

NOTES

September - October 2005



2005 Southwest Tour

*featuring soloists (from left)
Master Sergeant Cynthia Rugolo, piccolo;
Gunnery Sergeant Charles Casey, trombone;
Staff Sergeant Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano;
and Master Sergeant Aaron Clay, string bass*

On Tour



From top: Tour soloists Master Sergeants Cynthia Rugolo, piccolo, and Aaron Clay, string bass; Gunnery Sergeant Charles Casey, trombone; and Staff Sergeant Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano vocalist and concert moderator, will perform with the Marine Band on tour, Oct. 3-Nov. 20, 2005.

“The President’s Own” Travels Southwest

The tradition of the Marine Band tour began in 1891 under Director John Philip Sousa. The Marine Band tours throughout October and November, performing in approximately 45 cities over the course of 50 days. This year, the band will begin and end its tour in Virginia.

2005 Performances

The Department of Defense has divided the United States into five geographic regions for the purpose of planning concert tours for the premier service bands. This year, the Marine Band will tour in Region II, the Southwest. Please see pages 3-4 for specific locations and concert dates.

TOUR *continued on page 4*

Marine Band Marks Milestone as New Mezzo-Soprano Joins Tour

Mezzo-soprano vocalist and concert moderator Staff Sergeant Sara Dell’Omo, of Jacksonville, Texas, joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in May 2005, becoming the first featured female vocal soloist and concert moderator in the Marine Band’s history. This fall, she joins the band on tour.

Position with tradition

The 50-year-old position of Marine Band concert narrator and vocal soloist has traditionally been held by a male vocalist. Baritone Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Bennear joined the band in 2000 upon the retirement of Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Ryan, the second vocalist in Marine Band history. In September 2004, however, fueled by organizational growth, an expanding concert season, and the Directors’ desire to diversify the band’s repertoire, “The President’s Own” held auditions for an additional vocalist.

Mezzo-soprano Staff Sgt. Dell’Omo knew the position was historic, but that was not her reason for auditioning—she was more interested in the work she would be doing and the organization she would be joining.

“I auditioned for the Marine Band because I was interested in the reputation of ‘The President’s Own’ and in being a soloist,” Staff

Sgt. Dell’Omo said. “I wanted to be able to sing with fabulous musicians, and the fact that I’m the first woman is exciting.”

Such a visible position presents both unique challenges and benefits for the talented soloist.

“It’s so exposed. In other performing jobs, I’ve been in vocal ensembles within a group of maybe 10 or 12 other singers, but here it’s just me with the band,” Staff Sgt. Dell’Omo said. “It is challenging, but also rewarding. By the time I sing, I’ve already built a rapport with the audience as moderator, so singing at that point is fun.”

Staff Sgt. Dell’Omo recognizes the uniqueness of her position and sees it as a challenge to bring her own spin to the role of concert moderator and vocalist, while still honoring Marine Band history and tradition.

“The fact that this organization has been around since early American history puts a lot of pressure on me to keep up with the precedents that already have been set, but also to bring something new,” Staff Sgt. Dell’Omo said.

On the band’s upcoming tour, she will serve as one of four soloists. The tour will take the band into familiar territory for the new vocalist, with several performances in her home state of

MILESTONE *continued on page 2*

Quotable Quote

John Philip Sousa called the Marine Band ‘America’s band.’ We live up to that title by bringing the music of America to its citizens.

—Assistant Director
Captain Jason K. Fettig

White House Highlights

Recent appearances by “The President’s Own” at the White House include:

- UNESCO Breakfast
- Black Music Month Reception
- Ford’s Theatre Gala Reception
- Senate Spouses Luncheon
- Congressional Picnic
- Senate Luncheon
- Tee Ball Game
- Salute to Presidential Scholars
- Independence Day
- NCAA Champions
- Official Dinner for the Prime Minister

MILESTONE *continued from page 1*

Texas. As the tour departure date approaches, Staff Sgt. Dell’Omo looks forward to the experience of her first concert tour: “This will be a fun one for me, because I’m going home.”

Blazing a trail

The introduction of a female vocalist marks a significant milestone for Marine Band women, who first joined “The President’s Own” in 1973. Though their tenure of 32 years is brief in the life of the 207-year-old organization, the impact of women in the Marine Band has been vital to the organization’s continued growth and excellence.

