

notes

May
June

*Marine Band Drum Major Master
Gunnery Sgt. William L. Browne
to retire. See page 1 for details.*



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DRUM MAJOR RELIEF & APPOINTMENT BY GUNNERY SGT. AMANDA SIMMONS

The Drum Major is one of the most visible members of the Marine Band. While he stands in front of the band, he wears a bearskin headpiece and carries a long wood and brass mace. The ornate sash worn across his chest, called a baldric, is embroidered with the Marine Band's crest and the Marine Corps' battle colors; it signifies his position as Drum Major of the Marine Corps.

In this uniform he is easily identified at countless high profile events in the Washington metropolitan region, including presidential inaugurations, state arrivals and funerals, Friday Evening Parades at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., and Marine Corps full honors funerals at Arlington National Cemetery. During the band's storied past, only a select few have led the Marine Band in these events, and on June 26, Drum Major Master Gunnery Sgt. William L. Browne will pass the mace to his successor and retire after 25 years in the Marine Corps.

Drum Majors have been an integral part of the Marine Band since its inception. The early leadership of the Marine Band consisted of a Drum Major and a Fife Major. The Drum Major (the first being William Farr appointed in 1799) was considered the Leader of the Marine Band, and the Fife Major's responsibility was to train the fifers. The Drum Major was also responsible for the Marine Band apprentices. In July 1861, President Abraham Lincoln signed an Act of Congress

to reorganize the Marine Band, which created the positions of Leader (who was the principal musician), Drum Major, and 30 musicians. The title of Fife Major was abolished that year, and in 1881 the fife was removed from Marine Corps instrumentation. Francis Scala, who was appointed Drum Major in 1855, became the first person to hold the official position of Leader/principal musician of the Marine Band, while John Roach was selected as Drum Major.

Today, the Drum Major serves as the senior enlisted member of "The President's Own" and is responsible for the band's ceremonial drill, appearance, and military decorum. He is charged with directing the band in ceremonial commitments including the inaugural parade and regularly leads the band in review for U.S. Presidents, heads of state, and international dignitaries.

Browne is the 39th Drum Major of "The President's Own" and has served in this capacity since 2007. He began his musical training on the trumpet at age 12 and in 1985, upon graduating from Fletcher Senior High School in Jacksonville, Fla., attended Florida State University in Tallahassee. Browne enlisted in the Marine Corps in September 1989. During his career, he has performed as a trumpet player with the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band, Twentynine Palms, Calif., where he met his wife Shawna, also a former Marine Corps musician.

As a trumpet player in the Marine Corps, Browne's fondest memories are of sounding "Taps" hundreds of times in many unique locations, including from the window of a van in 1992, as a corporal.

"I was waiting in the parking lot of the Twentynine Palms band building for the funeral rifle detail to pick me up," recalls Browne. "They were about an hour late and I was getting worried. A white van flew into the parking lot and the driver, a sergeant, motioned for me to get in quickly. I did. He had already dropped the rifle detail off and explained that they had forgotten about the bugler. He raced back to get me, hoping I was still there and we were now flying to the cemetery. We were both sure we wouldn't make it. He explained they had already notified the family that 'Taps' wasn't going to be sounded. As we approached the cemetery, I rolled down my window to see if I could hear anything. I heard rifle fire and knew it was the firing detail but didn't know if it was the first or last round shot. I quickly uncased my trumpet and aimed it out of the window. At this point



Drum Major Browne salutes during a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery, June 19, 2013.

DRUM MAJOR continued on page 3

WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



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

- Remarks by the President on the Importance of Extending Emergency Unemployment Insurance
- Remarks by the President on “Promise Zones” Initiative
- NBA Champion Miami Heat Visit
- Reception with Members of Congress
- U.S. Conference of Mayors Reception
- State of the Union Address Reception
- Roundtable and Reception with House Democratic Caucus
- Full Honors State Arrival Ceremony and State Dinner for His Excellency François Hollande, President of the French Republic
- Executive Order Signing: Minimum Wage for Federal Contractors
- National Governors Association Dinner
- Governors Spouses Lunch
- Nutrition Facts Label Announcement
- Remarks on “My Brother’s Keeper” Initiative
- Medal of Honor Ceremony for 24 veterans

