

NOTES

September/October 2001



Southeast tour soloists clockwise from left: SSgt James Thomley, SSgt Michael Mergen, SSgt Kevin Benbear, and SSgt Daniel Orban.

Southeast Tour

From October 2 through November 19, “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band will renew one of its most important annual traditions: the national concert tour. The tickets are printed, the bags are packed, and the uniforms are pressed as the band plans to share its unique brand of music with audiences throughout southern Maryland, eastern Virginia, eastern North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, southern Alabama, and Florida.

Adding to the legacy began by 17th Director John Philip Sousa, the Marine Band will perform in 43 cities over the course of 49 days. Since Sousa’s first tour in 1891, the band has traveled across the country for 70 out of 109 years, and continuously since 1946.

Much like the tours under Sousa’s baton, today’s Marine Band concerts include new repertoire, classic band selections, orchestral transcriptions, marches, Broadway favorites, and exciting vocal and instrumental solos.

Marine Band Director Colonel Timothy W. Foley has selected four tour soloists who will showcase the virtuosity of “The President’s Own,” as well as expose the audience to a variety of musical genres. This fall marks the tour solo debuts of trumpeter Staff Sergeant Daniel Orban, cornetist Staff Sergeant Michael Mergen, and clarinetist Staff Sergeant James Thomley. Baritone vocalist Staff Sergeant Kevin Benneer also returns as a soloist.

SSgt Orban, a native of Bowie, MD, has chosen to perform a “Tribute to Louis Armstrong.” Arranged by Marine Band arranger Master Sergeant Stephen Bulla, the piece was first performed last summer on the band’s 200th anniversary of its first concert in Washington, DC. The compilation of songs paints a musical portrait of Armstrong’s career, highlighting the diverse styles for which he became famous. The songs include “West End Blues,” “Hotter Than That,” “Struttin’ With Some Barbecue,” “I Gotta Right to Sing the Blues,” “Cornet Chop Suey,” and “Skokiaan.”

“Louis Armstrong has laid the foundation for all trumpet players since the 1920s,” Orban said. “He didn’t play the highest or the lowest notes, it was the sheer energy he created in his solos that made him transcend everyone else,” he said.

SSgt Mergen, of Lebanon Township, NJ, will perform Eugène Damaré’s “Cleopatra Polka.” Divided into two parts, the selection begins with lyrical melodies in a traditional English style, from which it transitions into the polka. “Then it explodes with technical fireworks; triple tonguing and fast scales interwoven with ‘virtuosic’ cadenzas,” Mergen said.

“The ‘Cleopatra Polka’ is as famous in England as the ‘Carnival of Venice’ is in America,” Mergen said. “It’s a wonderful opportunity to be able to explore a style of cornet playing that American audiences don’t get to hear very much.”

SSgt Thomley, of Houston, TX, will perform Eric Richards’ “A Klezmer Tribute.” Originally played on violins for Jewish ceremonies, klezmer music evolved into folk music throughout Romania, Hungary, and the Ukraine. In the past century, however, it has been popularized in such a way that the clarinet has taken precedence over the violin.

“I wanted to try something non-classical,” Thomley said. “Klezmer music is real band music; it’s meant to be danced to. While there is some musical ornamentation involved, it’s not a form of jazz, as many people might think.”

SSgt Benneer, of Keyser, WV, has chosen three selections to be rotated throughout the tour: Cole Porter’s “When I Had a Uniform On,” George Gershwin’s “Our Love is Here to Stay,” and *Pride of a People*, a patriotic medley including “This is My Country” and “You’re a Grand Old Flag.”

“What’s great about these selections is the way they are intertwined with our American culture and history. It’s a lot of fun to perform them,” Benneer said. “I’m excited about presenting these pieces and interacting with the audiences.”



From a 1929 tour program

Quotable Quotes...

The programmed works and their interpretations showed...that this band has found a connection to the new era of wind music.

