

February
2017

Guest conductor, composer, and former music director of the Seattle Symphony Gerard Schwarz will take the podium for a concert with the Marine Band on Feb. 26.

Photo by Ben VanHouten



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ALL-STAR BAND WITH MAESTRO GERARD SCHWARZ

BY GUNNERY SERGEANT RACHEL GHADIALI

For many years, the Marine Band has been deeply committed to welcoming prominent guest conductors to the podium of “The President’s Own.” That commitment, along with Lt. Col. Jason K. Fettig’s dedication to the ongoing development of music for band, has resulted in a partnership with American conductor Gerard Schwarz, conductor laureate of the Seattle Symphony. Schwarz and the members of “The President’s Own” will collaborate in concert in late-February and to also offer a documentary-style episode of wind ensemble masterpieces for release on public television and online.

Maestro Schwarz will conduct the band in a concert titled “Cornerstones,” at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 26 at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria, Va. Schwarz, a renowned interpreter of 19th century German, Austrian, and Russian repertoire and staunch advocate for American music, led the Seattle Symphony Orchestra from 1985-2001. During his tenure, the orchestra amassed a critically acclaimed discography of more than 140 recordings, created numerous television programs and concert broadcasts resulting in two Emmy awards, and presented more than 22 world premières.

Since 2013, Schwarz has served as director of the All-Star Orchestra, an ensemble of elite musicians from the nation’s leading orchestras, featured in an Emmy Award-winning television series which airs on public television throughout the United States. The series, titled “The All-Star Orchestra,” features popular symphonic scores along with brilliant new works by contemporary American composers. In addition to experiencing the music in the series episodes, viewers can learn what goes into composing, conducting, and performing each piece through interviews with the conductor, musicians, and composers. The series has also been released on DVD by classical music distributor Naxos of America.

Schwarz has assembled an all-star team of top musicians in an effort to encourage a greater understanding and enjoyment of classical music through educational tools accessible on allstarorchestra.org. Now he will expand the project by working with another all-star team of musicians—“The President’s Own.” The celebrated conductor will lead the Marine Band in rehearsals and recording sessions to produce “All-Star Band,” an episode of significant contributions to the ever-expanding repertoire of the wind ensemble.

“We are creating a library of great works with a major educational component that will help grow a love for classical music through exposure and knowledge,” Schwarz explained. “The repertoire of the concert band, though extremely popular in high schools and colleges, is not as well known by the general music-loving audience, and I am hoping that with the exposure of television, DVDs and online, that will change.”

Fettig has been a fan of Maestro Schwarz since he was a young clarinetist. While he was fervently learning clarinet repertoire, some of the first classical recordings he purchased were of the Seattle Symphony conducted by Gerard Schwarz. “At that point, I only knew his name as a world-renowned conductor, and remember my interest being immediately piqued when I saw his unique records in the store,” Fettig said. “Those first recordings included the music of composers like Howard Hanson, David Diamond, and Walter Piston and introduced me to a whole new world of great music, especially by American composers. As my career developed in the Marine Band, those early experiences with Jerry’s work absolutely had a hand in shaping my programming style and advocacy of American music. It is one of the great fortunes of my professional life to have had opportunity to be a part of his special collaborations with the musicians of ‘The President’s Own,’ let alone to be able to now call him a good friend.”

Fettig especially enjoyed working with him in 2012 when he first conducted the Marine Band in a gala concert at The Music Center at Strathmore. “After that collaboration, he brought up the concept of creating programs about the most significant concert band repertoire and featuring the talents of the Marine Band as the oldest continuously active

Gerard Schwarz with members of the Marine Band trumpet section following a Marine Band concert he guest conducted March 12, 2012.



professional band in this country,” Fettig said. “So I was thrilled when he invited us to be part of this project.”

