

# NOTES



# Marching Along

## Marine Band Marks Sousa Sesquicentennial with New Band Hall Dedication

This November, “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band will honor its most famous member and 17th Director, John Philip Sousa, on the 150th anniversary of his birth. Events for Sousa’s birthday are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 6, in Washington, D.C., and Nov. 5-7 during the Marine Band’s tour of the West Coast.

At 10 a.m., Nov. 6, the Marine Band will perform for a wreath-laying ceremony at the gravesite of John Philip Sousa at Congressional Cemetery, located at 1801 E Street, Southeast, in Washington, D.C. Relatives of John Philip Sousa will conduct activities before and after the Marine Band’s performance as part of a larger event celebrating the life of “The March King.” Events will begin at 9 a.m. and are open to the public.

Also on Nov. 6, the 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael W. Hagee, will officiate a ceremony dedicating the new John Philip Sousa Band Hall at the Marine Barracks Annex, which houses the Marine Band’s newly built rehearsal and support facility, located at 600 Virginia Avenue, Southeast, in Washington, D.C. At the ceremony, which will take place at 1 p.m., and is open to the public, a model of a future statue of Sousa will be unveiled. The statue will someday stand at the facility, as a testament to the memory of Sousa and all he contributed to the legacy of “The President’s Own.” A tour of the new Sousa Hall will follow the dedication.

In California during its fall concert tour, the Marine Band will recognize the birthday of its 17th Director in performances Nov. 5-7 in Stockton, Cupertino, and San Francisco, respectively. The concert program will focus on the music of Sousa, and will reflect a sampling of all his compositional styles, including Overture to *The American Maid*; “In the Land of the Golden Fleece” from *Tales of a Traveler*; and two marches, “Nobles of the Mystic Shrine” and “The Stars and Stripes Forever.”

“Although he is remembered primarily as ‘The March King,’ Sousa composed successful works in a variety of genres and styles popular during his lifetime, including operettas,

descriptive suites, and dance forms such as the waltz and the two-step,” said Marine Band Director Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Colburn. “The goal of our Sousa tribute concert is to provide the most complete possible portrayal of our 17th Director.”

The program is not comprised solely of Sousa compositions. Two other musicians of Sousa’s time, Stephen Foster and Simone Mantia, are represented. Stephen Foster is as closely linked with popular 19th century American music as Sousa. Baritone soloist Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Benneer will sing three of Foster’s tunes: “Gentle Annie,” “Some Folks,” and “Ah! May the Red Rose Live Away!”

Simone Mantia is even more associated with Sousa. Mantia played euphonium from 1896-1903 with The Sousa Band, the civilian band Sousa formed upon leaving the Marine Corps. Marine Band principal euphonium Master Gunnery Sergeant Philip Franke will perform Ermano Picchi’s Original Fantasie, arranged and made famous by Mantia.

Lt. Col. Colburn, on his first tour as 27th Director of “The President’s Own,” will conduct the Nov. 7 concert, as well as the gravesite ceremony on Nov. 6 in Washington. First Lieutenant Michelle A. Rakers, newly appointed Assistant Director, will conduct the concerts on Nov. 5-6.

“I feel extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to conduct programs honoring the sesquicentennial of John Philip Sousa’s birth on my first tour as an Assistant Director,” 1st Lt. Rakers said. “No one takes the podium of the Marine Band without first considering the legacy of Sousa and how his influence informed the modern American symphonic band.”

*Tickets for the Nov. 5-7, tour concerts are available from the concert sponsors local to the tour area. For more information, visit [www.marineband.usmc.mil/pgm\\_tours\\_1.html](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil/pgm_tours_1.html).*



**Artist's rendering of the Marine Barracks Annex and Band Facility, located at 7th Street and Virginia Avenue, in Southeast Washington, D.C.**



## White House Highlights

Recent Marine Band appearances at the White House include:

- T-ball Game
- 9-11 Memorial Service
- Hispanic Heritage Reception
- Tribe Leaders Breakfast
- United Nations Assembly Reception

## The U.S. Marine Band, Playing to Diversity

In his continuing efforts to achieve ethnic diversity in the membership of the Marine Band, Director Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Colburn 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.

## Special Thanks

Armed Forces, law enforcement, and public safety personnel continue to serve in “The Global War on Terrorism.” “The President’s Own” salutes these brave men and women and the families of those who serve so gallantly to secure the freedom of our country.

