Favorite piece of music: *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis* by Vaughan Williams

Place you'd most like to be stranded: In a log cabin overlooking a lake either in the Rocky Mountain area or the Adirondacks

Last Words: Psalm 23

Personal Accounts of White House Experiences

Marine Band performance diaries, memoirs of former members, and newspaper stories from the past provide today's historian with particularly intriguing accounts of the band's close association with the White House and its unique position in the history of our nation.

For example, when 49-year old Grover Cleveland wed the attractive 21-year-old Frances Folsom on June 2, 1886, it occasioned great excitement in the city since Cleveland was (and is still) the only President to be married in the White House. Several especially desperate individuals tried to bribe John Philip Sousa into letting them perform as members of the Marine Band. A *Washington Star* reporter noted:

The first visible evidence of the approaching ceremony was the arrival of the musicians of the Marine Band, gorgeous in their red uniforms...A moment later the music of the band could be heard and the crowd knew that the hour had come. During all the evening the crowd kept account of what was going on inside by

noting the character of the music played and the intervals between the pieces...The band played at frequent intervals during the evening and afforded very pleasant entertainment for the outsiders, several hundred of whom remained until the last musician had gone home.

In 1915 bandsman and cartoonist Ole May wrote in his journal that Alice Roosevelt had been pleading for new dance music at the Executive Mansion for quite some time and on one occasion the attractive and impetuous "Princess Alice," "handed the genial bandmaster a wallop that staggered his musical ideals." May continued:

The band was playing for a diplomatic reception at the White House one evening about ten years ago, when Miss Roosevelt came up and said, "Oh Mr. Santelmann, do play the *Maple Leaf Rag* for me...." *The Maple Leaf Rag?*" he gasped in astonishment. "Indeed, Miss Roosevelt, I've never heard of such a composition, and I'm sure it is not in our library." "Now, now Mr. Santelmann," laughed Alice, "don't tell me that. The band boys have played it for me time and again and I'll wager they all know it without the music."

Miss Roosevelt won the wager and *The Maple Leaf Rag* has been part of the Marine Band repertoire ever since.

Marine Band performance records recall several of the most sombre and tragic events in the history of our country. On Sunday, December 7, 1941, the musician responsible for keeping the band logs noted: "White House at 1:00 P.M. Orchestra. Formal luncheon. Special full dress uniform. Leader in charge, 18 men. President did not join guests. At 2:25 Leader was informed by Mr. Searles, Assistant Usher, that Japan was making an air raid on Hawaii. Luncheon finished at 2:45 P.M." The following day Congress voted for war against Japan.

The band logs for April 14, 1945, show the word "cancelled" scrawled across all events for that day - except one: "Marine Band to head funeral procession for the late President Franklin Roosevelt. Leader, Second Leader and Drum Major with 81 men. Dress Blues with white caps. Band played at cadence of 100-110."