In the week leading up to the concert, Schwarz and the Marine Band will rehearse and record cornerstones of band repertoire for possible future release as part of the All-Star project. “We have participated in documentaries of all kinds on many occasions throughout our history, but not one quite like this that highlights the history and mission of ‘The President’s Own’ in conjunction with the band’s complete performance of some of the most significant cornerstones in the repertoire,” Fettig said. “This combination of history and institutional biography through the lens of an essential educational resource of performance of this great music will be truly unique.”

In programming for the all-star project and “Cornerstones,” Schwarz and Fettig tried to combine the popular works for band as well as several newer pieces appreciated and revered in the band world. The concert will begin with Bright Sheng’s contemporary work titled *Shanghai Overture*, neo-Classical in style and inspired by traditional Chinese compositions, followed by Gustav Holst’s *Suite No. 1 in E-flat, Opus 28, No. 1*, a staple of the concert band repertoire.

The concert will continue with the conductor’s own composition titled *Above and Beyond*, premiered by “The President’s Own” under the composer’s baton in 2012. Other works on the program include Paul Hindemith’s *Symphony in B-flat for Band*; Jennifer Higdon’s *Fanfare Ritmico*; Vincent Persichetti’s *Masquerade*, Opus 102; and William Schuman’s *New England Triptych*.

“We endeavored to find the very best of the core band repertoire often played by the Marine Band and augment

that with several contemporary works of our time that have recently entered the regular repertoire or are destined to become standard in the years ahead,” Fettig explained. “So we are delighted to have Maestro Schwarz once again take the podium of ‘The President’s Own’ as he leads this terrific showcase of original masterpieces for band.”

When asked about the goal of the collaboration with Schwarz, Fettig said: “The goal of the All-Star program is to introduce people from all backgrounds and experiences to the greatest music written for orchestra, performed by the best musicians in the country. We hope that the Marine Band episode will represent those same ideals, highlighting the best original works for band from the past century.”

And Schwarz is confident that “The President’s Own” will accomplish the goal. “The Marine Band’s repertoire and performance, both live and recorded, is phenomenal,” he said. “The band has the highest level of professional wind ensemble playing in the world.”

The Marine Band’s concert with guest conductor Gerard Schwarz will take place at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center at the Northern Virginia Community College campus at 4915 E. Campus Drive in Alexandria. The concert is free and open to the public; no tickets are required. Parking is free in the garage adjacent to the Center.

While “All-Star Orchestra” episodes have aired on public television stations, the “All-Star Band” episode has not been scheduled as of publish time. Please stay tuned for more information on possible future broadcasts. 🎷



Maestro Schwarz conducting the Marine Band during a gala concert on March 12, 2012, at The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda, Md.

SOUSA'S MARCH MANIA: ARE YOU READY?

by Gunnery Sgt. Brian Rust



As anticipation rises for another exciting, educational, intense, and fun-filled round of Sousa's March Mania, the real question at hand is: Are you ready? March Mania officially kicks off on March 4 (pun intended) with the match of Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever" (the 2016 winner) battling E.E. Bagley's

"National Emblem," and continues with a different bout daily until April 3. However, there is no need to wait until the first match to get into the March Mania spirit. Brackets are available now on the Marine Band website, along with the entire lineup of competing marches and links to the march audio. Download a bracket, fill it out, and then share your completed bracket with the Marine Band by emailing it to marineband.publicaffairs@usmc.mil or posting to [facebook.com/marineband](https://www.facebook.com/marineband). Those with winning brackets will be crowned "March King" for a day!

Sousa's March Mania has proven to not only be a fun event for kids and adults alike across the globe, but also a great educational tool for classrooms. During the 2016 competition, thousands of students in band and music classes nationwide participated daily by listening to the different marches, learning about them through provided program notes, and then voting for their favorite. These daily games exposed students to new music while also having fun and enjoying a spirit of competition. During last year's competition a middle school band director from Brunswick, Ga., said, "Thank you for putting together March Mania. It is a great way to introduce these famous marches to my students. We vote at the start of class each day and highlight our winning picks. ... The kids are really getting into it and ask first thing every day which march won from the day before." A high school band director in Washington, Ind., said, "My students love listening to the marches each day and voting. [They] are beginning to understand that music goes beyond their school walls."

