



220
THE
PRESIDENT'S
OWN

UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

CONCERT • 2018 • SEASON



1798 — 2018

COLONEL JASON K. FETTIG, DIRECTOR

SHOWCASE SERIES

JAN / FEB

Living History Concert

SOUSA SEASON OPENER: "THE MARCH KING" and the MARINE BAND, 1880-1892

Sunday, Jan. 7 | 2 PM

Col. Jason K. Fettig, conducting
Marine Band at GMU, Fairfax, VA

John Philip Sousa first served in the Marine Band as an apprentice musician from ages 13-20. Following his enlistment, he worked as a conductor and composer in Philadelphia until 1880, when at the age of only 25 he was called back by the Commandant of the Marine Corps to serve as the United States Marine Band's 17th Director. During the next 12 years, Sousa embarked on a musical odyssey that simultaneously transformed "The President's Own" from a local military band into a world-renowned musical organization and transformed himself into a national celebrity and "The March King." This concert traces Sousa's career as Marine Band Director and highlights some of the music and events that shaped his famous tenure. Much of the music featured on this program came from Sousa's pen during his years as Director, and all was performed with the band during his time on the podium of "The President's Own."



SOUSA* | President Garfield's Inauguration March

SOUSA* | *In Parlor and Street*

ROSSINI/rev. Laurendeau/arr. Meyrelles | "Inflammatu" from *Stabat Mater*

Gunnery Sgt. Robert Singer, cornet soloist

GODFREY II | *A Comical Contest*

SOUSA* | Presidential Polonaise

SOUSA* | March, "Washington Post"

SOUSA* | *Sheridan's Ride*

SOUSA* | March, "The Belle of Chicago"

SOUSA* | Selections from *The International Congress*

VERDI/trans. Sousa* | Bolero from *The Sicilian Vespers*
Gunnery Sgt. Sara Sheffield, mezzo-soprano

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Sunday, Jan. 21 | 2 PM

Gunnery Sgt. Elisabeth Plunk, coordinator
Sousa Band Hall, Washington, DC



MOZART | "Parto! Ma tu ben mio" from *La clemenza di Tito*, K. 621

DEBUSSY | Sonata

BERNSTEIN/arr. Gale | Suite from *West Side Story*

CONDON | *Fractalia*

MENDELSSOHN | String Quartet in D, Opus 44, No. 1

GRIEG'S PIANO CONCERTO and his LEIPZIG INFLUENCE

Sunday, Jan. 28 | 2 PM

Maj. Michelle A. Rakers, conducting
Marine Chamber Orchestra at NOVA, Alexandria, VA

Although he left his native Norway to study in the traditions of Felix Mendelssohn and Robert Schumann, Edvard Grieg eventually returned to his homeland to find his own nationalistic voice, becoming the first Norwegian composer to achieve major international recognition. He attained that fame at the young age of 25 with his Piano Concerto in A minor, one of the most prominent in the piano repertoire, and the work celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2018. Bookending the program are works by those very composers of the German tradition that markedly influenced his compositional style.

MENDELSSOHN | *Ruy Blas* Overture, Opus 95

GRIEG | Piano Concerto in A minor, Opus 16
Staff Sgt. Christopher Schmitt, soloist

SCHUMANN | Symphony No. 4 in D minor, Opus 120

ONCE UPON A TIME...

Sunday, Feb. 4 | 2 PM

Capt. Ryan J. Nowlin, conducting
Marine Band at NOVA, Alexandria, VA

The timeless tradition of storytelling connects past generations to the present; it informs, explores, imagines, and most importantly, inspires. Join the Marine Band in a musical collection of some of the world's most memorable stories from stage and screen. The concert includes *On the Town*, *E.T. (the Extra Terrestrial)*, and *Carmen*, and features the Marine Band vocalists in the 20th anniversary celebration of the Tony-Award winning musical *Ragtime*.