When then-Staff Sergeant Ruth Johnson joined “The President’s Own” in May of 1973 as a French hornist, there were no female uniforms—she wore a male uniform—and no locker room. By the time clarinetist Master Gunnery Sergeant Ruth McDonald joined 12 years later, the number had grown significantly.

“There was one locker room, two rows of lockers, 20

Fall Series Includes Free Country, Chamber Ensembles Concerts

Free Country, the Marine Band’s country music ensemble, will perform at 6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 3, for the annual “Music in the Mountains” series in Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

Featuring Master Sergeants Steven Searfoss on percussion and Amy Horn on guitar and vocals, Gunnery Sergeant Alan Prather on lead guitar and vocals, and Staff Sergeants AnnaMaria Mottola on keyboards and Brian Turnmire on acoustic guitar, Free Country will perform hits such as Lonestar’s “I’m Already There,” Tim McGraw’s “Live Like You Were Dyin,’” and Rascal Flatts’ “Bless the Broken Road.” The concert also will feature West Virginia natives Master

Gunnery Sergeant Peter Wilson on fiddle and vocals, Master Sergeant Aaron Clay on bass, and Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Benbear on vocals.

The concert is free and tickets are not required. Concerts are held near the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park’s Cavalier Heights Visitors Center in Harpers Ferry, located one mile west of the Shenandoah River Bridge off U.S. Route 340. For more information, please call (304) 535-6298.

“The President’s Own” **Marine Chamber Ensembles** will perform at 2 p.m., Sundays, Oct. 9, 16, and 23,

FALL *continued on page 5*



The Marine Band performed Friday, June 17, at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C., for the 60th National Conference of the American Symphony Orchestra League (ASOL). Founded in 1942, and chartered by Congress in 1962, ASOL provides leadership and service to America’s orchestras while communicating to the public the value and importance of orchestras and the music they perform. Visit www.symphony.org.

women, and only one master gunnery sergeant. Now there are 50 women, four of whom have achieved that rank.”

Although women rose through the enlisted ranks of the band, it was not until July 2004 that a woman received an officer’s commission. Assistant Director First Lieutenant Michelle A. Rakers views her role as one with immense responsibility to a younger generation of women.

“There is an expectation of mentorship to young women and girls—for them to know that this type of job or leadership position is available for them,” First Lt. Rakers said. “I’m just glad to be another part of the process of having women in leadership roles and women conductors.”

Ruth Johnson Kline echoed the importance of being the ‘first’: “Anyone who breaks a barrier becomes a role model for those who follow. When a career barrier is broken, more interest in that profession is generated,” she said. “I hope my presence in 1973 was a positive role model for females. ‘Firsts’ continued to occur well after I left—other first female instrumentalists, a female Assistant Director, and now the first female vocalist. I am proud to have been a part of it.”

2005 TOUR ITINERARY

The 2005 concert tour 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 www.marineband.usmc.mil.

Monday, October 3, 7:30 p.m.

Lynchburg, Va.

E.C. Glass Civic Auditorium

The News and Advance
Post Office Box 10129
Lynchburg, VA 24506
(434) 522-3712

Tuesday, October 4, 7:30 p.m.

Bluefield, W.Va.

Brushfork National Guard Armory

Bluefield Daily Telegraph
Post Office Box 1599
Bluefield, WV 24701
(304) 327-2810

Wednesday, October 5, 8 p.m.

Boone, N.C.

Farthing Auditorium

Appalachian State University

Farthing Auditorium
Appalachian State University
733 Rivers Street
Boone, NC 28608
(828) 262-4046

Thursday, October 6, 7:30 p.m.

Maryville, Tenn.

Maryville High School Gymnasium

Maryville High School
825 Lawrence Avenue
Maryville, TN 37803
(865) 982-1132

Friday, October 7, 8 p.m.

Huntsville, Ala.

Huntsville High School Auditorium

Huntsville High School
2304 Billie Watkins Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35801
(256) 533-1793

Saturday, October 8, 8 p.m.

University, Miss.

The Gertrude Castellow Ford Center for the Performing Arts University of Mississippi

The Ford Center
Post Office Box 1848
University, MS 38677-1848
(662) 915-7411

Sunday, October 9, 3 p.m.