This year's March Mania includes many veteran marches from the first three competitions, such as "The Circus Bee," "The Washington Post," "Semper Fidelis," and "The Liberty Bell," as well as the previous March Mania winners: Entry March of the Boyares, Valdres, and "The Stars and Stripes Forever." However, the veteran marches this year will see

some new competition with such first-timers as March of the Resistance, Midway March, "H.M. Jollies," Country Band March, and Superman March.

Will one of the veteran marches hold fast and rise to the top or will one of the newbies make a splash and win it all? Who wins and who loses all depends on you. So, are you ready?

Complete details for Sousa's March Mania 2017, along with brackets and audio, and educational resources for schools, are available at bit.ly/MarchMania2017. 🎆

2017

MARCH MANIA

32 MARCHES. 4 WEEKS. 1 CHAMPION.

WALL OF FAME



2014 CHAMPION



2015 CHAMPION



2016 CHAMPION



2017 CHAMPION



WANDERERS: METAPHORIC JOURNEYS AND ACTUAL TRAVELS

by Gunnery Sgt. Rachel Ghadiali

On Sunday, Feb. 5, the Marine Band will return to the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland in College Park to perform a concert titled “Wanderers.” Conducted by Assistant Director Major Michelle A. Rakers, this free concert will feature music that was created out of personal journeys, either through one’s own creative development or in the literal sense of taking voyages near and far.

The program will begin with The Grand Promenade at the White House (Coronation March) from *Tales of a Traveler*, by John Philip Sousa. Sousa himself lived a life of travel, touring with his band around the country and the world. As the “traveler” referred to in the suite, Sousa conceived the music while on the Sousa Band’s World Tour of 1911. Almost 100 years later, American composer Scott Lindroth wrote *Passage* in 2010, a work which illustrates a journey through his own musical experiences. According to Lindroth, “the piece has retrospective character for me.” The four-note theme heard early in the composition comes from a piece he wrote earlier in his career, and in the middle section he utilizes a texture that he “discovered” 20 years prior to composing *Passage*. “It’s like encountering an old friend who has changed with age, hopefully for the better.”

The program will feature trombone soloist Gunnery Sgt. Samuel Barlow performing Henri Tomasi’s Trombone Concerto and mezzo-soprano Gunnery Sgt. Sara Sheffield singing Charles Ives’s *Memories, Very Pleasant and Rather Sad: A Charles Ives Song Set*. French composer Adolphe Valentin Sellenick’s *Marche Indienne* will continue the traveling theme—the exotic work suggests the composer may

have written the march after taking a trip to India. As with many art forms, some composers largely of the 19th century and very early 20th century developed a fascination with the “Orient” and the title “*Marche Indienne*” along with the melodies offered in this march suggest that very influence.

Finally, the “Wanderers” program will conclude with Italian composer Ottorino Respighi’s *The Pines of Rome*, a tone poem depicting his memories of the Roman landscape. Composed as a companion piece to his earlier work *The Fountains of Rome*, this large-scale work received its American première in 1924 in New York. Lawrence Gilman, the annotator for the concert, wrote in his program notes that the composer “uses nature as a point of departure, in order to recall memories and visions. The century-old trees which so characteristically dominate the Roman landscape become witnesses to the principal events in Roman life.”

Hailed throughout the years as one of the greatest composers of tone poems and an incredibly skilled master of orchestral colors, Respighi had a specific sound in mind for the third movement, titled *The Pines of the Janiculum*. Perhaps drawing upon a memory from his own experiences on or near the hill of Janiculum, Respighi included the recorded sounds of a singing nightingale toward the end of the movement.

“I think the sheer variety of styles that are featured on this particular program will take our patrons on an interesting journey,” Rakers said. “And *The Pines of Rome* is a great way to close the concert. It’s always been a favorite of mine because it captures such a tremendous variety of atmospheric moods and then culminates with such a grand finish. It’s glorious.”

The performance will take place at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 5 at the Dekelboum Concert Hall at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland located at Stadium Drive and Route 192 in College Park, Maryland. The concert is free; no tickets are required and free parking is available. 🍷

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT: CONFLICTS AND CONFLUENCES

by Gunnery Sgt. Brian Rust

Music is inherently built upon the premise of conflict and resolution. With that theme, the Marine Chamber Orchestra will present the concert “Conflicts and Confluences” at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19, at Northern Virginia Community College’s Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall

and Arts Center in Alexandria, Va. Conducted by Director Lt. Col. Jason K. Fettig, the performance is free and no tickets are required. Free parking is available in the adjacent garage.

"The idea for this program sprung from the new Bassoon Concerto that will be given its world première during the performance," Fettig said. "Ken Watson is a former band member and Marine officer who has become a prolific composer and arranger in his life after retirement. He wrote this concerto for our principal bassoonist, Master Sgt. Chris McFarlane, and the music was inspired by the challenges and emotions felt by men and women in uniform during the most trying parts of their service."



Watson, an oboist in the Marine Band from 1974-76, had never intended to have a career in the military, but rather had plans to be an orchestral musician. However, while with the band, Watson was drawn to the Marines stationed at 8th & I and their leadership. He decided he wanted to be a Marine Corps officer and eventually became a Marine aviator and retired as a lieutenant colonel. Watson said of his Bassoon Concerto: "The original inspiration for this piece was the inner turmoil experienced by military members coping with loss, separation, and re-integration after long deployments. ... I drew on this rich palette of emotional material, using instability, stability, dissonance, and consonance to express the ideas of inner conflict and resolution."

In addition to the Bassoon Concerto, the orchestra will perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Overture to *Don Giovanni*. The opera is filled with conflict and drama and is widely considered to be one of Mozart's finest efforts in the genre. The concert will conclude with Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony No. 9 in E-flat, Opus 70, a work never before performed by the Marine Chamber Orchestra. Shostakovich composed his symphony as a celebration of the Russian

victory over the Nazis on the eastern front of the Second World War.

Prior to the performance, a clarinet quartet will offer pre-concert music in the lobby beginning at 1:15 p.m. Also, Fettig, McFarlane, and Watson will be available in the lobby immediately following the concert to chat with patrons about the program and performance. 🎷

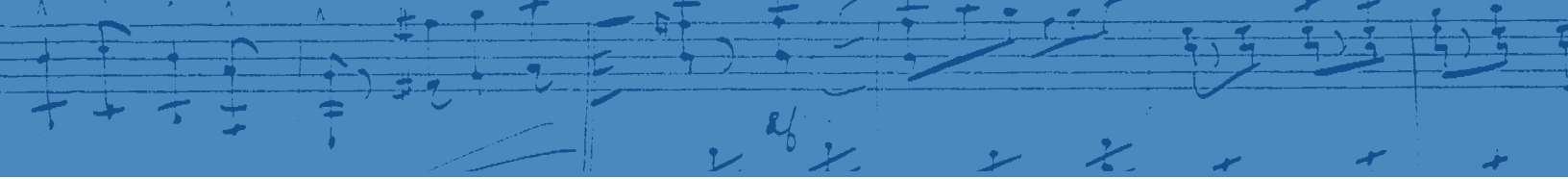
CONCERTO COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL MUSICIANS

by Master Sgt. Kristin duBois

The Marine Band's Concerto Competition for High School Musicians marks its 10th anniversary with eight highly talented and diverse young musicians from across the country: flute player Jarrett May from Euless, Texas; oboe player Olivia Johann from Centreville, Va.; clarinet player Anders Peterson from Northfield, Minn.; trumpet player Forrest Johnston from Great Falls, Va.; French horn player Shawn Zheng from Murfreesboro, Tenn.; trombone player George Foreman from Syosset, N.Y.; tuba player Joshua Williams from College Park, Ga.; and percussionist Joshua Park from Short Hills, N.J.

The final round will take place at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11 at the John Philip Sousa Band Hall in southeast Washington, D.C., and will stream live at www.marineband.marines.mil. The judges will include Marine Band Director Lt. Col. Jason K. Fettig, Assistant Directors Major Michelle A. Rakers and Capt. Ryan J. Nowlin, and guest judge composer Joel Puckett. The winner of the Concerto Competition will receive a \$2,500 scholarship from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and the opportunity to perform their solo on stage with the Marine Band at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 9 at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center. The runner up will receive a \$500 scholarship.

The Concerto Competition has identified a number of up-and-coming musicians throughout the past 10 years—many of which have been featured on NPR's "From the Top" program and have performed with world-class ensembles internationally. In 2008, the first co-winners included oboe player Timothy Gocklin and tuba player Ibanda Ruhumbika. After graduating from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Yale University in New Haven, Conn., Gocklin is currently performing with the Akropolis Reed Quintet, an award-winning ensemble which champions "the next generation of maverick musicians," according to its website. In addition to performances and recordings, Akropolis has commissioned more than 25 new woodwind quintet



selections and delivers essential educational outreach throughout the Midwest region. Ruhumbika has also made a career for himself as a professional musician. While he attended the Juilliard School in New York, he and some friends formed Stay Human, a band comprising the unusual combination of saxophone, washboard, tuba, trombone, drums, piano, and harmonica. After years of honing their sound in live performances and recording albums, Stay Human, led by Jon Batiste, became the house band on the Late Show with Stephen Colbert in September 2015.

2010 co-winner Catherine Chen is currently associate principal bassoon in the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in Canada, after graduating from the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and performing with numerous festivals and as

the principal bassoon in the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra in Pennsylvania.

Percussionist Zachary Sherburn won the 2011 competition and in 2016 he was named associate director of bands at Flower Mound High School in Texas following his graduation two months prior from Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Other previous winners are currently pursuing their education at such schools as Baylor University in Waco, Texas; the University of Michigan; Juilliard; Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.; and the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles.

Information about the 2017-18 Concerto Competition will be available at www.marineband.marines.mil in early May. 🎆

THE 58TH PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION WRAP-UP

On Friday, Jan. 20, “The President’s Own” supported its 55th Presidential Inauguration. The Marine Band is the only musical unit to provide music for the swearing-in ceremony, parade, inaugural ball, and prayer service.

At 10 a.m., the Marine Band took its place directly beneath the inauguration platform and began live music with Washington’s Grand March, written by an anonymous composer in honor of President George Washington; John Williams’ Liberty Fanfare; Capt. Ryan J. Nowlin’s arrangement of “Amazing Grace” and Michael Kamen’s Suite from *Band of Brothers*; several John Philip Sousa marches; Thomas Knox’s arrangement of “God of our Fathers,” premiered at Ronald Reagan’s 1981 inauguration; and the traditional “Battle Hymn of the Republic.”

Lt. Col. Jason K. Fettig programmed music to reflect the ceremonial grandeur and significance of this 58th inauguration. The pieces selected for the inaugural prelude were chosen based on the mood each piece lent to the event.

During the parade, the Marine Band led the second division, and performed Sousa’s marches “Semper Fidelis” and “The Thunderer” while on the march. As the band passed the reviewing stand, the Marine Band Drum Majors and five Marine Band officers saluted President Donald J. Trump and the Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller who stood proudly next to the Commander in Chief.

Besides performing inaugural prelude music, “The President’s Own” played a significant role during the swearing-in ceremony by providing musical support for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir singing “America, the Beautiful” and Jackie Evancho singing The National Anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner,” as well as playing “Hail Columbia” and “Hail to the Chief” after the respective oaths of office. The band also performed at the Salute to the Armed Services Inaugural Ball, and the National Prayer Service at the Washington National Cathedral on Jan. 21.