## The Midwest Clinic Welcomes “The President’s Own”

“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band will present three concerts in Chicago this December in conjunction with The Midwest Clinic, an international band and orchestra conference held annually at the Windy City’s Chicago Hilton and Towers. The concerts, conducted by Marine Band Director Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Colburn and Assistant Director Captain Jason K. Fettig, will be held at 6:45 p.m. and 9 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 15, in the International Ballroom, and at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 16, in the Grand Ballroom.



**Former Marine Band Director Col. Timothy W. Foley, USMC (Ret.) conducts the Marine Band at The Midwest Clinic in December 1998.**

The U.S. Marine Band has enjoyed a rich tradition of performances at The Midwest Clinic, as one of 30 grade schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges, military organizations, and adult and professional groups from around the world that are invited to perform.

The last performance given by “The President’s Own” at The Midwest Clinic was in 1998, under

the baton of 26th Director Colonel Timothy W. Foley, USMC (Ret.). This year marks the first Midwest performance by “The President’s Own” that will be conducted by Lt. Col. Colburn.

The Dec. 15 concert program will feature traditional band works by John Philip Sousa and Ralph Vaughan Williams, new Marine Band transcriptions of orchestral masterworks by Maurice Ravel and Walter Piston, and Joseph Schwantner’s exhilarating Percussion Concerto, featuring Gunnery Sergeant Christopher Rose.

For Thursday’s performance, the Marine Band will present repertoire for clarinet and winds, including Leonard Bernstein’s Prelude, Fugue and Riffs, featuring Master Gunnery Sergeant Jeffrey Strouf and Igor Stravinsky’s Ebony Concerto, featuring Staff Sergeant James Thomley. The program highlight, however, is David Rakowski’s work, *Ten of a Kind*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Mr. Rakowski composed *Ten of a Kind* for the Marine Band in 2001, and it features a 10-member clarinet section as a composite “soloist.”

The Midwest Clinic is an annual conference dedicated to supporting music education by providing educators, students, and musicians access to resources in their field during three days of clinics, performances, lectures, demonstrations, and exhibits. Each year, “The President’s Own,” attends The Midwest Clinic as an exhibiting organization, occupying booth numbers 200, 202, and 204, and interacting with thousands of conference participants throughout the week.

Other exhibitors include: photographers, colleges and universities, music journals, performing organizations, music camps, and more. For more information, please visit [www.themidwestclinic.org](http://www.themidwestclinic.org) or call (847) 424-4163.

## INTRODUCING ... The Public Affairs Office

*Second in a series*

This fall, “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band Public Affairs Office will celebrate its 20th anniversary, as well as the publication of the Marine Band’s newsletter, *NOTES*. This bustling office has seen extensive growth and transition over the past two decades, and continues to strive for excellence by increasing productivity levels, organization awareness, and concert attendance.

In 1984, the Marine Band Public Affairs Office began evolving into its present day form. Prior to this transition period, the office was staffed by public affairs Marines from the Fleet Marine Forces. For the next three years, the band experimented with different personnel combinations in the office: fleet Marines, former Marine Band musicians, and for the first time, public affairs specialists who were enlisted from the civilian ranks. In 1987, the band’s national tour ticketing and publicity polices were revised. In order to continue to support this high-visibility endeavor, as well as the band’s ever-expanding local schedule, 25th Marine Band Director Colonel John R. Bourgeois, USMC (Ret.) enlisted full-time public affairs professionals with backgrounds in journalism, public relations, and graphic design to staff the office.

Today’s Marine Band Public Affairs Office is staffed by Public Affairs Chief Gunnery Sergeant Kristin Mergen, Assistant Public Affairs Chief Staff Sergeant Graziella Morse, and Public Affairs Specialists Staff Sergeants Kay Green and Amanda Conway. These Marines serve as official spokespeople for the organization and are responsible for the overall strategic marketing and public relations positioning of “The President’s

Own.” Their duties include: developing media and public relations plans; overseeing the website, [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil); and managing the organization’s image and identity through design projects, advertising, photography, and conventions.

“The public affairs office manages the varied audiences of ‘The President’s Own,’ both internal and external, local and international,” Gunnery Sgt. Mergen said. “Our backgrounds in public relations, journalism, marketing, arts administration, and music allow us to target

each of these audiences and effectively communicate the more than 500 annual public performances and activities of the Marine Band, Marine Chamber Orchestra, and Marine Chamber Ensembles.”