Jackson, Miss.

Rose E. McCoy Auditorium

Jackson State University

JSU Department of Music
c/o Dr. Jimmie James
Post Office Box 17055
Jackson, MS 39217
(601) 979-2141

Monday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.

Biloxi, Miss.

Biloxi Junior High School Auditorium

Bill Lee
Biloxi High School
1845 Richard Drive
Biloxi, MS 39532

Tuesday, October 11, 7:30 p.m.

New Orleans, La.

McAllister Auditorium, Tulane University

c/o Reid Wick
Box 8
6363 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504) 865-3748

Thursday, October 13, 7:30 p.m.

Slidell, La.

Fritchie Park Gymnasium

Department of Cultural and Public Affairs
City of Slidell
Slidell Cultural Center
444 Erlanger Street
Slidell, LA 70458

Friday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.

Baton Rouge, La.

Tara High School Gymnasium

Tara High School
9002 Whitehall Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
(225) 927-6100

Saturday, October 15, 2:30 p.m.

Lafayette, La.

Heymann Performing Arts Center

Performing Arts Society of Acadiana
Post Office Box 52979
Lafayette, LA 70505
(337) 237-2787

Sunday, October 16, 2:30 p.m.

Lake Charles, La.

Rosa Hart Theatre, Lake Charles Civic Center

Rosa Hart Theatre
Lake Charles Civic Center
900 Lakeshore Drive
Lake Charles, LA 70602
(337) 491-1432

Monday, October 17, 7:30 p.m.

Shreveport, La.

Shreveport Civic Theatre

Clear Channel Radio
6341 Westport Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71129

Tuesday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.

Tyler, Texas

Caldwell Auditorium

Tyler Junior College Bands
Post Office Box 9020
Tyler, TX 75711
(903) 510-2242

Wednesday, October 19, 8 p.m.

Dallas, Texas

Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center

Dallas Wind Symphony
Post Office Box 595026
Dallas, TX 75359-5026

Thursday, October 20, 7:30 p.m.

College Station, Texas

Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M University

Texas A&M University, MSC Box Office
Post Office Box E5
College Station, TX 77844
(979) 845-1234

Friday, October 21, 8 p.m.

Pasadena, Texas

Main Hall, Pasadena Convention Center

Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Houston
Post Office Box 840362
Houston, TX 77284

Saturday, October 22, 7 p.m.

Wharton, Texas

Wharton High School Auditorium

Wharton Chamber of Commerce
Post Office Box 868
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1862

Sunday, October 23, 2:30 p.m.

San Marcos, Texas

San Marcos High School Gymnasium

San Marcos High School Band
1301 State Hwy 123
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 393-6846

Monday, October 24, 7:30 p.m.

San Antonio, Texas

Tom C. Clark High School Auditorium

Tom C. Clark High School
5150 DeZavala Road
San Antonio, TX 78249

Saturday, October 29, 7:30 p.m.

Georgetown, Texas

Klett Center for the Performing Arts

Georgetown ISD Fine Arts Department
2211 North Austin Avenue
Georgetown, TX 78626
(512) 943-5110

Sunday, October 30, 2:30 p.m.

Waco, Texas

Ferrell Center, Baylor University

Waco Tribune-Herald
Post Office Box 2588
Waco, TX 76702-2588
(254) 757-5791

Monday, October 31, 7:30 p.m.

Denton, Texas

Murchison Performing Arts Center

University of North Texas

Denton Record-Chronicle
314 East Hickory
Denton, TX 76201
(940) 387-3811

Tuesday, November 1, 7:30 p.m.

Abilene, Texas

Abilene Civic Center Auditorium

KRBC-TV
4510 South 14th Street
Abilene, TX 79605
(325) 692-4242

Wednesday, November 2, Time TBD
Odessa, Texas
Location TBD
 Please see website for updates.

