

# **“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band Fact Sheet**

## **MISSION**

- To provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps

## **HISTORY**

- Established July 11, 1798 by an Act of Congress
- Jan. 1, 1801: President John Adams invited the Marine Band to make its White House debut in the then-unfinished Executive Mansion
- March 1801: Marine Band performed for Thomas Jefferson’s inauguration and it is believed that the band has performed for every presidential inaugural since
- President Thomas Jefferson is credited with giving the Marine Band its title, “The President’s Own”
- John Philip Sousa, “The March King,” served as the band’s 17<sup>th</sup> Director (1880-1892)

## **ORGANIZATION**

- America’s oldest continuously active professional musical organization
- Location: Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., “Oldest Post of the Corps”
- Director: Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Nowlin
- Membership: 5 officers; drum major and assistant drum major; approximately 150 musicians; 20+ full-time professionals working in administration, library, music production, operations, public affairs, recording, stage managing, and supply; 10+ Marines from the Fleet Marine Force who work with administration, supply, and stage managers
- Members enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps for permanent duty with the Marine Band
- Members are selected at auditions much like those of major symphony orchestras
- More than 60 percent of the members hold advanced degrees in music

## **DUTIES**

- Appear at the White House an average of 200 times each year
- Performances range from small ensembles such as a solo pianist, jazz combo or brass quintet to a country band, dance band or full concert band
- Perform an annual season showcase series of indoor concerts and a popular outdoor summer concert series on the National Mall
- Perform throughout the continental United States during a national concert tour each fall
- Support ceremonies and events throughout Washington, D.C., including the Presidential Inauguration, Full Honors funerals at Arlington National Cemetery, Honor Flight ceremonies for veterans at the National World War II Memorial, Friday Evening Parades at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., and educational programs in schools throughout the National Capital Region