—*Neue Luzerner Zeitung*, on the band's July 13 and 14 performances at the Luzern Culture and Convention Center

White House Highlights

Recent Marine Band appearances at the White House include:

- Memorial Day Breakfast
- African Ambassadors Event
- Ford's Theater Reception
- Diplomatic Corps Reception
- Swearing-in Ceremony for Ambassador Baker

"Cassettes for Kids"

Due to a phase-out of recordings in cassette format, the Marine Band is pleased to announce a musical outreach program for day care centers and pre-school programs across the country. Previously released titles on cassette, including "Fife and Drum," "Wagner," "Strauss," "Overtures," "Overtures II," "Director's Choice," "Showcase Two," and "Sound Off," will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Centers interested in receiving these outstanding educational tools should submit their requests on school stationery to:

Ms. Vadya J. Dillon
 Division of Public Affairs (PAB)
 Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps
 2 Navy Annex
 Washington, DC 20380-1775
 ATTN: "Cassettes for Kids"

Fall Performances Highlight Chamber Music

The Marine Band's seventh annual Autumn Chamber Music Recital Series will take place on three consecutive Sundays during the month of October. The performances, scheduled for October 14, 21, and 28 at 2 p.m., will be held in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall, located at Marine Barracks, 8th and I Streets, SE, Washington, DC. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

The series offers audience members an opportunity to experience a variety of classical and contemporary chamber repertoire and also provides one of the few occasions the public has to hear Marine Band ensembles in the historic Sousa Hall.

All chamber series concerts are free, and tickets are not required. Free parking is available adjacent to Marine Barracks on a first-come, first-served basis. METRO users should exit at the Eastern Market station and walk approximately three blocks south on 8th Street to the Barracks.

For program information, call the Marine Band Concert Information Line at (202) 433-4011, or visit the band's website at www.marineband.usmc.mil.

Band Performs During Historic Reenactment

On Memorial Day, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band participated in a historic reenactment of the May 30, 1869 ceremony honoring those who lost their lives in defense of the United States. Many may know of the order establishing the Memorial Day holiday (then called Decoration Day) in 1868, but few are aware of a second order issued in 1869 further describing what should occur in its observance.

This year's reenactment, which took place at Arlington National Cemetery, followed with exacting detail the music, speeches, poems and prayers given on that day. In addition to the U.S. Marine Band performance, two choruses that participated in the 1869 ceremony and are still in existence today performed: the Washington Sangerbund and the Arion Gesangverein Chorus.

"In Performance at the White House" to Feature the Marine Band on PBS

"In Performance at the White House: The President's Own," a new special featuring the Marine Band and its rich 200-year history of performances at the White House, will air Thursday, September 6, at 8 p.m. ET (check local listings) on PBS stations nationwide.

Hosted by Gerald McRaney and Larry Gatlin, the show also features artists Nell Carter and Toby Keith. Through narration and song, viewers will travel through Marine Band history at the White House—from their first performance on New Year's Day, 1801, for John Adams in the unfinished Executive Mansion to the present.

The event, taped on July 30 in the East Room of the White House, is the first "In Performance" production for President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush, as well as the 36th "In Performance" production by WETA Washington, DC.

While the Marine Band has participated in numerous "In Performance" events throughout the years, this show marks the first time the band has had a leading role. In his remarks, President Bush said, "...we must salute our featured performers, the United States Marine Band, led by Colonel Timothy Foley. This great Marine Band is 'The President's Own,' but it's also our nation's treasure."

2001 TOUR ITINERARY

The 2001 tour concert itinerary follows. Dates, locations, and times are subject to change. For ticket information, call the number listed or mail a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the address below, "ATTN: Marine Band Tickets." For detailed program information, visit the Marine Band website at www.marineband.usmc.mil.

Tuesday, October 2

Princess Anne, MD
University of Maryland Eastern Shore,
Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center
8 p.m.
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Department of Fine Arts: Music
Princess Anne, MD 21853
410-651-6573

Wednesday, October 3

Norfolk, VA
L. Douglas Wilder Performing Arts Center
7:30 p.m.
Norfolk State University
Department of Music
700 Park Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23504
757-823-8252

Thursday, October 4

Hampton, VA
Hampton University, Ogden Hall 7:30 p.m.
Hampton University
Convocation Center Box Office
Hampton, VA 23668
757-728-6828

Friday, October 5

Elizabeth City, NC
Elizabeth City State University,
Vaughn Center 8 p.m.
Elizabeth City State University
Campus Box 780
Department of Music
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
252-335-3360

Saturday, October 6

Rocky Mount, NC
Northern Nash High School Gymnasium
7:30 p.m.
Rocky Mount Telegram
Post Office Box 1080
Rocky Mount, NC 27802
252-446-5161

Sunday, October 7

Raleigh, NC
BTI Center for the Performing Arts,
Meymandi Concert Hall 3 p.m.
The News & Observer
215 South McDowell Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1331
919-829-4843

Monday, October 8

Fayetteville, NC
Cumberland County Civic Center,
Memorial Auditorium 7:30 p.m.
Up & Coming Magazine
Post Office Box 53461
Fayetteville, NC 28305-3461
910-484-6200

Tuesday, October 9

Supply, NC
Brunswick Community College
Odell Williamson Auditorium 8 p.m.
Brunswick Community College
Odell Williamson Auditorium
Post Office Box 30
50 College Road, NE
Supply, NC 28462
800-754-1050, ext. 406

Wednesday, October 10

Myrtle Beach, SC
Myrtle Beach High School,
Music and Arts Center 8 p.m.
Coastal Concert Association
1107 48th Avenue North, Suite 211L
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
843-449-7546

Thursday, October 11

Charleston, SC
Charleston Southern University,
Lightsey Chapel Auditorium 7:30 p.m.
Charleston Southern University
9200 University Boulevard
Charleston, SC 29423
843-863-7966

Saturday, October 13

Orangeburg, SC
Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School
Gymnasium 7:30 p.m.
The Times and Democrat
Post Office Drawer 1766
Orangeburg, SC 29116
803-533-5500

Sunday, October 14

Columbia, SC
The Township 3 p.m.
The Township
Post Office Box 1088
Columbia, SC 29202
803-252-2032

Monday, October 15

Augusta, GA
William B. Bell Auditorium 7:30 p.m.
The Augusta Chronicle
Post Office Box 1928
Augusta, GA 30903-1928
706-823-3476

Tuesday, October 16

Macon, GA
Macon City Auditorium 7:30 p.m.
Macon Centreplex
200 Coliseum Drive
Macon, GA 31201-8095
478-751-9232

Wednesday, October 17

Savannah, GA
Savannah Civic Center,
Johnny Mercer Theatre 7:30 p.m.
Savannah Civic Center
Post Office Box 726
Savannah, GA 31402
912-651-6556

Thursday, October 18

Brunswick, GA
Brunswick High School Gymnasium
7:30 p.m.
Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce
4 Glynn Avenue
Brunswick, GA 31520
912-265-0602

Friday, October 19

Bunnell, FL
Flagler Auditorium 7:30 p.m.
Flagler Auditorium
Post Office Box 755
Bunnell, FL 32110-0755
904-437-7547

Saturday, October 20

Lakeland, FL
Lakeland Center, Youkey Theater 7:30 p.m.
Lakeland Center
700 West Lemon Street
Lakeland, FL 33815
863-834-8111

Sunday, October 21

Winter Park, FL
Winter Park High School
Performing Arts Center 3 p.m.
Orange County Public Schools
445 West Amelia Street
Orlando, FL 32801-1127
407-317-3200 ext. 2720

Monday, October 22

Melbourne, FL
Maxwell C. King
Center for the Performing Arts 8 p.m.
Honor America, Inc.
Post Office Box 1776
Melbourne, FL 32902-1776
321-727-1776

Tuesday, October 23

Miami, FL
Miami-Dade County Auditorium 8 p.m.
Miami-Dade County Auditorium
2901 West Flagler Street
Miami, FL 33135
305-547-5414 ext 0