Thursday, November 3, 7:30 p.m.
Fort Stockton, Texas
Williams Special Events Center
Fort Stockton High School
 Fort Stockton Chamber of Commerce
 Post Office Box C
 Fort Stockton, TX 79735
 (432) 336-2264

Friday, November 4, 7:30 p.m.
El Paso, Texas
Maggoffin Auditorium
University of Texas at El Paso
 University of Texas at El Paso
 Department of Music, Fox Fine Arts
 500 University Avenue
 El Paso, TX 79968
 (915) 747-5606

Saturday, November 5, 7:30 p.m.
Artesia, NM
Artesia High School Auditorium
 Artesia Arts Council
 Post Office Box 782
 Artesia, NM 88211-0782
 (505) 746-4212

Sunday, November 6, 2:30 p.m.
Lubbock, Texas
Monterey High School Auditorium
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
 Post Office Box 491
 Lubbock, TX 29408
 (806) 766-0700

Monday, November 7, 7:30 p.m.
Wichita Falls, Texas
Wichita Falls Memorial Auditorium
 Multi-Purpose Events Center (MPEC)
 1000 Fifth Street
 Wichita Falls, TX 76301
 (940) 716-5555

Tuesday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.
Norman, Okla.
Paul F. Sharp Concert Hall
Catlett Music Center
The Norman Transcript
 215 E. Comanche Street
 Norman, OK 73070
 (405) 321-1800

Thursday, November 10, 7:30 p.m.
Tulsa, Okla.
Chapman Hall, Tulsa Performing Arts Center
 Box Office, Tulsa Performing Arts Center
 110 East 2nd Street
 Tulsa, OK 74103-3204
 (918) 596-7109

Friday, November 11, 7:30 p.m.
Springdale, Ark.
Har-Ber Performing Arts Center
 Har-Ber High School Band
 300 Jones Road
 Springdale, AR 72762

Saturday, November 12, 7:30 p.m.
Little Rock, Ark.
First Pentecostal Church
Arkansas Democrat Gazette
 Post Office Box 2221
 Little Rock, AR 72203
 (501) 378-3400

Sunday, November 13, 2:30 p.m.
Searcy, Ark.
Benson Auditorium, Harding University
 Box 10877
 Harding University
 Searcy, AR 72149
 ganus@harding.edu

Monday, November 14, 7:30 p.m.
Newbern, Tenn.
Dyer County High School Gymnasium
 215 Elm Avenue
 Dyersburg, TN 38024
 (731) 285-9117

Tuesday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.
Union City, Tenn.
Union City Civic Auditorium
 Community Concert Association
 of Union City/Obion County, Inc.
 Post Office Box 894
 Union City, TN 38281
 (800) 884-5457

Wednesday, November 16, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville, Tenn.
Keane Hall, Tennessee State University
 Department of Music, Tennessee State University
 3500 John A. Merritt Boulevard
 Nashville, TN 37209-1561
 (615) 963-5347

Thursday, November 17, 7:30 p.m.
Chattanooga, Tenn.
Red Bank High School Gymnasium
 Red Bank High School Band Boosters
 640 Morrison Springs Road
 Chattanooga, TN 37415
 (423) 874-1900 x1970

Friday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.
Cullowhee, N.C.
Fine and Performing Arts Center
Western Carolina University
 Box Office, Fine and Performing Arts Center
 Western Carolina University
 160 Fine and Performing Arts Center
 Cullowhee, NC 28723
 (828) 227-2479

Saturday, November 19, 7:30 p.m.
Winston-Salem, N.C.
Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium
Winston-Salem State University
 Winston-Salem State University
 Lyceum Cultural Event Series
 Post Office Box 19432
 Winston-Salem, NC 27110
 (336) 750-2530

Sunday, November 20, 2:30 p.m.
Harrisonburg, VA
Harrisonburg High School Auditorium
Daily News-Record
 Post Office Box 193
 Harrisonburg, VA 22803
 (540) 574-6200

TOUR continued from page 1

Requesting tickets

Marine Band tickets are distributed by local sponsors in each tour area. Please contact the sponsor directly for all ticket information. See pages 3-4 for details.