DONIZETTI/trans. Pulvirenti* | Overture to *Don Pasquale*

BERNSTEIN/trans. Lavender | Three Dance Episodes from *On the Town*

SARASATE/trans. Drijvers | Carmen Fantasy, Opus 25
Gunnery Sgt. Erika Sato, violin soloist



WILLIAMS/arr. Lavender | "Adventures on Earth" from *E.T. (The Extra-Terrestrial)*

FLAHERTY/lyrics Ahrens/arr. Nowlin* | *Ragtime: An American Story*

Master Sgt. Kevin Bennear, baritone
Gunnery Sgt. Sara Sheffield, mezzo-soprano

Living History Concert

IN THE GRAND FOYER: THE SOUNDTRACK of the WHITE HOUSE

Sunday, Feb. 11 | 2 PM

Col. Jason K. Fettig, conducting
Marine Chamber Orchestra at NOVA, Alexandria, VA

The Marine Band has provided music to the White House continuously since New Year's Day 1801. The music of America heard at the Executive Mansion has evolved considerably through the centuries, but the purpose of that music has remained steadfast. It is the soundtrack of our nation and an important aspect of life, culture, and diplomacy inside one of the most famous residences in the world. Take a virtual tour of the Grand Foyer at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue with the Marine Chamber Orchestra in the very configuration in which they regularly appear in the White House as Marine Band Director Col. Jason K. Fettig narrates the concert and shares memorable musical moments from the last 20 years of performances for White House guests by "The President's Own."



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY SPECTAR CORP/SHUTTERSTOCK

BOYCE | Symphony No. 1 in B-flat

KERN/arr. Nowlin* | "All the Things You Are"

E. BERNSTEIN/orch. Palmer | Suite from *To Kill a Mockingbird*

WILLIAMS/arr. Nowlin* | Music from *Lincoln*

DRUMM | "Hail, America!"

SANDERSON/arr. Knox* | Four Ruffles and Flourishes and "Hail to the Chief"

BACH/ed. Stokowski | Aria from Overture No. 3 in D

MOZART | Allegro con brio from Symphony No. 25 in G minor, K. 183

BERNSTEIN/arr. Mason | *West Side Story*

GERSHWIN/arr. Sayre | "Someone To Watch Over Me"

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES: PERCUSSION

Sunday, Feb. 18 | 2 PM

Master Gunnery Sgt. Mark Latimer and
Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Bisesi, coordinators
Sousa Band Hall, Washington, DC



BISESI* | Rudimental Work for Three Rope Tension Drums and One Rope Tension Bass Drum

PAULSON* | *Time to Go*

PAWASSER | *sculpture in wood*

CAGE | *First Construction (In Metal)*

BEALL | *Deliverance*

NAZZIOLA | *Cat and Mouse*

HARRISON | Concerto for Violin with Percussion Orchestra
Staff Sgt. Christopher Franke, soloist

A SYMPHONIC EPIC

Sunday, Feb. 25 | 2 PM

Col. Jason K. Fettig, conducting
Marine Band at UMD, College Park, MD

This program features two very different but equally epic symphonies, including one of Gustav Mahler's most iconic contributions to the genre. His complete Symphony No. 3 is more than an hour and a half in length and uses a massive orchestra, chorus, and soloists. However, the 35-minute first movement is a miniature symphony in and of itself and will be performed in transcription on this concert along with the transformative Finale of the entire work. The first half of the program features composer Johan de Meij's dramatic and colorful Symphony No. 1 inspired by the legendary J. R. R. Tolkien's books *The Lord of the Rings*. The year 2018 marks the 30th anniversary of this substantial original symphony for band, and the Marine Band was among the first to perform it three decades ago. The composer himself will be on hand to lead this commemorative performance of his Symphony No. 1.



JOHAN DE MEIJ

DE MEIJ | Symphony No. 1, *The Lord of the Rings*
Johan de Meij, guest conductor

MAHLER | Symphony No. 3 in D minor
(*excerpts arranged by Schaefer, D. Patterson*, and Reynolds*)

SHOWCASE SERIES

MAR / APR



Living History Concert

A LOOK BACK: 1918 and the SANTELMANN ORCHESTRA

Sunday, March 4 | 2 PM

Capt. Ryan J. Nowlin, conducting
Master Gunnery Sgt. Peter Wilson, moderator
Marine Chamber Orchestra at Warner Hall, Quantico, VA

Violinist William H. Santelmann was Director of the Marine Band, serving from 1898-1927. Under his leadership a symphony orchestra was formed within "The President's Own" and was composed of band musicians who doubled on string instruments. During this program, the Marine Chamber Orchestra will take the audience back to 1918, a time when the world was at war. The program will include Staff Sgt. Charlene Prescott's performance of Camille Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1 and Marine Band Director Taylor Branson's march "The Marines of Belleau Wood," in honor of the centennial of the battle that established the Marine Corps as an indispensable fighting force.