“THE WASHINGTON POST” MARCH TURNS 125

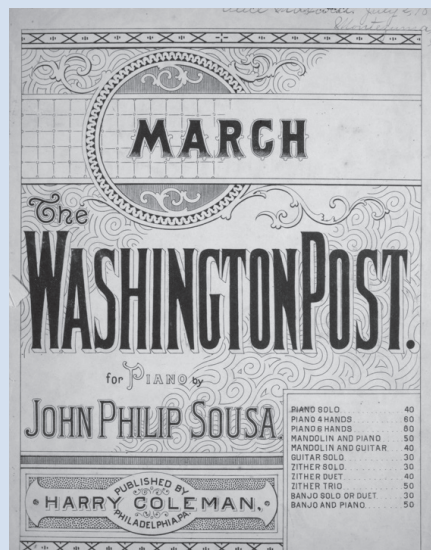
by Master Sgt. Kristin duBois

In the late 1800s *The Washington Post* was just one of four newspapers in the District of Columbia vying for readers. At the time, owner and founder Stilson Hutchins led with stories such as “Do Not Chip the Monument, Otherwise You May be Arrested, as a Frenchman Was Yesterday” and “Dakota for Division: Very Few Persons Want the Territory Admitted as One State.” But in January 1889 Hutchins sold the newspaper to Washington insiders Beriah Wilkins and Frank Hatton. In an effort to boost readership, they created The Washington Post’s Amateur Author Association, which was open to all school-aged children in the city. The Association sought to encourage the study and practice of writing, and membership required that students submit an application through their teachers. Nearly 22,000 kids applied, giving Wilkins and Hatton access to thousands of families—and potential new customers.

In April of that year, the Association then launched a contest which challenged its young members to compose essays that would demonstrate not just how well they could write, but how well they expressed their knowledge of the subjects they were learning in school. The prize, a solid gold medal made by local jeweler M. W. Galt & Co., was prominently displayed in the window of the jewelry store in its satin-lined leather case.

By the deadline, about 1,500 Association members submitted essays. Local teachers helped whittle down the list of contenders. The committee of final judges, which included Frederick Douglass, would announce 11 winners in a gala ceremony on the Smithsonian grounds attended by President Benjamin Harrison, his cabinet, the finalists, and their families. The medals would be awarded by Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Samuel F. Miller.

In the meantime, while walking down the street, Hatton ran into a fellow member of the Gridiron Club, John Philip Sousa, Director of the Marine Band. He told Sousa about the contest and award ceremony and asked if



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Cover image: (2008) Drum Major Master Sgt. William L. Browne reports to the parade commander during a parade at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Chris Dobbs/Released)

ARLINGTON AT 150

On Friday, June 13, the Marine Band will help commemorate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Arlington as a national cemetery at the “Arlington at 150” Observance Program: A tribute to Arlington’s Past, Present and Future. The program will take place at the Memorial Amphitheater and the band will begin performing prelude music at 8 p.m. For more information visit www.arlingtoncemetery.mil or call (877) 907-8585.

For Featured Downloads, please visit www.marineband.marines.mil

DRUM MAJOR continued from page 1

we were driving into the parking lot, no one in sight. I heard another shot, and then the last shot. I played 'Taps' from the front seat of the van with everything I had, projecting the sound through the parking lot, over the building, and into the cemetery. The family and rifle detail later told me of the goose bumps and chills they all had upon hearing 'Taps' played with no apparent bugler there to do it."

Browne had an extremely rewarding tenure as an instrumentalist in the Marine Corps, but he was looking to take the next step in his military career.

"By my fifth year in the Marine Corps, I knew I wanted to explore being a drum major," he explained. "I was attracted to the unique relationship that a drum major has with each member of the ensemble."

Browne served as assistant drum major in the 2nd Marine Division Band, Camp Lejeune, N.C.; the NATO Band, Naples, Italy; and the 1st Marine Division Band, Camp Pendleton, Calif. It was in Naples where Browne participated in numerous multi-national ceremonies, was the lead singer in the rock band, and found his passion for competitive cycling. While stationed in Italy he represented the Marine Corps on the U.S. Armed Forces Cycling Team during the Military World

Games in Zagreb, Croatia. Also during his tenure with the NATO Band, Browne developed relationships with Generals James L. Jones and James F. Amos.

Unbeknownst to Browne, he would perform for these gentlemen years later at Marine Barracks Washington during their tenures as Commandant of the Marine Corps.

In 2001 Browne won the audition to be the Assistant Drum Major of the Marine Band and served under Drum Major Master Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Kohl, USMC (Ret.). At the end of his rotation in 2004, he was appointed the Marine Band supply chief and his Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) became 5511 (Member, United States Marine Band). Upon Kohl's retirement, Browne auditioned and became the band's Drum Major in August 2007.

Since becoming Drum Major, Browne has participated in more than 300 full honors funerals at Arlington National Cemetery, 60 Friday Evening Parades at Marine Barracks Washington, more than 60 patriotic openers, two inaugural parades, and the state arrival for President François Hollande of France. But the most memorable moment of his career came during one of the well-known dinners held in Washington, D.C., each year.

In 2008, Browne was scheduled to



Drum Major Browne leads the Marine Band in the 2013 Inaugural Parade.

lead the band in a patriotic opener at the White House Correspondents Dinner. But the program was not going to follow the typical format. President George W. Bush was slated to make a surprise appearance and conduct the Marine Band performing John Philip Sousa's march "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

"My most memorable moment with the band was the rehearsal for this event at the White House," recalls Browne. "I will never forget discussing with the President how I would turn over the formation to him. It was an amazing experience from beginning to end."

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he would be willing to compose some music for the occasion. Sousa obliged with a march, which he and the Marine Band premiered at the ceremony on June 15, 1889.

The march's release coincided with the emergence of a dance called the "two-step," which was quickly becoming a "dance craze." The 6/8 time signature of "The Washington Post" march lent itself to the two-step better than anything else at the time. As the dance took off around the world, it took the march with it. According to Sousa scholar Paul Bierley in his book, "The Works of John Philip Sousa," "When two-steps were danced in Europe, they were called 'Washington Posts.' Pirated editions of the music appeared in many foreign countries. Sousa delighted in telling how he had heard it in so many different countries, played in so many ways—and often accredited to native composers."

One hundred and twenty-five years later, "The President's Own" continues to perform "The Washington Post" march regularly in ceremonies and concerts. Although the newspaper still sponsors an annual essay contest, the publishers have made no requests for a new theme song.

Come to the June 11 and 12 Marine Band concerts at 8 p.m. on the West Terrace of the U.S. Capitol to hear "The President's Own" perform "The Washington Post" (details on page 4). The march is downloadable at www.marineband.marines.mil and viewable at www.youtube.com/usmarineband.

FEATURED PROGRAMS

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

7:30 PM | Thursday, May 1

**National Archives and Records
Administration, William G. McGowan
Theater, Washington, DC**

2 PM | Sunday, May 4

**John Philip Sousa Band Hall
Marine Barracks Annex, Washington, DC**

*Streamed live at www.marineband.marines.mil

SSgt Karen Johnson, coordinator

Johann Sebastian Bach
Preludio from Partita No. 3 in E, BWV 1006

Lev Zhurbin
Selections from *Vjola Suite*

Albert Hague/lyrics Horwitt
"Young and Foolish"

Maria Newman
Appalachian Duets (2001)

Felix Mendelssohn
Octet in E-flat, Opus 20

MARINE JAZZ ORCHESTRA

2 PM | Sunday, May 11

**Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and
Arts Center, NOVA, Alexandria, VA**

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT: SCHOOL-
HOUSE ROCK! (AND ALL THAT JAZZ)**

John Philip Sousa/arr. Wolpe
March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever" *

traditional
"Just a Closer Walk With Thee"
"When the Saints Go Marching In"

Billy Strayhorn/arr. Foster
"Take the 'A' Train"

Louis Prima/arr. Lewis
"Sing, Sing, Sing"

Ray Noble/arr. Holman
"Cherokee"

Harold Arlen/arr. Custer
"Blues in the Night"

James Brown/arr. Jennings
"I Got You (I Feel Good)"

Roger Ball and Hamish Stuart/arr. Lopez
"Pick Up the Pieces"

arranged by SSgt Ryan Nowlin*
Selections from *Schoolhouse Rock*

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

2 PM | Sunday, May 18

**Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and
Arts Center, NOVA, Alexandria, VA**

MY END IS MY BEGINNING

James Ross, Director of Orchestras at the
University of Maryland, guest conducting

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Symphony No. 34 in C, K. 338

Samuel Barber
Knoxville: Summer of 1915, Opus 24 (1947)
Bridgette Gan, guest soprano soloist

Ludwig van Beethoven
String Quartet No. 16 in F, Opus 135

MARINE BAND

8 PM | Sunday, May 25

**Filene Center, Wolf Trap National
Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, VA**

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting

SUMMER BLAST OFF

John Philip Sousa*
March, "Hail to the Spirit of Liberty" *

John Mackey
Asphalt Cocktail (2009)

George Gershwin/trans. Nowlin*
Variations on "I Got Rhythm"
GySgt AnnaMaria Mottola, piano soloist

Ron Nelson
Rocky Point Holiday

Meredith Willson/arr. Bulla*
The Music Man
MSgt Kevin Benneer, baritone
GySgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky/trans. D. Patterson*
Overture Solennelle, "1812," Opus 49

George W. Warren/arr. Knox*
"God of Our Fathers" *

John Philip Sousa*
March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever" *

arranged by Thomas Knox*
A Salute to the Armed Forces of the United States
of America

MARINE BAND

8 PM | Wednesday, June 4

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 PM | Thursday, June 5

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting
This marks Col. Colburn's final summer
concert as conductor of the Marine Band

John Philip Sousa*
March, "On the Campus"

Bedrich Smetana/trans. D. Patterson*
Overture to *The Bartered Bride*

Rob Deemer
Home
MGySgt Jay Niepoetter, clarinet and
bass clarinet soloist

Clifton Williams
Symphonic Dance No. 3 "Fiesta"

Edwin Franko Goldman
Scherzo
SSgt Hiram Diaz, euphonium soloist

Franz Liszt/trans. D. Patterson*
Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6, "Carnival at Pest" *

John Philip Sousa*
March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever" *

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

7:30 PM | Saturday, June 7

**Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and
Arts Center, NOVA, Alexandria, VA**

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

*Member, U.S. Marine Band

*Available for download

Johann Sebastian Bach
Orchestral Suite No. 2 in B minor, BWV 1067
SSgt Heather Zenobia, flute

Johann Sebastian Bach
Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor, BWV 1041
MGySgt Claudia Chudacoff, soloist

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach
Flute Concerto in D minor, H. 426
SSgt Heather Zenobia, flute soloist

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach
Sinfonia in A, W. 182, No. 4

MARINE BAND

8 PM | Wednesday, June 11
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 PM | Thursday, June 12
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

SSgt Ryan Nowlin*
"Let Freedom Ring"

Ralph Vaughan Williams
English Folk Song Suite

Amilcare Ponchielli/trans. Lind
Clarinet Duet, "Il Convegno"
MGySgt Charles Willett and
GySgt Tracey Paddock, soloists

Leonard Bernstein/arr. Duthoit
Selections from *West Side Story*

John Philip Sousa*
March, "The Washington Post" *
Celebrating the march's 125th anniversary

FREE COUNTRY

8 PM | Wednesday, June 18
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

***No June 19 performance**

The Marine Band's contemporary country music ensemble, Free Country, will perform popular country hits and classics, patriotic favorites, and original works. The program will include classics such as Charlie Daniels' "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" and several patriotic tunes, such as Lee Green-



wood's "God Bless the USA." The group will also perform songs by such artists as Rodney Atkins, Lonestar, Blake Shelton, Lady Antebellum, Steve Holy, and Tim McGraw.

Concertmaster Master Gunnery Sgt. Claudia Chudacoff (pictured above, left) will solo with the Marine Chamber Orchestra on June 7; Marine Band Summer Fare concerts on the National Mall through the end of August. To check date, time, location, and inclement weather information, call (202) 433-4011 or visit www.marineband.marines.mil.

MARINE BAND

8 PM | Wednesday, June 25
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

8 PM | Thursday, June 26
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting

John Philip Sousa*
March, "Resumption"

Sir William Walton/trans. D. Patterson*
Portsmouth Point Overture

André Messager/trans. Gogel*
"Solo de Concours"
SSgt Meaghan Kawaller, clarinet soloist

John Barnes Chance
Incantation and Dance

Leonard Bernstein/trans. Bencriscutto
"Profanation" from Symphony No. 1, *Jeremiah*

Russell Alexander
March, "Rival Rovers"

SUMMER CONCERTS

Continuing its tradition of Summer Fare, the band will perform at 8 p.m., on Wednesdays and Thursdays on the west terrace of the U.S. Capitol. Beginning July 24, all Thursday evening performances will take place at Sylvan Theater on the grounds of the Washington Monument. Concerts are free and open to the public. Schedule is subject to change. Inclement weather notifications will be made by 6 p.m. the night of the performance. For program information, and inclement weather announcements, call (202) 433-4011 or visit www.marineband.marines.mil.

FRIDAY EVENING PARADES

A one hour and fifteen minute performance of music and precision marching, the Evening Parade features "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, "The Commandant's Own" United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Marine Corps Color Guard, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, Ceremonial Marchers, and the official mascot of Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., English bulldog Private First Class Chesty XIV. The Evening Parade occurs every Friday night from May 2 to August 29. There is no parade on July 4. Guests with reservations are admitted beginning at 7:15 p.m. and should arrive no later than 8 p.m.; reserved seating is not guaranteed after 8 p.m. At 8:15 p.m., guests without reservations who are waiting outside the Main Gate of the Barracks are offered unclaimed seats.

Reservations can be made online at www.barracks.marines.mil. There is no charge for admission. As a security precaution, all guests entering the Barracks pass through magnetic detection devices. No weapons of any kind, including knives, are allowed inside the Barracks. No food or beverages are allowed except water and baby food/bottles.



BAND MEMBER NEWS

DRUM MAJOR continued from page 3

While Browne's illustrious Marine Corps career is winding down, another Marine will embark on a new adventure that has some familiarity. Gunnery Sgt. Duane F. King reported to the Marine Band in April, but like several of his predecessors, this is not the first time he's been stationed at the "Oldest Post of the Corps." He served as the Assistant Drum Major of the Marine Band from September 2009 to June 2013.

King, like Browne, hails from Jacksonville and interestingly they shared a trumpet teacher; both Marines studied with Dr. Dale Blackwell of Florida State College at Jacksonville. King enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and attended recruit training in December 1994. Upon completion, he received orders to attend the Basic Music Course at the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk and then was transferred to the Marine Corps Forces Reserve Band, New Orleans, La., where he served as a trumpet player and administrative assistant. In 2000, he received orders to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band, Twentynine Palms, where he served as trumpet player, vocalist, administrative chief, squad leader, and assistant drum major. In January 2002 he received orders to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Band, Parris Island, S.C. In June 2005, he received orders back to New Orleans and in 2007 he became the band's acting Enlisted Conductor and was selected for Drum Major in 2008. After serving as the Assistant Drum Major for "The President's Own" he received orders to return to New Orleans as the Drum Major in 2013.

The audition for the Marine Band's Drum Major position was held in February and applicants were required to have the following qualifications: Marine Corps Drum Major MOS 5521, rank of gunnery sergeant or above, and at least 16 years cumulative service. The two-day event included many rigorous components.

"The extremely competitive audition process is in four phases and designed to select the staff non-commissioned officer (SNCO) who demonstrates excellence in the following categories: musicianship, leadership, military presence, personal appearance, and

STAFF LINES



MSgt Christian Ferrari

Trumpet/cornet

BIRTHDAY
April 13

HOMETOWN
Rome, NY

FAMILY STATUS
Married

CHILDREN
Anna, 12; Alexander, 9

PETS

Currently just a 10 gallon tank with four fish and two snails (for cleaning)

JOINED THE BAND
September 1993

EDUCATION

BM in music education from Syracuse University in New York; MM in trumpet performance from the New England Conservatory in Boston

SELF-PORTRAIT

Introvert, funny, preparer, lastborn

FAVORITE SAYING OR MOTTO
"It takes two."