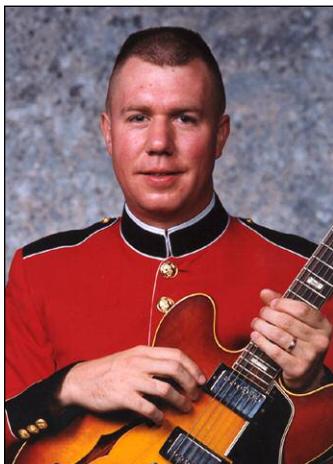
2005 tour program highlights

- John Philip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever," "Semper Fidelis," and "Daughters of Texas"
- Tommy Dorsey Tribute
- Donald Grantham's *Southern Harmony*
- A Salute to the Armed Forces of the United States of America
- Don Gillis' *Shindig*
- Richard Wagner's Overture to *The Flying Dutchman*
- Morton Gould's *Santa Fe Saga*
- Aaron Copland's *Old American Songs*

Bring the band to your town

The Marine Band relies on the support of local sponsors to help present free performances across the nation during tour. The sponsor provides all local support, including securing a concert site, managing publicity, printing and distributing tickets and concert programs, and coordinating concert support. For more information, or to download the Marine Band Sponsor's Guide, visit "National Tour" at www.marineband.usmc.mil. "The President's Own" thanks all past and present sponsors for their support.

STAFF LINES



GySgt Alan Prather
Guitarist

Birthday: Dec. 12, 1967
Hometown: Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
Family Status: Married with children
Education: BM from the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio
Joined the band: July 1999
Self-portrait: Easy-going, friendly
Favorite saying: “Stop that.”
Greatest accomplishment: Winning the audition for the Marine Band
Walter Mitty fantasy: Being a stand-up comedian

Most memorable moment in the band: Meeting John Williams when the Marine Jazz Orchestra performed his recordings and television scores at the Kennedy Center in 2003

Inspiration: My kids

Favorite movie: “Dead Poets Society”

Who would play you in a movie: Tim Allen

Best-kept secret: My kids tell all my secrets

Favorite foods: Lasagna, burgers on the grill

Bad habit: Procrastination (as I write this, it’s due tomorrow)

Three things always found in your refrigerator: Milk, diet Pepsi, and chicken nuggets

Professional experience before the band: Band director at Nordonia Hills City Schools, Northfield, Ohio; freelance musician in the Akron and Cleveland areas

Luxury defined: Being able to turn off my phone for a couple of days

Books at bedside: “Lord of the Rings” trilogy, “Courageous Leadership” by Bill Hybels

Favorite piece of music: Irish Tune from County Derry by Percy Grainger

Place you’d most like to be stranded: A quiet place, somewhere on Lake Erie

Last words: “Well, that was fun.”

New Members



Vocalist Staff Sergeant Sara Dell’Omo

of Jacksonville, Texas, earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of North Texas in Denton in 2001, and is pursuing a master’s degree from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. Prior to joining “The President’s Own,” Staff Sgt. Dell’Omo was a member of the U.S. Army Band’s Army Chorale at Fort Myer in Arlington, Va.



Flutist Staff Sergeant Ellen Dooley

of Boca Raton, Fla., earned a bachelor’s degree from the Peabody Conservatory of The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in 1996, and a master’s degree from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in 2002. Prior to joining the band, Staff Sgt. Dooley was professor of flute at Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pa., a flute instructor at the Levine School of Music in Washington, D.C., and worked with various other D.C.-area musical groups.

FALL *continued from page 2*

at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Auditorium in Alexandria, Va. These concerts explore instrumentation, composers, and repertoire from the Baroque to the contemporary. Program highlights for the fall chamber series include David Rakowski’s “Two Can Play That Game”; Monochrome III for Nine Clarinets by Peter Schickele; and Johannes Brahms’ Horn Trio, Opus 40.

Performances are free and tickets are not required. For directions or parking information, call (703) 683-2007 or visit

Promotions

To Sergeant:

Supply clerk Zoraida Rodriguez of Miami

To Corporal:

Stage crewmen Dimitrios Karras of Anderson, Calif., and Sean Friedrich of Spring, Texas

To Lance Corporal:

Stage crewman Jacob Barde of Austin

Vacancy

“The President’s Own” announces audition dates for the following vacancy:

B-flat clarinet: Sept. 19-20

For information, contact:

Operations Officer

U.S. Marine Band

Marine Barracks

8th and I Streets, SE

Washington, DC 20390-5000

(202) 433-5714

USMBOPS@mbw.usmc.mil

Audition repertoire may be found at www.marineband.usmc.mil.

The Marine Band is an equal opportunity employer.