One of the key functions of the Public Affairs Office is to advance the Marine Band’s annual tour. Each spring over a 10-week period, two representatives from the Public Affairs Office, along with two tour coordinators who are also Marine Band musicians, prepare for the national concert tour by meeting onsite with sponsors designated by Marine Band National Tour Director Dennis Burian. During the meetings, the public affairs representatives discuss the fine points of hosting a successful Marine Band concert. Public affairs is responsible for overseeing public relations on tour and providing ongoing logistical support of ticketing and publicity for each concert.

“The members of the Public Affairs Office play a critical role in the success of the tour advance and ultimately the tour itself,” Mr. Burian said. “As representatives of the tour director, the advance team provides an essential face-to-face first impression to the tour sponsor. They set the professional tone of the tour operation and continue building on the groundwork established by the tour director. In 2003, the band enjoyed an average 97 percent attendance rate for its tour concerts, due in large part to the efforts of the Public Affairs Office.”

The Public Affairs Office also is responsible for the production and distribution of the band’s newsletter, *NOTES*, which has an international circulation of more than 40,000 readers. Additionally, the office handles publicity campaigns and logistics associated with special events, such as the recent change of command concert and ceremony in July 2004 and the 205th anniversary concert with guest conductor John Williams in July 2003.



**From left, Staff Sgts. Kay Green, Graziella Morse, Amanda Conway and Gunnery Sgt. Kristin Mergen are available for questions at concerts, or by phone at (202) 433-5809 or e-mail at [USMBPAO@mbw.usmc.mil](mailto:USMBPAO@mbw.usmc.mil).**



**Staff Sgt. Kay Green takes photos of the Marine Jazz Orchestra at Lincoln Theatre in Washington, D.C.**

## Upcoming Concerts

“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band will present the following special performances in November and December:

### PERFORMANCES COMMEMORATING THE 229TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

#### United States Marine Corps Worship Service

**4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 7**

*Prelude concert by a brass choir from “The President’s Own” will begin at 3:30 p.m.*

Washington National Cathedral  
Massachusetts and Wisconsin Avenues,  
Northwest, Washington, D.C.

Free, no tickets required

**Information:** (202) 433-4073  
or [www.cathedral.org](http://www.cathedral.org)

#### United States Marine Corps Memorial Wreath-Laying Ceremony

**10 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 10**

United States Marine Corps  
War Memorial, North Meade Street  
and Marshall Drive, Alexandria, Va.

Free, no tickets required

**Information:** (202) 433-4073  
or [www.nps.gov/gwmp/usmc.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/usmc.htm)

#### HOLIDAY CONCERTS

#### Pageant of Peace:

#### 81st Lighting of the

#### National Christmas Tree

**Time TBD, Thursday, Dec. 2**

The Ellipse near the White House  
Free, tickets required

**Information:** (202) 208-1631  
or [www.pageantofpeace.org](http://www.pageantofpeace.org)

#### Holiday Carols at Wolf Trap

**4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 5**

Filene Center, Wolf Trap National Park  
for the Performing Arts  
1645 Trap Road, Vienna, Va.

Free, no tickets required

**Information:** (703) 255-1860  
or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org)

## 2005 Concert Season Schedule

**Sunday, January 9 at 2 p.m.**

Marine Band at GMU

**Sunday, January 23 at 2 p.m.**

Chamber Ensembles at GWMNM

**Sunday, January 30 at 2 p.m.**

Chamber Orchestra at NVCC

**Sunday, February 6 at 2 p.m.**

Marine Band at UMD

**Sunday, February 13 at 2 p.m.**

Marine Band at Morgan State  
University Murphy Fine Arts Center’s  
Gilliam Concert Hall, 2201 Argonne  
Drive, Baltimore

**Sunday, February 20 at 2 p.m.**

Chamber Orchestra at NVCC

**Sunday, February 27 at 2 p.m.**

Marine Band at GMU

**Sunday, March 6 at 2 p.m.**

Marine Band at UMD

**Sunday, March 13 at 2 p.m.**

Chamber Ensembles at GWMNM

**Sunday, March 20 at 2 p.m.**

Chamber Orchestra at UMD

**Wednesday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m.**

Marine Band at Mary Washington  
College’s Dodd Auditorium, 1301  
College Avenue, Fredericksburg, Va.