The Marine Band performed during the swearing-in ceremony during the 58th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol.



The Marine Band led the second division during the Inaugural Parade and played honors and The Marines’ Hymn as they passed the Presidential reviewing stand.

Click the links for more: [Inaugural Ceremony Music Playlist](#) | [Inauguration Photo Albums](#) | [Complete Program of Music Performed](#)

FEATURED PROGRAMS

All concerts are free and open to the public. Schedule is subject to change. For concert information and inclement weather announcements, please call (202) 433-4011 or visit www.marineband.marines.mil.

MARINE BAND

WANDERERS

2 PM | Sunday, Feb. 5

Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts, UMD, College Park, MD

Maj. Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

John Philip Sousa*/ed. Rogers
The Grand Promenade at the White House
(Coronation March) from *Tales of a Traveler*

Henri Tomasi/trans. D. Patterson*
Trombone Concerto
Gunnery Sgt. Samuel Barlow, soloist

Scott Lindroth
Passage

Adolphe Valentin Sellenick
Marche Indienne

Charles Ives/trans. Elkus
Memories, Very Pleasant and Rather Sad: A Charles Ives Song Set

Ottorino Respighi/trans. Duker
The Pines of Rome

CONCERTO COMPETITION FINALS

2 PM | Saturday, Feb. 11

Sousa Band Hall, Marine Barracks Annex, Washington, DC

arranged by Floyd E. Werle and Randall Eyles
The Golden Age of the Xylophone
Joshua Park, Short Hills, NJ – xylophone

Cécile Chaminade/ed. Moyse
Concertino, Opus 107
Jarrett May, Euless, TX – flute

Ferdinand David
Concertino for Trombone, Opus 4
George Foreman, Syosset, NY – trombone

*Member, U.S. Marine Band

Henri Rabaud
Solo de Concours, Opus 10
Anders Peterson, Northfield, MN – clarinet

Edward Gregson
Allegro deciso from Concerto for Tuba
Joshua Williams, College Park, GA – tuba

Richard Strauss
Allegro from Horn Concerto No. 1 in E-flat, Opus 11
Shawn Zheng, Murfreesboro, TN, – horn

Joseph Haydn/ed. Wunderer
Allegro spiritoso from Oboe Concerto in C
Olivia Johann, Centreville, VA – oboe

Joseph Haydn
Allegro from Trumpet Concerto in E-flat
Forrest Johnston, Great Falls, VA – trumpet

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

2 PM | Sunday, Feb. 12

Sousa Band Hall, Marine Barracks Annex, Washington, DC

Staff Sgt. Trevor Mowry, coordinator

Arthur Bliss
Quintet for Oboe and Strings

Richard Strauss/arr. Sheppard
Suite of Waltzes from *Der Rosenkavalier*

Claude Debussy
Sonata for Cello and Piano

Hugo Wolf
Italian Serenade

David Lang
these broken wings

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

CONFLICTS AND CONFLUENCES

2 PM | Sunday, Feb. 19

Schlesinger Concert Hall, NOVA, Alexandria, VA

Lt. Col. Jason K. Fettig, conducting

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Overture to *Don Giovanni*, K. 527



Master Sgt. Christopher McFarlane will perform Ken Watson's Bassoon Concerto on Feb. 19.

Kenneth Watson
Bassoon Concerto
Master Sgt. Christopher McFarlane
world première

Dmitri Shostakovich
Symphony No. 9 in E-flat, Opus 70

MARINE BAND

CORNERSTONES

2 PM | Sunday, Feb. 26

Schlesinger Concert Hall, NOVA, Alexandria, VA

Gerard Schwarz, guest conducting

Bright Sheng
Shanghai Overture

Gustav Holst/ed. Fennell
Suite No. 1 in E-flat, Opus 28, No. 1

Gerard Schwarz
Above and Beyond

Paul Hindemith
Symphony in B-flat for Band

Jennifer Higdon
Fanfare Ritmico

Vincent Persichetti
Masquerade, Opus 102

William Schuman
New England Triptych (after the music of William Billings)



CELEBRATING JOHN WILLIAMS' 85TH BIRTHDAY

by Gunnery Sgt. Rachel Ghadiali

On Feb. 1, “The President’s Own” kicked off #WilliamsWeek to honor maestro John Williams who will celebrate his 85th birthday on Wednesday, Feb. 8. Throughout the week, the Marine Band will share photos, music, and special memories of the famed composer. One of the most popular and successful American orchestral composers of the modern age, Williams is the winner of five Academy Awards, 22 Grammys, four Golden Globes, and five Emmys. Williams has worked with the Marine Band several times in recent years, conducting anniversary concerts in Washington, D.C., in 2003 and 2008, and an encore during a tour concert at Royce Hall in Los Angeles in 2009.

John Towner Williams was born in Queens, N.Y., on Feb. 8, 1932, just one month shy of the death of John Philip Sousa. The son of a jazz drummer, Williams studied piano and composition at the University of California at Los Angeles and The Juilliard School in New York City. By the time he was in his late twenties, Williams was an active jazz and studio pianist and began composing music for television and films. In 1974 he met an ambitious young director named Steven Spielberg, forging one of the most successful partnerships in the history of filmmaking. That year, the two worked together on a film called *Sugarland Express* starring Goldie Hawn and

John Williams guest conducting the Marine Band during its 210th anniversary gala concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., in July 2008.

a year later teamed up again for *Jaws*. It wasn’t long before Williams’ music garnered international attention unlike any American composer since Sousa. Williams has written the music to some of the most popular films of all time and dozens of his memorable themes have reached iconic status worldwide.

The Marine Band first collaborated with the legendary film composer in 2003 to celebrate the organization’s 205th anniversary. Williams conducted the band in a gala concert of his own works at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. He returned to the podium of “The President’s Own” in 2008 to help the band celebrate its 210th anniversary in another concert at the Kennedy Center. Five years later, Maestro Williams generously composed a fanfare titled “For ‘The President’s Own’” in celebration of the ensemble’s 215th anniversary. Williams attended a rehearsal via Skype while the Marine Band read the fanfare in May 2013, then, to the delight of “The President’s Own,” he conducted the band in person during a rehearsal in July in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall in Washington, D.C. Following the rehearsal, Williams exclaimed to then-Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn, “Fantastic. Colonel, you have a hot band!”

In an interview produced and recorded for the Marine Band’s YouTube channel, Williams said to Colburn, “It’s

always wonderful being with them. The band is so fabulous technically and in every possible way. The first time I came, I was overwhelmed because I'd been conducting orchestras my whole life. ... The brilliance of the brass particularly thrilled me. ... When I hear 'The President's Own' brass play, it's a unique thrill ... they're so beautifully matched and balanced."

He also admitted in the interview that writing "For 'The President's Own'" was a little scary because "scoring for band is ... an art in itself."

Music production chief/Staff arranger Master Gunnery Sergeant Donald Patterson first experienced John Williams' music when he saw *Star Wars* in the theater while a high school teenager. He has since completed copy work on several Williams compositions.

"John Williams is a master of taking existing orchestral colors and sounds and textures to elicit certain emotions and feelings," Patterson said. "But my favorite of his pieces that I worked on was 'The Imperial March' because it sounded almost exactly like the original. It worked so well that I didn't even miss the strings."

Marine Band arranger Staff Sergeant Scott Ninmer has arranged several of Williams' compositions for the Marine Chamber Orchestra to perform at the White House. On arranging Williams' music, Ninmer says, "It's always simultaneously a learning experience in working with his scores. His scores are a treasure trove of brilliant ideas, and as a composer, opening one of his scores is akin to opening up a birthday present."

"I arranged the Flying Theme from *ET: The Extra-Terrestrial* to honor Steven Spielberg at the Medal of Freedom awards reception in 2015, a *Star Wars* medley to honor George Lucas at the Kennedy Center Honors in 2015, and a medley of music from *Home Alone* for the orchestra's holiday performances at the White House in 2016," said Ninmer. "It's always a thrill to work with Williams' music ... but oftentimes challenging to adapt this music that is normally written for a large Hollywood orchestra for our modestly-sized orchestra. If I've done my job properly, it will still sound roughly the same."

"My favorite would have to be the 'Home Alone' medley I arranged this past year," Ninmer continued. "*Home Alone* is one of my all-time favorite movies, and the music plays a large factor in that. His ebullient score fits the mood of the movie perfectly. ... And I can't think of another composer in history whose melodies are so ubiquitous and renowned to both musicians and non-musicians alike."

Marine Band Director Lt. Col. Jason K. Fettig echoed Ninmer's sentiment, saying, "There are few American composers living today who have had a greater influence in the world of both the classical and popular music than John Williams. No American composer perhaps since John Philip Sousa has written so much music that has entered the public consciousness world-wide, and Mr. Williams' music has transcended the films for which much of it was originally written to become anthems for the emotions his works conjure all on their own. Much of Mr. Williams' music also inspires patriotism equal to that of our traditional American songs, and in the Marine Band we have been proud to include his music on so many occasions of national importance, from Presidential Inaugurations and national holidays to major events at the White House and all across the nation on our annual tours. It remains one of the great privileges of the United State Marine Band to have had so many opportunities to make music with Maestro Williams himself and to have established such a warm friendship with this great American artist. On behalf of all of the men and women of 'The President's Own,' we wish him a very happy birthday!" 🍷



John Williams with the Marine Band in July 2013 during the recording of his composition "For 'The President's Own.'"

WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



Recent appearances by "The President's Own" supporting the White House include:

- Residence Staff Holiday Reception
- Reception with Non-Career Ambassadors
- School Counselor of the Year event
- East Room Event
- Chicago Cubs visit
- Appointee Appreciation Reception
- Dinner in honor of First Lady Michelle Obama's birthday
- Farewell reception for White House staff
- Inaugural Tea
- Reception for Trump administration
- Oval Office Reception

PROMOTIONS

To Master Gunnery Sergeant: Trumpeter/Cornetist Christian Ferrari

To Master Sergeant: Bassoonist Bernard Kolle

To Gunnery Sergeant: Graphic Design Specialist Brian Rust



For more information contact the Marine Band Operations Officer at marineband.operations@usmc.mil or (202) 433-5714.

NEW MEMBERS



French horn player Staff Sergeant Rebecca McLaughlin joined "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in November 2016. Staff Sgt. McLaughlin began her musical training on French horn at age 8. After graduating in 2006 from Hammond High School in Columbia, Md., she attended the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University (IU) in Bloomington where she

earned a bachelor's degree in music education in 2010. She studied with Richard Seraphinoff of IU and Bruce Moore of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Prior to joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. McLaughlin performed in the Disneyland All-American College Band in Anaheim, Calif.; and served in both the United States Army Field Band at Ft. Meade, Md., and the Eighth Army Band in Seoul, South Korea.



Trombonist Staff Sergeant Russell Sharp joined "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in January 2017. Staff Sgt. Sharp began his musical instruction on trombone at age 11 and graduated in 2001 from Mustang High School in Mustang, Okla. He earned a bachelor's degree in trombone performance from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond in 2006

where he studied with Dr. Kent Kidwell, retired principal trombone with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic. In 2007, he earned a master's degree in trombone performance from Oklahoma City University's Wanda L. Bass School of Music. He has also studied with Lee Rogers, principal trombone with the Washington National Opera in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the band, he was the principal trombone with the U.S. Naval Academy Band in Annapolis, Md., from 2007-16. He was also a substitute with the Kennedy Center Opera Orchestra in Washington, D.C.; the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra in Pennsylvania; the Oklahoma City Philharmonic; and the Annapolis Symphony in Maryland.

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