SANTELMANN* | March, "Thomas Jefferson"

SUPPÉ | Overture to *Light Cavalry*

SAINT-SAËNS | Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Opus 33
Staff Sgt. Charlene Prescott, soloist

BRANSON*/ed. Nowlin* | March, "The Marines of Belleau Wood"

COPLAND | Suite from *The Tender Land*

MASSENET | Dimanche Soir from Suite No. 7,
Scènes alsaciennes

OFFENBACH/arr. Knox* | The Marines' Hymn

SMITH | National Anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner"

SOUSA* | March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"

Living History Concert

MARINE CORPS WOMEN'S RESERVE BAND TRIBUTE

Sunday, March 11 | 2 PM

Maj. Michelle A. Rakers, conducting
Dr. Jill Sullivan, guest moderator
Marine Band at NOVA, Alexandria, VA

This program will tell the story of those talented and adventurous women who served our country in a most unique and unprecedented manner. Author of the book *Bands of Sisters: U.S. Women's Military Bands during World War II*, Dr. Jill Sullivan will serve as a guide through the personal accounts of those very women who blazed a trail for many to follow. The Marine Corps Women's Reserve Band of Camp Lejeune was established under the watch of "The President's Own" to support bond drives and was active during World War II from 1943-45. In 1944, the ensemble even sat in for one of the Marine Band's popular "Dream Hour" broadcasts, a program that will be reenacted in its entirety as part of this concert. Join us as we celebrate an important and largely untold chapter in the history of bands in America, and honor the achievements of these courageous pioneers.



SOUSA* | March, "Semper Fidelis"

TCHAIKOVSKY/trans. Safranek | Finale from Symphony No. 4
in F minor, Opus 36

SCHUMANN/trans. Campbell | Konzerstück in F for
Four Horns, Opus 86

Gunnery Sgts. Hilary Harding, Greta Richard, Jennifer Paul,
and Staff Sgt. Brigitte Knox, soloists

SOUSA* | March, "Sound Off"

arranged **NOWLIN*** | *Sentimental Journey:
A World War II Hit Parade*

Gunnery Sgt. Sara Sheffield, mezzo-soprano

SAVERINO* | March of the Women Marines

MEACHAM | March, "American Patrol"

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS/trans. Beeler | "Rhosymedre," Prelude
on a Welsh Hymn Tune

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Sunday, March 18 | 2 PM

Gunnery Sgt. Hilary Harding, coordinator
Sousa Band Hall, Washington, DC



ANDRIESEN | *Workers Union*

FIELD | Quintet in A-flat, H. 34

ARNOLD | Three Shanties

BOYDELL | Viking Lip Music

arranged **WOLIN*** | Medley of the Traditional Folk Music
of Ireland

Living History Concert

FOR "THE PRESIDENT'S OWN"

Sunday, March 25 | 2 PM

Capt. Ryan J. Nowlin, conducting
Col. John R. Bourgeois, USMC (ret.), guest conductor
Marine Band at NOVA, Alexandria, VA

Throughout the 220-year history of the organization, the United States Marine Band has commissioned and premiered new compositions, transcriptions, and arrangements from the pens of such legendary composers as Gustav Holst and John Williams. Many of these time-honored works have made their way into the standard repertoire of concert bands the world over. Featuring a special guest-conducting appearance by the band's 25th Director, Col. John R. Bourgeois, USMC (ret.), join the Marine Band for a concert of music written especially for "The President's Own." The program will also feature a special guest soloist: the winner of the Marine Band 2018 Concerto Competition.



LESHNOFF/trans. Nowlin* | *Starburst*
transcription world premiere

BACH/trans. Knox* | Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C, BWV 564

SOUSA* | March, "Semper Fidelis"

WILLIAMS | Fanfare, "For 'The President's Own'"

HOLST | Prelude and Scherzo, *Hammersmith*, Opus 52

BIZET/arr. D. Patterson* | "Habanera" from *Carmen*
Gunnery Sgt. Sara Sheffield, mezzo-soprano

BARNES | Fantasy Variations on a Theme by
Niccolò Paganini, Opus 71

Living History Concert

THE DREAM HOUR

Sunday, April 8 | 2 PM

Col. Jason K. Fettig, conducting
Robert Aubry Davis of NPR, guest moderator
Marine Band at UMD, College Park, MD

"With the stirring strains of the Marines' Hymn, the National Broadcasting Company brings you the music of the United States Marine Band!" Thus began every script of one of the longest running programs in radio history, NBC's "The Dream Hour," which began in 1922 and continued through the 1940s. The original program was created for shut-ins, and musical selections were largely determined by patrons sending in requests. The result was a delightful mix of classic marches, thrilling overtures, virtuoso solos, and novelty numbers. In celebration of the 220th anniversary year of "The President's Own," the band once again presents one of its popular live re-enactments of these famous broadcasts from the Golden Age of radio. Radio and television broadcaster, actor, and creator and host of NPR's "Millennium Music," Robert Aubry Davis will serve as guest moderator for this year's mix of music and memories from yesteryear.



COATES/trans. Williams | Knightsbridge March from
London Suite

BÉLA/trans. Roberts | Lustspiel Overture, Opus 73

SOUSA* | March, "The Man Behind the Gun"

KENNAN | "Night Soliloquy"
Master Gunnery Sgt. Betsy Hill, flute soloist

GOULD | Horseless Carriage Galop from *Family Album Suite*

DOUSE* | March, "Defenders of Freedom"

FRIEDEMANN | Slavonic Rhapsody No. 1, Opus 114

GLAZUNOV/arr. Duthoit | Valse de Concert, Opus 47

EVANS/arr. Leaman | "Let's All Sing Like the Birdies Sing"

PICCHI/arr. Mantia | Original Fantasie
Staff Sgt. Hiram Diaz, euphonium

MCCOY | March, "Sons of Uncle Sam"

ROSSINI/trans. anonymous | Overture to *William Tell*

SOUSA* | March, "Semper Fidelis"



Watch for the Live Stream stamp on select concerts. These performances will stream live on the Marine Band's website and YouTube channel.

*Member, U.S. Marine Band

SHOWCASE SERIES

APR / MAY



YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT: LET'S SING, SING A SONG

Sunday, April 15 | 2 PM

Capt. Ryan J. Nowlin, conducting
Featuring Bob McGrath from Sesame Street
Marine Chamber Orchestra at NOVA, Alexandria, VA

For nearly 50 years, Bob McGrath educated, entertained, and inspired generations of children from America's most inviting neighborhood: Sesame Street. Mr. McGrath joins the Marine Chamber Orchestra for a special concert of classic songs and sing-a-longs from his extraordinary musical and educational career as an original Sesame Street cast member.

This 50-minute concert is best suited for kids ages 3-8, but all are welcome. Following the performance, all children are invited to try their favorite instruments in our musical Petting Zoo.



CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Sunday, April 22 | 2 PM

Staff Sgt. Meaghan Kawaller, coordinator
Sousa Band Hall, Washington, DC

LU | Partita for Brass Trio

RAVEL | Sonata for Violin and Cello

SPOHR | Sechs deutsche Lieder, Opus 103

MELLITS | Music for Five Musicians



FAIR WINDS and FOLLOWING SEAS

Sunday, April 29 | 2 PM

Maj. Michelle A. Rakers, conducting
Marine Band at NOVA, Alexandria, VA

After 20 years of inspired service, nearly 14 as Assistant Director, Maj. Michelle A. Rakers will make her final appearance with the United States Marine Band this Spring. Maj. Rakers joined "The

President's Own" in 1998 as a trumpeter/cornetist and was appointed an Assistant Director in 2004, the first female conductor in Marine Band history. This engaging program is filled with some of her favorite works, opening with a new transcription of Joan Tower's *Made in America*. The program continues with the music of Percy Grainger, Samuel Barber, Leonard Bernstein, and Kent Kennan's Trumpet Sonata. Don't miss Maj. Rakers' final performance with "The President's Own" as we wish her fair winds and following seas.

TOWER/trans. D. Patterson* | *Made in America*

KENNAN | Trumpet Sonata
Gunnery Sgt. Amy McCabe, soloist

BERNSTEIN/trans. Bocook | Symphonic Suite from
On the Waterfront

GRAINGER/arr. Kreines | *Danish Folk-Music Settings*

BARBER/trans. Duker | Symphony No. 1, Opus 9,
Symphony in One Movement

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Sunday, May 6 | 2 PM

Gunnery Sgt. Joseph DeLuccio, coordinator
Sousa Band Hall, Washington, DC

HOLBORNE/ed. Glasel & King | Five Pieces for Brass Quintet

HAYDN | Duo for Violin and Viola No. 3 in B-flat, Hob VI:3

HOROVITZ | Quartet for Oboe and Strings, Opus 18

SMIT | Sextet



LEONARD BERNSTEIN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 13 | 2 PM

Col. Jason K. Fettig, conducting
Marine Band at NOVA, Alexandria, VA

The year 2018 marks the 100th year of the birth of the great American conductor, composer, and educator Leonard Bernstein. From his featured conducting debut with the New York Philharmonic in 1943 that catapulted him into the spotlight, to his emotional, final performance with the Boston

Symphony Orchestra at the Tanglewood Music Center just a few months before his death in 1990, Bernstein left a mark on the orchestral world that has not been surpassed by any other American conductor. Equally known as a composer, Bernstein brilliantly fused musical worlds together and helped define American musical heritage in the 20th century, breaking molds and bringing classical music to new audiences. This concert highlights several fascinating moments in Bernstein's phenomenal career as both a composer and conductor. Featuring some of his music that is perhaps less ubiquitous than his most famous works, this tribute highlights the creativity, originality, and larger-than-life musical personality of a true American musical icon.



COURTESY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

BERNSTEIN/orch. Ramin | Fanfare for the Inauguration of
John F. Kennedy

BERNSTEIN/trans. D. Patterson* | Divertimento

BRITTEN/trans. D. Patterson* | Four Sea Interludes from
Peter Grimes, Opus 33a

BERNSTEIN | Prelude, Fugue and Riffs
Gunnery Sgt. Patrick Morgan, clarinet soloist

RÓZSA/trans. D. Patterson* | Theme, Variations, and Finale,
Opus 13a

BERNSTEIN/trans. Nowlin* | Scenes from *A White
House Cantata*

Master Sgt. Kevin Bennear, baritone
Gunnery Sgt. Sara Sheffield, mezzo-soprano

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Sunday, May 20 | 2 PM

Staff Sgt. Christopher Franke, coordinator
Sousa Band Hall, Washington, DC

BEETHOVEN | Variations on "Bei Männern, welche Liebe
fühlen" from *Die Zauberflöte*, WoO 46

MOZART | String Quintet in D, K. 593

SHAW | *Valencia* for String Quartet

HAYDN | String Quartet in D, Opus 64, No. 5, *The Lark*

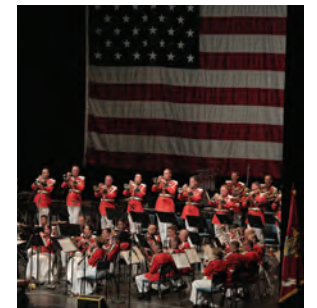


SUMMER BLAST OFF!

Sunday, May 27 | 8 PM

Col. Jason K. Fettig, conducting
Marine Band at Wolf Trap, Vienna, VA

Join "The President's Own" on Memorial Day weekend and mark the beginning of summer with the annual concert at Wolf Trap. This year's program is once again packed with great American music, from rousing marches and patriotic classics to a dazzling tribute to Louis Armstrong and the traditional performance of Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's iconic 1812 Overture. The world of Broadway will be well represented with musical selections from Leonard Bernstein's famous *West Side Story* in celebration of the centennial of his birth and a musical revue from the Rodgers and Hammerstein hit *Oklahoma!*, which first opened to great acclaim 75 years ago. This Memorial Day musical showcase is capped with one of the best fireworks displays of the year. Don't miss a one-of-a-kind Washington event!



SOUSA* | March, "Bullets and Bayonets"

WILLIAMS/trans. Lavender | Selections from
American Journey

arranged **BULLA*** | *Tribute to Louis Armstrong*
Master Sgt. Daniel Orban, trumpet soloist

BERNSTEIN/trans. Lavender | Selections from Symphonic
Dances from *West Side Story*

RODGERS/HAMMERSTEIN/arr. Bulla* | Selections from
Oklahoma!

Master Sgt. Kevin Bennear, baritone
Gunnery Sgt. Sara Sheffield, mezzo-soprano

arranged **NOWLIN*** | "Amazing Grace"

Master Sgt. Kevin Bennear, baritone
Gunnery Sgt. Sara Sheffield, mezzo-soprano

TCHAIKOVSKY/trans. D. Patterson* | Overture Solennelle,
"1812," Opus 49

SOUSA* | March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"

arranged **KNOX*** | A Salute to the Armed Forces of the United
States of America

SUMMER & FALL PERFORMANCES

JUN — DEC



THE EVENING PARADE

Fridays | 8:45 PM

May through August

Marine Barracks Washington, DC

Enjoy a one hour and 15 minute performance of music and precision marching showcasing the best of the Marine Corps. Free reservations are available on a first come, first served basis at www.barracks.marines.mil.

OUTDOOR CONCERTS

June through August

Wednesdays & Thursdays

Enjoy outdoor, evening concerts on the west terrace of the U.S. Capitol, at Glen Echo Park, and at Pentagon Row, featuring light classics, country and popular hits, jazz, and wind band favorites. Perfect for the whole family! For outdoor summer concert locations, dates, and times, please check the Marine Band's website www.marineband.marines.mil by late Spring for details.

SUMMER ORCHESTRA SERIES

Saturdays | 7:30 PM

June 23, July 21, Aug. 18

Marine Chamber Orchestra at NOVA, Alexandria, VA

FALL CHAMBER SERIES

Sundays | 2 PM

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28

Sousa Band Hall, Washington, DC



HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG AT WOLF TRAP

Saturday, Dec. 1 | 4 PM

Marine Band at Wolf Trap, Vienna, VA

Living History Concert

220TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

In celebration of our 220th anniversary, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band will host a special anniversary gala concert this summer. Details for the concert are still being finalized and will be available online in early Spring. Don't miss this opportunity to come celebrate our 220th birthday looking back at our history, as well as to the future, of playing America's music. Complete details will be posted on the Marine Band website www.marineband.marines.mil.

2018 PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS

GMU: Center for the Arts Concert Hall, George Mason University

Braddock Road and Route 123

Fairfax, VA 22030

(703) 993-8888

www.gmu.edu/cfa

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Filene Center

1551 Trap Road

Vienna, VA 22182

(703) 255-1900

www.wolftrap.org

NOVA: Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College

4915 East Campus Drive

Alexandria, VA 22311

(703) 845-6156

www.schlesingercenter.com

Sousa Band Hall: John Philip Sousa Band Hall, Marine Barracks Annex

7th & K Streets, SE

Washington, DC 20003

(202) 433-5809

www.marineband.marines.mil

UMD: The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland

Stadium Drive and Route 193

College Park, MD 20742

(301) 405-ARTS

www.theclarice.umd.edu

Marine Barracks Washington

8th & I Streets, SE

Washington, DC 20390-5000

(202) 433-6040

www.barracks.marines.mil

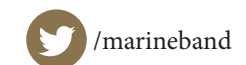
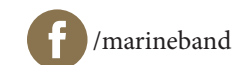
Warner Hall: Marine Corps University

2076 South Street

Quantico, VA

(703) 784-3515

www.usmceu.edu



All concerts are free and no tickets are required, unless otherwise noted. Schedule subject to change. For the most up to date concert information, visit www.marineband.marines.mil or follow the band on social media.



MEET *the* DIRECTORS



COLONEL JASON K. FETTIG
DIRECTOR



MAJOR MICHELLE A. RAKERS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



CAPTAIN RYAN J. NOWLIN
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

“THE PRESIDENT’S OWN” UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

Established by an Act of Congress in 1798, the United States Marine Band is America’s oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Its mission is unique—to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

President John Adams invited the Marine Band to make its White House debut on New Year’s Day, 1801, in the then-unfinished Executive Mansion. In March of that year, the band performed for Thomas Jefferson’s inauguration and is believed to have performed for every presidential inaugural since. An accomplished musician himself, Jefferson is credited with giving the Marine Band its title, “The President’s Own.”

Whether performing for State Dinners or South Lawn arrivals, events of national significance, or receptions, Marine Band musicians appear at the White House an average of 200 times each year. Every fall, the Marine Band performs throughout a portion of the continental United States during its National Concert Tour, a tradition initiated in 1891 by “The March King” John Philip Sousa, who was the band’s legendary 17th Director from 1880-92.

While the Marine Band is firmly dedicated to preserving the musical traditions established over its long history, it

is equally committed to serving as a leading ensemble in the development of new repertoire for winds. In recent years, “The President’s Own” has commissioned David Rakowski’s *Ten of a Kind* (Symphony No. 2), “Scamp” by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Melinda Wagner, *Flourishes and Meditations on a Renaissance Theme* by Michael Gandolfi, and Symphony No. 2, *Voices*, by James Stephenson. Additionally, the band has premiered dozens of other works by composers such as Scott Lindroth, Gerard Schwarz, Jacob Bancks, Laurence Bitensky, Narong Prangcharoen, and Donald Grantham. “The President’s Own” also continues to attract prominent guest conductors to its podium including Osmo Vänskä, Leonard Slatkin, José Serebrier, Gerard Schwarz, Giancarlo Guerrero, and John Williams. During its bicentennial year in 1998, the Marine Band was the very first ensemble inducted into the Classical Music Hall of Fame in Cincinnati.

For more than two hundred years, the Marine Band has been an integral part of countless events that have helped shape the nation’s identity and unique artistic culture. Now well into its third century of bringing music to the White House and to the American public, “The President’s Own” continues to affirm that the arts are an invaluable bridge between people.

COLONEL JASON K. FETTIG

Colonel Jason K. Fettig is the 28th Director of “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band. He joined in 1997 as a clarinetist and soon became a frequently featured soloist with both the band and the Marine Chamber Orchestra. After serving four years in the organization, he was selected as an Assistant Director, and he conducted his first concert with the Marine Band Aug. 1, 2001. He was commissioned a first lieutenant in July 2002, promoted to captain in August 2003, and became the band’s Executive Officer the following year. He was promoted to major in August 2007 and to lieutenant colonel in July 2014, one week before assuming leadership of “The President’s Own.” He was promoted to his present rank in August 2017 in the Roosevelt Room by President Donald J. Trump. He is the third Director of “The President’s Own” to be promoted to colonel in a White House ceremony. As Director, Col. Fettig is the music adviser to the White House and regularly conducts the Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra at the Executive Mansion and at all Presidential Inaugurations. He also serves as music director of Washington, D.C.’s historic Gridiron Club, a position held by every Marine Band Director since John Philip Sousa.

MAJOR MICHELLE A. RAKERS

Assistant Director Major Michelle A. Rakers joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in May 1998 as a trumpeter/cornetist. She was appointed Assistant Director and commissioned a first lieutenant in July 2004 and promoted to captain by Commandant of the Marine Corps General Michael W. Hagee on Jan. 1, 2006. She was promoted to major and appointed Executive Officer and Senior Assistant Director in July 2014. She is both the first female Assistant Director and first female commissioned officer in the history of “The President’s Own.” With the Marine Band, Maj. Rakers has performed at the White House, in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, and across the country during the band’s annual concert tour. The year 2018 marks her final concert season conducting “The President’s Own.”

CAPTAIN RYAN J. NOWLIN

Assistant Director Captain Ryan J. Nowlin joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in August 2010 as staff arranger. He was appointed Assistant Director and commissioned a first lieutenant in July 2014 and was promoted to his current rank in July 2016. With “The President’s Own,” Capt. Nowlin has arranged and composed a variety of music for the Marine Band, Marine Chamber Orchestra, brass ensemble, and various small ensembles. Capt. Nowlin’s music has been heard in performance at many White House events, including state dinners and the Kennedy Center Honors and Medal of Freedom receptions. As Assistant Director, Capt. Nowlin’s responsibilities include conducting the Marine Band and Chamber Orchestra in their winter/spring concert series and summer concerts on the National Mall as well as at ceremonies in the national capital region and at the White House.



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