**Sunday, April 3 at 2 p.m.**

Chamber Ensembles at GWMNM

**Sunday, April 10 at 2 p.m.**

Marine Band at GMU

**Sunday, April 17 at 2 p.m.**

Chamber Ensembles at GWMNM

**Sunday, April 24 at 2 p.m.**

Chamber Orchestra at NVCC

**Sunday, May 1 at 2 p.m.**

Marine Band at The Music Center  
at Strathmore Concert Hall, 5301  
Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, Md.

**Sunday, May 8 at 2 p.m.**

Marine Band at NVCC

**Sunday, May 15 at 2 p.m.**

Chamber Ensembles at GWMNM

**Sunday, May 22 at 2 p.m.**

Marine Band at GMU

**Sunday, May 29 at 8 p.m.**

Marine Band at Wolf Trap National  
Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, Va.

#### June, July, and August

Outdoor Marine Band concerts:  
8 p.m., Wednesdays, at the U.S.  
Capitol and 7 p.m., Thursdays,  
at the U.S. Marine Corps War  
Memorial in Arlington, Va.

#### Summer Orchestra Series

Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., June 18,  
July 16, and August 20 at NVCC

#### Fall Chamber Series

Sundays at 2 p.m., October 9, 16,  
and 23 at GWMNM

**2005 Concert Tour:** In October and  
November, the Marine Band will visit  
western Virginia, southern West  
Virginia, western North Carolina,  
Tennessee, northern Alabama,  
Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana,  
Oklahoma, Texas, and New  
Mexico.

#### Concert Venues

**GWMNM:** George Washington Masonic National Memorial Auditorium,  
101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Va.

**UMD:** University of Maryland’s Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center Concert Hall,  
Stadium Drive and Route 193 (University Boulevard), College Park, Md.

**NVCC:** Northern Virginia Community College’s Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall,  
3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria, Va.

**GMU:** George Mason University’s Center for the Arts Concert Hall,  
Braddock Road and Route 123, Fairfax, Va.

**Schedule subject to change.**



## New Members



### **Trombonist Staff Sergeant Samuel Barlow**

of Jackson, Tenn., attended Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn., where in 2000 he earned a bachelor's degree in music education. In 2003, he earned a master's degree in music performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Prior to joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Barlow performed with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra and the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra in Ohio.

### **French hornist Staff Sergeant Jennifer Warnke**

of Algonquin, Ill., earned a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2000 and a master's degree in music from University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory in 2003. In 2004, Staff Sgt. Warnke earned a professional study certificate from Temple University in Philadelphia. Prior to joining the band, Staff Sgt. Warnke was a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Cincinnati and also performed as a freelance musician in Philadelphia.



### **Trumpeter/cornetist Staff Sergeant David Dash**

of Lincroft, N.J., earned a bachelor's degree in music performance in 2001 from Rice University in Houston and a master's degree in music performance in 2003 from Manhattan School of Music in New York. Prior to joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Dash performed with the Imperial Brass Band in New York, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival in Norfolk, Conn., and the Attergau Orchestral Institute in Austria. Staff Sgt. Dash also was a freelance musician in New York and a teacher with the New York Pops' "Salute to Music" program.



### **Trumpeter/cornetist Staff Sergeant Robert Singer**

of Reston, Va., completed two years of study at the Cleveland Institute of Music, then transferred to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he earned a bachelor's degree in music in 1999. In 2002, Staff Sgt. Singer earned a master's degree in music from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. Prior to joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Singer was second trumpet with the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra in Youngstown, Ohio, and also performed with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in Ohio; New World Symphony in Miami; and the Chicago Chamber Musicians.



## Promotions

### **To Master Gunnery Sergeant:**

Drum Major Thomas D. Kohl of Rialto, Calif.

### **To Master Sergeant:**

Harpist Karen Grimsey of Wheaton, Ill.

### **To Gunnery Sergeant:**

Assistant Drum Major William P. Kanteres of Manchester, N.H.; Violist Lisa Ponton of Bourbonnais, Ill.; and Stage Manager Charles Terry, Jr., of Washington, D.C.

## Retirements

### **Flutist Master Sergeant Kathryn Diener**

of Clarence, N.Y., retired in August after 20 years with "The President's Own."

### **Principal euphonium Master Sergeant Steven Kellner**

of Atlanta, retired in September after 24 years of military service, 17 of which were with "The President's Own."

## Vacancies

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

**B-flat clarinet:** Dec. 13

**Percussion:** Feb. 14-15

**Flute:** Feb. 28-Mar. 1

For more 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](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil).