

Published for the friends of "The President's Own"

# notes

November  
December

"THE PRESIDENT'S OWN" U.S. MARINE BAND



LT. COL. JASON K. FETTIG, DIRECTOR

# ELEMENTS

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Greek philosopher Plato is credited with saying, “Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.”

The U.S. Marine Band’s 31st annual educational recording pays homage to the ancient scholars and the idea of the four classical elements: fire, water, earth, and air. Plato and his student Aristotle introduced the hypothesis that all things in the physical world could be connected to one of these foundations. Music is often the representation and inspiration of the world both around and within us and in the recording, aptly titled “Elements,” Director Lt. Col. Jason K. Fettig explores the classical elements in classical music, from fire in Igor Stravinsky’s *Fireworks* to water in Leonard Bernstein’s Symphonic Suite from *On the Waterfront*, and earth with Darius Milhaud’s depiction of the genesis of the planet itself in *La Création du monde*. These elements are connected by the very wind that fuels the powerful hymns in Warren Benson’s *The Passing Bell*.

While the ancient Greeks first presented the concept of the four elements, the Eastern Asian cultures transformed



*Jennifer Higdon’s virtuosic Percussion Concerto, featuring assistant principal percussion Master Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Rose, is included on the Marine Band’s 31st educational recording.*

the idea into a belief in the transmission of energy between elements, to include wood and metal. These elements are represented in grand fashion in Jennifer Higdon’s virtuosic Percussion Concerto, featuring assistant principal percussion Master Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Rose. Higdon composed the concerto in 2005, but transcribed it for band upon Rose’s request and the Marine Band and Rose performed the world première of the composer’s transcription on May 10, 2009, at the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) Conference in Cincinnati.

Higdon’s concerto not only puts the soloist in the spotlight, but also the wide array of instruments percussionists employ, as explained in her program notes, “From vibraphone and marimba to non-pitched smaller instruments (brake drum, wood blocks, Peking Opera gong), and to the drums themselves. Not only does a percussionist have to perfect playing all of these instruments, but also he or she must make hundreds of decisions regarding the use of sticks and mallets, as there is an infinite variety of possibilities from which to choose.”

As patrons can imagine, the instruments take up a significant amount of space on stage, which creates an additional challenge for the soloist: choreography. “It’s a very physical performance; the movements are almost as important as the notes themselves,” Rose admitted. “It’s just as visual as it is musical. Whenever I have performed this piece, folks always tell me afterward they were silently rooting for me to get to each instrument on time.”

Rose had the opportunity to work with Higdon in preparation for the première and he said that although it was intimidating, she had an uncanny way of communicating her ideas without being critical.

“As popular as she is, she still is so excited that someone wants to play her music. But she allows the soloists to let their personality show,” Rose said. The intricate cadenza gives Rose the perfect opportunity to display his own personality as he performs the improvised and original passage but he mostly enjoys his interaction with the percussion section and the ensemble itself. “Her music is difficult but very accessible,” Rose said. “I’m scared to death when I perform it, but as my grandfather used to say, ‘if you aren’t nervous, you aren’t prepared.’”

“Elements” was recorded May 4-8, 2015 at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus, after performing the program live on May 3 at the University of Maryland’s Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center in College Park.

*RECORDINGS continued on page 3*

## WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



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

- White House Entrepreneurship Demonstration Day
- 2014 WNBA Champion Phoenix Mercury Basketball Team Visit
- 2015 NCAA National Champion Duke University Men’s Basketball Team Visit
- Arts and Humanities Medals
- September 11 Moment of Silence
- 2015 NCAA National Champion University of Connecticut Women’s Basketball Team Visit
- Arrival Ceremony for the Holy Father Pope Francis
- Private Dinner with Chinese President Xi Jinping
- State Dinner in honor of Chinese President Xi Jinping
- U.N. General Assembly Reception in New York City

## MUSIC IN THE HIGH SCHOOLS BOOKING BEGINS DECEMBER 4

The Marine Band’s 2016 Music in the High Schools program will take place Feb. 16 through March 11 and applications will be accepted starting Dec. 4. This program is available to schools within a 30-mile radius of Washington, D.C. For more information please contact Master Sgt. Kristin duBois at (202) 433-5813 or kristin.dubois@usmc.mil.

## CONCERTO COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Application deadline: Nov. 16

## MIDWEST BAND AND ORCHESTRA CLINIC

Visit Marine Band musicians at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago at booth #657 at the McCormick Place Convention Center, Dec. 16-19.

## FEATURED DOWNLOADS



### NOVEMBER

#### March of the Month

“Salute to Kansas”  
John Philip Sousa\*

#### Director’s Choice

*Daphnis and Chloé*  
Maurice Ravel/  
trans. D. Patterson\*

\*Member, U.S. Marine Band

The downloads are available for free at  
[www.marineband.marines.mil](http://www.marineband.marines.mil)

### DECEMBER

#### March of the Month

Triumph of Time  
John Philip Sousa\*

#### New Music Corner

*A Copland Portrait*  
David Conte/trans. Nowlin\*

## CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF MUSIC AT THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION

by Staff Sgt. Brian Rust

In honor of the 75th anniversary of the Phillips Music series and the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, The Phillips Collection, a museum of modern art in Washington, D.C., will host ensembles from “The President’s Own” for a special concert at 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 8 in the Music Room. The concert is free but reservations are required and can be made online at [www.phillipscollection.org](http://www.phillipscollection.org). While commemorating its 75th season, Phillips Music especially wanted to also pay special tribute to musicians in the U.S. military for their role in keeping Phillips Music continually running during World War II.

The concert will focus around Olivier Messiaen’s deeply profound and emotional *Quatuor pour la fin du temps* (Quartet for the End of Time), performed by violinist and concertmaster Staff Sgt. Karen Johnson, co-principal clarinet Staff Sgt. Patrick Morgan, cellist Staff Sgt. Charlaire Prescott, and pianist Staff Sgt. Christopher Schmitt. Messiaen composed the entire piece while a prisoner of war during World War II and performed the work for the first time for his fellow prisoners and prison guards in the Gorkitz concentration camp in Stalag 8-A with three fellow inmates on Jan. 15, 1941, the same year the Phillips Music series began. The eight movement quartet was inspired by several verses in the tenth chapter from the Book of Revelation in the Bible and, as Messiaen himself said, the work will “draw the listener into a sense of the eternity of space and time.”

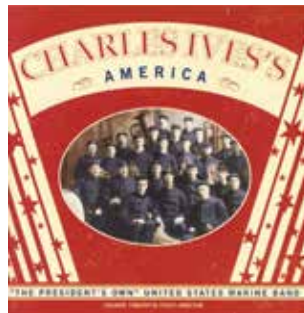
“The *Quartet pour la fin du Temps* has always seemed to me both a musical outcry and prayer of the oppressed and those seeking hope,” Johnson said. “And hope was something very much needed during the time of its composition.”

The Phillips Collection opened to the public in



Newly appointed Concertmaster  
Staff Sgt. Karen Johnson

1921 in Washington’s vibrant Dupont Circle neighborhood. The museum combines works of modern art with paintings by Mark Rothko, Vincent van Gogh, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, among many others, all located in the distinctive home of the museum’s founder, Duncan Phillips. The Phillips Collection is located at 1600 21st Street, NW, in Washington, D.C. The venue is Metro accessible via the Red Line to the Dupont Circle station.



Marine Band compact discs are distributed free of charge to schools, libraries, and radio stations. To be added to the distribution list, send your request including the organization's mailing address to [marineband.publicaffairs@usmc.mil](mailto:marineband.publicaffairs@usmc.mil).

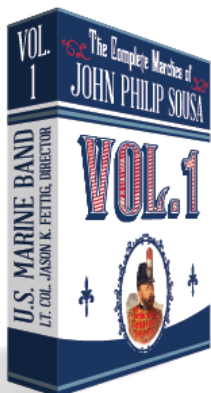
## MARINE BAND RECORDINGS ON YOUTUBE

Not an educator? You can still access Marine Band recordings on the band's YouTube Channel, [youtube.com/usmarineband](http://youtube.com/usmarineband). Earlier this year the Marine Band initiated #MusicMondays where each week the band releases streaming albums and recordings of live performances on its YouTube channel, as well as interviews with band members and historic vignettes. The online collection includes not only new releases, but many out-of-print educational recordings. "Elements" will be released on YouTube on Nov. 16. Future releases include The Bicentennial Collection, a 10-disc set from 1998, which traces the recorded history of "The President's Own" from rare wax cylinders and early radio broadcasts to recent performances captured with the latest digital technology. None of the recordings on the set were previously released on compact disc and many are live recordings never previously released in any form.

## DOWNLOAD MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL MUSIC ONLINE

This November, Marines all over the world will recognize the Marine Corps' 240th birthday with celebrations that have become one of the Corps' proudest traditions. A formal Marine Corps birthday ball traditionally includes both dinner and dancing, but the highlight is the official ceremony. When a live musical ensemble is not available for a birthday ball, recorded music is a viable alternative. Event organizers and Marines across the globe can utilize appropriate ceremonial music by downloading MP3s from the Audio Resources section of the Marine Band's website. "The President's Own" offers the bugle calls, marches, and other selections required for a cake-cutting ceremony as well as many martial pieces available for other military functions. To download birthday ball music, patriotic favorites, and General John A. Lejeune's birthday message, visit the band's website [www.marineband.marines.mil](http://www.marineband.marines.mil).

## THE COMPLETE MARCHES OF JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



This year, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band released its first volume of "The Complete Marches of John Philip Sousa." This multi-year recording project, initiated by Director Lt. Col. Jason K. Fettig, is the Marine Band's first comprehensive collection of Sousa's marches since the 1970s. The collection is in chronological order, and Volume 1 contains his first 17 marches, covering the years 1873-82. Volume 1 is available for free download exclusively on the Marine Band website, along with free PDFs of the full scores that include historical and editorial notes about each piece and music parts for each instrument in the score. Each march has been carefully edited and corrected by Lt. Col. Fettig and Music Production Chief Master Sgt. Donald Patterson using some of the earliest known publications and incorporates performance practices employed by the Marine Band that are modeled on those of "The March King" himself. **Download Volume 1 for free here:** <http://bit.ly/CompleteMarchesSousa1>. Volume 2 will be available in April 2016.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JOHN PHILIP SOUSA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

11 AM | Friday, Nov. 6

1801 E ST SE, WASHINGTON, DC 20003

"The President's Own" will pay homage to its 17th Director John Philip Sousa at Congressional Cemetery located at 1801 E Street, SE, in Washington, D.C., on the 161st anniversary of his birth. Conducted by 1st Lt. Ryan J. Nowlin, this annual musical tribute will include Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and "Semper Fidelis." The grave site ceremony and traditional wreath-laying is free and open to the public.

## U.S. MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY

10 AM | Tuesday, Nov. 10

MARINE CORPS WAR MEMORIAL, ARLINGTON, VA

Marine Band Drum Major Master Sgt. Duane King will lead "The President's Own" at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., at the memorial ceremony commemorating the 240th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps. The band will perform along with "The Commandant's Own" The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and Marine Barracks Washington D.C. ceremonial marchers.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert Neller will speak at the birthday celebration and lay a wreath in honor of all Marines who have given their lives in service to our country since 1775. The event is free, open to the public, and Metro accessible.

## U.S. MARINE CORPS WORSHIP SERVICE

3:30 PM | Prelude

4 PM | Service, Sunday, Nov. 15

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL  
3101 WISCONSIN AVE NW, WASHINGTON, DC

A brass and percussion ensemble from "The President's Own" will perform for the annual U.S. Marine Corps Worship Service at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., conducted by Maj. Michelle A. Rakers. The Marine Corps' annual worship service offers civilians, service members, and their families the chance to pause in prayer and pay tribute to Marines who have given the ultimate sacrifice to their country. The service is free and open to the public.

The Washington National Cathedral is located at the intersection of Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues in northwest Washington, D.C., and is easily reached by Metro. It is handicapped accessible and parking is available in the adjacent garage for a small fee. For detailed directions and further information, please call (202) 537-6200 or visit [www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org).

## HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG AT WOLF TRAP

4 PM | Saturday, Dec. 5

FILENE CENTER, 1635 TRAP RD, VIENNA, VA

The Marine Band will perform Wolf Trap's Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long at 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Va. Conducted by Assistant Director Maj. Michelle A. Rakers, the Marine Band—with Marine Band vocalists Master Sgt. Kevin Bennear and Gunnery Sgt. Sara Dell'Omo— will perform a variety of holiday tunes and then lead the audience in traditional Christmas carols and Hanukkah songs such as "Joy to the World," "Feliz Navidad," "Jingle Bells," "Silent Night," and The Dreidel Song. Gates to the Filene Center will open at 3 p.m., and free parking is available. The Metro shuttle bus will not run for this event. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early. The event is free and tickets are not required.



## LIGHTING CEREMONY OF THE NATIONAL CHANUKAH MENORAH

4 PM | Sunday, Dec. 6

WHITE HOUSE ELLIPSE, WASHINGTON, DC

“The President’s Own” will perform at the lighting of the national Chanukah Menorah on the Ellipse across from the White House in Washington, D.C. Conducted by 1st Lt. Ryan J. Nowlin, this annual event will include hot latkes and donuts, menorah kits and dreidels, and fun for the whole family. The event is free, but tickets are required and can be obtained at [www.nationalmenorah.org](http://www.nationalmenorah.org). The gates open at 3:15 p.m.

## MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY CONCERT

7:30 PM | Thursday, Dec. 10

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS  
18900 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY, TRIANGLE, VA

The Marine Chamber Orchestra will perform a holiday concert in Leatherneck Gallery at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Free, no tickets required. Program to be announced at [www.marineband.marines.mil](http://www.marineband.marines.mil).

## HOLIDAY CONCERT WITH DANISH MILITARY BAND

7:30 PM | Tuesday, Dec. 15

SOUSA BAND HALL, MARINE BARRACKS ANNEX  
7TH AND L STREETS, SE, WASHINGTON, DC

A brass and percussion ensemble from “The President’s Own” will perform a joint concert of popular works, brass standards, and holiday tunes with the Danish NATO military brass band Slesvigske Musikkorps (SMUK) at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 15, in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall at the Marine Barracks Annex in southeast Washington, D.C.

The program will feature each ensemble performing several works alone, and then conclude the concert with holiday selections performed by both groups jointly. Conducted by Assistant Director Maj. Michelle A. Rakers, the Marine brass and percussion ensemble will perform John Williams’ Liberty Fanfare, Fisher Tull’s “The Binding,” John Philip Sousa’s march, “Hands Across the Sea,” and Alfred Reed’s Maestoso




from Symphony for Brass and Percussion. Conducted by Peter Ettrup Larsen, SMUK will perform Carl Nielsen’s Prelude to Act II from *Saul and David*; Jacob Gade’s Jealousy (Tango Jalouise); Hans Christian Lumbye’s Dronning Louise Vals (Queen Louise Waltz); Thorvald Pökel’s Signalgalop; and Arne Ole Stein’s Dr. Margrethe d. 2’ Parademarch (Queen Margrethe II Parade March).

The second half of the concert will feature the combined brass ensembles performing such popular holiday favorites as “Ding, Dong, Merrily on High,” “The Christmas Song,” “White Christmas,” “Let it Snow,” and Festive Cheer, a medley of popular holiday songs and carols arranged by Roger Harvey.

“We are thrilled to share the stage with the fine musicians of SMUK!” Rakers said. “I was first introduced to their band through an invitation to conduct their band in Denmark, and so when I heard they were coming to Washington D.C. it was a perfect opportunity to collaborate and share our military band traditions and experiences with one another. They are an exceptional group of musicians and it’s sure to be a great event.”

The concert is free and no tickets are required. Sousa Band Hall is located at 7th & K Streets, SE, in Washington, D.C. Free parking is available under the overpass on 7th Street.

 All concerts are free and open to the public. Schedule is subject to change. For complete programs and program notes, please call the Concert Information Line at (202) 433-4011 or visit [www.marineband.marines.mil](http://www.marineband.marines.mil).

## BAND MEMBER NEWS

### NEW MEMBER



**Bassoonist Staff Sergeant David Young** joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in August 2015. Young began his musical instruction on clarinet at age 9 and bassoon at age 11, and graduated from River Hill High School in Clarksville, Md., in 2009. He earned a bachelor’s degree in music from the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University (NU) in Evanston, Ill., in 2013, during which he studied for a semester at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam. His teachers included Christopher Millard of NU and principal bassoon of the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, Canada; Lewis Kirk of NU and the Lyric Opera of Chicago; and Sue Heineman, principal bassoon of the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining “The President’s Own,” Young was acting second principal bassoon with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra in Norway and adjunct professor at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. He has also performed with the NSO, the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Chicago Composer’s Orchestra, the National Repertory Orchestra in Breckenridge, Co., the Banff Festival Orchestra in Canada, and the Washington, D.C., based woodwind quintet District 5.

### STAFF LINES



#### **MGySgt Janice Murphy**

*Clarinetist,  
tour coordinator*

**JOINED THE BAND**  
Sept. 11, 1989

**PETS**  
My husband and I are puppy sitters for seeing eye dogs-in-training for Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

#### **EDUCATION**

Attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.; bachelor of music from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles; master of music (clarinet performance) at DePaul University in Chicago

#### **SELF-PORTRAIT**

Hardworking, independent, sincere, sarcastic, responsible, and humorous

#### **GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT**

Raising two thoughtful young adults

#### **PET PEEVE**

Idle gossip

#### **WALTER MITTY FANTASY**

I win the lottery, buy a 50 ft. yacht and cruise the Great Loop for a year.

#### **MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN BAND**

Playing in the Lucerne, Switzerland Cultural and Convention Center for a WASBE conference in 2001. Such a beautiful city and a wonderful concert hall.

#### **INSPIRATION**

My Mom. Her kindness, compassion and sense of humor always brought out the best in people.

#### **FAVORITE MOVIES**

“The Sound of Music”

#### **WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE**

Amy Poehler

#### **BEST-KEPT SECRET**

I used to make macramé plant holders that hung from the ceiling adding a dash of tasteless “hippie chic” to any room.

#### **FAVORITE FOODS**

Pho and vanilla bean ice cream, not at the same time.

#### **HOBBIES**

Hiking, camping, swimming, paddle boarding

#### **THREE THINGS ALWAYS FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR**

Various bottles of water, broccoli, almond milk

#### **MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHER**

Larry Combs, former principal clarinet of the Chicago Symphony and teacher at DePaul University

#### **BOOKS AT BEDSIDE**

“Citizen Farmers” by Daron Joffe and “AWOL on the Appalachian Trail” by David Miller

#### **BAD HABIT**

I wipe the kitchen counters off a lot. Kind of obsessive-compulsively.

#### **LUXURY DEFINED**

A bathroom with heated floors and a very deep, jetted soaking tub

#### **LAST WORDS**

“OK, I’m ready.”



#### **FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC**

Johannes Brahms Symphony No. IV

#### **PLACE YOU’D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED**

Cayo Costa State Park, Florida

#### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE BAND**

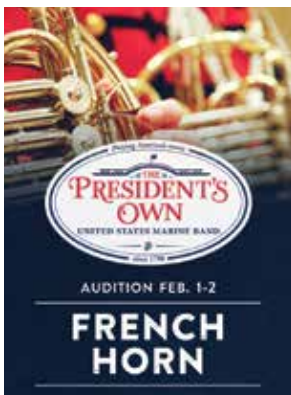
Civic Orchestra of Chicago and the Elgin Symphony in Illinois



On Sept. 25, 2015, the music ensemble *Free Country* from "The President's Own" performed at the farewell tribute for former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, USA, at Joint Base Fort Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, Va.



On Sept. 27, 2015, Drum Major Master Sgt. Duane King led the Marine Band during the repatriation of World War II Medal of Honor recipient 1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Jr., in West Knoxville, Tenn. Bonnyman was killed in action during the Battle of Tarawa in the central Pacific Ocean.



To download an application packet, visit [www.marineband.marines.mil](http://www.marineband.marines.mil). Questions? Contact the Marine Band Operations Office at [marineband.operations@usmc.mil](mailto:marineband.operations@usmc.mil) or (202) 433-5714.

## PROMOTIONS

**To Lieutenant Colonel:** Executive Assistant to the Director John R. Barclay (pictured right)

**To Master Gunnery Sergeant:** Harpist Karen Grimsey and Trumpeter/Cornetist Susan Rider

**To Master Sergeant:** Trumpeter/Cornetist Daniel Orban and E-flat Clarinetist Michelle Urzyncok

**To Gunnery Sergeant:** Oboist/English horn player Joseph DeLuccio and Violist Tam Tran.



## IN MEMORIAM

Clarinetist Master Sgt. Walter "Duke" Ward, USMC (ret.) passed away on July 27, 2015. Ward served in the Marine Band from 1958-84. Following his retirement he worked in real estate in LaPlata, Md.



## MARINE BAND CONTACT INFORMATION

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