Saturday, October 27

Coral Springs, FL
Coral Springs Center for the Arts 7:30 p.m.
Coral Springs Center for the Arts
Box Office
2855 Coral Springs Drive
Coral Springs, FL 33065
954-344-5990

Sunday, October 28

Homestead, FL
 Homestead High School Gymnasium 3 p.m.
 Homestead Center for the Arts
 Post Office Box 901492
 Homestead, FL 33090-1492
 305-253-6620

Monday, October 29

West Palm Beach, FL
 Raymond F. Kravis
 Center for the Performing Arts,
 Dreyfoos Hall 8 p.m.
 Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts
 701 Okeechobee Boulevard
 West Palm Beach, FL 33401
 561-832-7469

Tuesday, October 30

Punta Gorda, FL
 Charlotte County Memorial Auditorium
 8 p.m.
 The Retired Officers Association (TROA)
 Post Office Box 1851
 Punta Gorda, FL 33951
 941-629-5766

Wednesday, October 31

Sarasota, FL
 Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall 8 p.m.
 Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
 Post Office Box 699
 Sarasota, FL 34230
 941-953-3368

Thursday, November 1

St. Petersburg, FL
 Mahaffey Theater 7:30 p.m.
 Mahaffey Theater Foundation
 400 1st Street South
 St. Petersburg, FL 33701
 727-892-5710

Saturday, November 3

New Port Richey, FL
 The Center for the Arts at River Ridge
 7:30 p.m.
 The Center for the Arts at River Ridge
 11646 Town Center Road
 New Port Richey, FL 34654
 727-774-7380

Sunday, November 4

Gainesville, FL
 Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
 3 p.m.
 Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
 Post Office Box 112750
 Gainesville, FL 32611-2750
 352-392-2787

Monday, November 5

Valdosta, GA
 Valdosta High School Gymnasium
 7:30 p.m.
 The Valdosta Daily Times
 ATTN: Marine Band Tickets/Ann Jordan
 201 North Troup Street
 Valdosta, GA 31601
 229-244-2560

Tuesday, November 6

Albany, GA
 Albany State University, HPER Building
 7:30 p.m.
 Albany State University
 504 College Avenue
 Albany, GA 31705
 229-430-4849

Wednesday, November 7

Tallahassee, FL
 Florida A&M University, Lee Hall Auditorium
 8 p.m.
 Florida A&M University, Department of Music
 ATTN: Marine Band Tickets/Dr. Julian White
 1500 South Martin Luther King Boulevard
 Tallahassee, FL 32307
 850-599-3000

Thursday, November 8

Panama City, FL
 Marina Civic Center Auditorium 7:30 p.m.
 Marina Civic Center Auditorium
 8 Harrison Avenue
 Panama City, FL 32401
 850-763-4696

Friday, November 9

Dothan, AL
 Northview High School Convocation Center
 7:30 p.m.
 Northview High School Center
 3209 Reeves Street
 Dothan, AL 36303
 334-794-1410

Saturday, November 10

Pensacola, FL
 Naval Aviation Museum 7:30 p.m.
 Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce
 Armed Services Department
 Post Office Box 550
 Pensacola, FL 32593-0550
 850-438-4081

Sunday, November 11

Mobile, AL
 Mobile Civic Center Theater 3 p.m.
 Mobile Register
 ATTN: Randall Granger
 304 Government Street
 Mobile, AL 36602
 334-405-5208

Tuesday, November 13

Montgomery, AL
 Robert E. Lee High School Auditorium
 7:30 p.m.
 Alabama State University
 ATTN: Catarina Bristol
 Post Office Box 271
 Montgomery, AL 36101
 334-229-7473

Wednesday, November 14

Jonesboro, GA
 Clayton County Schools Performing Arts
 Center 8 p.m.
 Clayton News Daily
 138 Church Street
 Jonesboro, GA 30236
 770-478-5753