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT
My children

PET PEEVES
Sudden loud noises, inconsiderate people

WALTER MITTY FANTASY
Touring with a band like Earth, Wind & Fire after retirement (playing trumpet or drums)

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS IN BAND
2009 Presidential Inauguration for Barack Obama and 200th anniversary of the White House with all living presidents attending a special performance by the Marine Chamber Orchestra featuring a piece written for the occasion

INSPIRATION
Professionally: Doc Severinsen and my colleagues; personally: my wife

FAVORITE MOVIES
"My Cousin Vinny" and "Coming to America"

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE
Easy: Joe Pesci

BEST-KEPT SECRET
I took a year off between degrees to play in a rock band.

FAVORITE FOODS
Ice cream, most things Italian

HOBBIES
Drumming, financial planning

PLACE YOU'D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED
A log cabin somewhere in New England

THREE THINGS ALWAYS FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR
Half & Half, homemade jam, Brita pitcher

MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHER
Charles Schlueter, formerly of Boston Symphony Orchestra; Vincent DiMartino, formerly of Centre College in Danville, Ky.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE BAND
Substitute with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE
Books on parenting and finance

FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC
Any Mahler symphony, most funk and R&B songs, anything with a groove

LUXURY DEFINED
Living a long healthy life to enjoy my family and to not have to worry about money

BAD HABIT
Impatience, interrupting, obsessing

LAST WORDS
"This too shall pass."

ceremonial acumen,” explains Executive Assistant to the Director (and former Drum Major) Major John R. Barclay. “Prior to being advanced to the final round of the audition here in Washington, candidates submitted resumes and video recordings of their ceremonial marching and conducting. Once here, all candidates led the band through a ceremonial marching sequence, conducted the band in a concert setting, and appeared before a board of senior SNCOs and officers.”

King was selected from four candidates and reported to the Marine Band in time to lead the band, along with Assistant Drum Major Staff Sgt. Steven Williams, during the 2014 parade season.

“I am humbled by my selection as the 40th Drum Major for ‘The President’s Own,’” said King. “It was a great honor to serve with such consummate professionals on a daily basis as assistant drum major. Working with the Marines at the ‘Oldest Post’ was exciting and I’m looking forward to returning.”

On June 26 at 3 p.m., in John Philip Sousa Band Hall, Drum Major Browne will continue a Marine Band tradition and pass the mace to Gunnery Sgt. King. Marine Band Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn will officiate the ceremony. Immediately following the relief and appointment, Browne’s retirement ceremony will be officiated by General James F. Amos, 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps

Both ceremonies are private and by invitation only.



Drum Major Browne leads the Marine Band at Marine Corps Barracks Washington, D.C.

MINNESOTA TROMBONIST WINS CONCERTO COMPETITION

by Staff Sgt. Brian Rust

Trombonist Isaac Johnson of Pine Island, Minn., won the Marine Band’s 2014 Concerto Competition with his performance of the Andante and Scherzo from Henri Tomasi’s Trombone Concerto during the competition final round on Feb. 22 in John Philip Sousa Band Hall at the Marine Barracks Annex in southeast



Washington, D.C. As winner, Johnson received a \$2,500 cash prize from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and also appeared as soloist in concert with the Marine Band on April 27 at Northern Virginia Community College’s Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria, Va.

“I was very content when I had finished playing,” Johnson said of his performance in the final round. “Even if I hadn’t won, I still would have felt quite satisfied with the whole experience of coming to Washington, D.C., and playing in the finals.” He stated that when his name was announced as winner he “was rather in shock” but excited and felt honored to win.

More than 80 high school students from across the country applied, and from that pool six were chosen to compete in the final round presented as a recital open to the public. The final round included a judging panel consisting of Marine Band Director Col. Michael J. Colburn, Assistant Directors Maj. Jason K. Fettig and Capt. Michelle A. Rakers, and guest judge Professor John Hendricks, Director of Bands at West Virginia University in Morgantown.

Along with Johnson, the competition finalists included saxophonist Chad Lilley of Olney, Md.; euphonium player Joe Broom of McLean, Va.; flutist Paulina Tsao of Ann Arbor, Mich.; bassoonist Alfred Yi of Woodway, Wash.; and French horn player Mark Trotter of Seminole, Fla.

The Marine Band Concerto Competition is open to high school musicians, grades 9-12, that are performers of woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments. Details and application packets for the 2015 Concerto Competition are available at www.marineband.marines.mil.

MARINE BAND CONTACT INFORMATION

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