Thursday, November 15

Spartanburg, SC
 Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium
 7:30 p.m.
 Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium
 Post Office Box 1410
 Spartanburg, SC 29304
 864-582-8107 ext. 5

Friday, November 16

Matthews, NC
 David W. Butler High School Gymnasium
 8 p.m.
 David W. Butler High School
 ATTN: Jeff Pusser
 1810 Matthews-Mint Hill Road
 Matthews, NC 28105
 704-814-7228

Saturday, November 17

Roxboro, NC
 Person High School Gymnasium 7:30 p.m.
 WXRO-AM
 Post Office Box 1176
 Roxboro, NC 27573
 336-599-0266

Sunday, November 18

Emporia, VA
 Emporia/Greenville Performing Arts
 Center 3 p.m.
 E. Wilson Clary
 306 South Main Street
 Emporia, VA 23847
 804-634-6001

Monday, November 19

Midlothian, VA
 James River High School, Chuck Collins
 Gymnasium 7 p.m.
 James River Band Boosters
 3700 James River Road
 Midlothian, VA 23113
 804-378-4448



Marine Band bassoonist John D'Andelet demonstrates his instrument after a 1930 tour matinee concert.

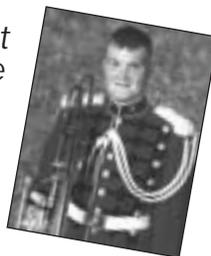
New Members



Co-principal oboist SSgt Shawn F. Welk of Tulsa, OK, received a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma and a master's degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. Prior to joining the band, Welk performed with the Oklahoma Sinfonia, Tulsa Philharmonic, and Binghamton (NY) Symphony.

Trombonist SSgt Darren R. Bange

of Reisterstown, MD, received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, MD. Prior to joining the band, Bange was a substitute with Maryland's Baltimore Symphony, Salisbury Symphony, and Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestras.



Saxophonist SSgt Steve Longoria of McAllen, TX, attended Baylor University in Waco, TX, where he earned a bachelor's degree in music education. Prior to joining the band, Longoria was a member of the United States Army Field Band in Ft. Meade, MD.

International Encores

In their first trip abroad since 1992, members of "The President's Own" performed four concerts (with numerous encores) in July for capacity audiences in the cities of Luzern and Bern, Switzerland.

As guests of the city of Luzern, the band performed three of the concerts in conjunction with the 10th International Conference of the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE).

Special guest conductors included Dr. Frederick Fennell, WASBE President Kurt Brogli, and WASBE Switzerland President Felix Hauswirth.



The Marine Band, conducted by Colonel Timothy W. Foley, at the Luzern Culture and Convention Center on July 14, 2001

Vacancies

"The President's Own" announces auditions for the following vacancies:

Clarinet: September 21-22

Tuba: December 3-4

For more information, please write to:

Operations Officer

U.S. Marine Band

8th and I Streets, SE

Washington, DC 20390-5000

(202) 433-5714

E-mail: HurleyJM@mbw.usmc.mil

Audition repertoire may be found at

www.marineband.usmc.mil

The Opportunity is Yours

In his continuing efforts to achieve ethnic diversity in the membership of the Marine Band, Director Colonel Timothy W. Foley cites several steps to increase minority awareness of career opportunities in "The President's Own."

As with other classically oriented ensembles in our nation, applications from minority musicians have historically been very low despite recruiting efforts. To overcome this, the Marine Band notifies minority colleges and universities of upcoming auditions and provides concert information and band recordings to their libraries.

To further heighten awareness among minority students about career opportunities in the Marine Band and the Marine Corps, the band's Tour Director seeks to schedule performances at colleges and universities that are predominantly African-American, Hispanic, Asian, or Native-American.

Retirement

Librarian **Gunnery Sergeant Susan Z. Bour** of Germantown, NY, retired in July after 20 years with "The President's Own." As a Marine Band Librarian, GySgt Bour prepared music for the band's performances and assisted with maintaining the music library and historic archives. In addition to her duties as librarian, Bour was responsible for the band's computer systems.