

notes

January
February



Marine Band Director Lt. Col. Jason K. Fettig will return to Strathmore on Monday, Feb. 23 for the first time as Director for a salute to the "Greatest Generation" with guest narrator Jim Lehrer.

Photo courtesy of Eric T. Williams.

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TIME CAPSULE: 1945

BY STAFF SERGEANT RACHEL GHADIALI

In a special tribute to the veterans who served so valiantly in the Great War, “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band will perform a concert titled “Time Capsule 1945: the 70th Anniversary of the End of World War II.” The free concert will take place at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 23, at The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda, Md.

The year was 1945 and war still raged despite the Allies’ success at the Battle of the Bulge in Europe. On the home front, the war effort gripped the nation. The Marine Corps was still looking for a few good men, the production of new cars and housing remained at a standstill, blue star flags hung in windows, government rationing continued, and Rosie the Riveter recruited women to join the workforce.

On the European and Pacific battlefronts, Americans courageously fought against a ferocious enemy. Countless new joins were boys straight off the farm, never dreaming they would see the ocean, much less amphibious warfare assaults. Adventurous city slickers found themselves on the high seas skirting mines and U-boats, and in the skies flying fighter aircraft in bombing raids against the Luftwaffe. American service members quickly became seasoned veterans against the persistent fighting spirit of the Imperial Japanese Army. They stormed beaches, sailed hostile waters, and witnessed the horrors of war.

Back in the nation’s capital, the Marine Band provided music for war bond rallies and patriotic dinners and dances to boost morale among the American people. At the White House, the band supported an unprecedented

fourth inaugural for Franklin D. Roosevelt, and that support continued for his successor Harry Truman.

On Feb. 23, the band performed a broadcast of the “Patriotic Dream Hour for Shut-ins” over the National Broadcasting Company airwaves at Marine Barracks Washington. That same day, on the other side of the world, brave young men had already charged the enemy through fierce and bloody combat on the black sand of Iwo Jima. Thousands were killed by artillery shells and machine gun fire from the Japanese Army’s fortified and concealed positions. Yet only days into the battle, five Marines and a Navy corpsman raised an American flag on the highest point of the volcanic island, Mount Suribachi.

Three months later, the day after the Allies formally accepted Nazi Germany’s surrender—Victory in Europe Day—that very flag was raised over the U.S. Capitol while “The President’s Own” played “The Star Spangled Banner.”

“We feel a great debt of gratitude to those service members who came before us, especially all who fought in World War II,” said Marine Band Director Lt. Col. Jason K. Fettig. “We often speak about this generation and the tremendous sacrifices that were made in the great world war, and we should take every opportunity to honor them and show them how much they continue to be appreciated.”

While it was a difficult time for the country, it was also an era that helped shape America’s national culture and artistic identity. Music played an important role in World War II as the troops listened to Armed Forces Radio and enjoyed USO tour performances. The sounds of swing, boogie-woogie, and even nationalist classical works funded by the government were heard on live radio and on records, serving as a comfort and diversion from the hardships of the war.

Throughout “Time Capsule: 1945,” the Marine Band will recreate some of those sounds with music from and about the period such as Marine Band Staff Arranger Staff Sgt. Scott Ninmer’s arrangement of Selections from *South Pacific* by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II featuring vocalists Gunnery Sgt. Sara Dell’Omo and Master Sgt. Kevin Benneer. In addition, the program includes two pieces by American composer Aaron Copland, who lived through World War II and was known as the “Dean of American Music.”

TIME CAPSULE continued on page 3



The Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., depicts Joseph Rosenthal’s photo of the five U.S. Marines and one Navy corpsman who raised an American flag on the island of Iwo Jima on Feb. 23, 1945.

WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



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

- Dinner for the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi
- Arts and Humanities Youth Awards
- Cooper-Hewitt Design Awards Luncheon
- 2013 Major League Soccer Champions Sporting Kansas City visit
- Celebration of Design reception
- Fall Garden Tour
- PBS Salute to the Troops
- Veterans Day Breakfast
- Science and Technology Medals
- Medal of Freedom Presentation
- Turkey Pardon
- Thanksgiving Dinner
- Christmas Tree Arrival

MARINE BAND CONCERTS WILL STREAM LIVE



By Master Sergeant Kristin duBois

With more than 110 public concerts locally and on tour; nearly 300 educational outreach performances in the Washington, D.C., area and nation-wide; countless ceremonies, funerals, and parades; a growing discography of free, downloadable selections; a solid catalog of free videos on its YouTube channel; and as a regular presence on the “Performance Today” radio program, “The President’s Own” has a large musical footprint. The launch of the 2015 Showcase Concert Series allows Marine Band Director Lt. Col. Jason K. Fettig to increase that footprint even more: patrons may now watch select Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra concerts and all Chamber Music Series concerts live at www.marineband.marines.mil or youtube.com/usmarineband.

“The many live performances given by the Marine Band each year will always be the most important way that ‘The President’s Own’ shares music,” Lt. Col. Fettig said. “However, recognizing that not everyone has regular access to our concerts, today’s technology affords a greater opportunity than at any time in our long history to share the Marine Band’s diverse activities with people not only across the country, but indeed throughout the world. By broadcasting select live concerts online, fans of ‘The President’s Own’ will have a regular opportunity to experience the next best thing to being there in person and enjoy performances by all of our ensembles in real time.”

These online performances would not be possible without the creativity and technical expertise from the Marine Band’s Recording Lab. “In addition to the technical disciplines we have traditionally cultivated—recording very high quality audio and video performances—we now must be proficient in encoding that audio and video into a data stream and providing that to an online entity like YouTube who can distribute it via their infrastructure to the viewer,” Chief Recording Engineer Master Gunnery Sgt. Karl Jackson said. “Streaming concerts is an exciting way to broaden the audience base geographically and demographically in a way that wasn’t possible just a few years ago.”

The first concert of the 2015 season, the Sousa Season Opener at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 11, will not only kick off the season but will be the first full band concert to be viewed live on the Marine Band’s website and YouTube channel since the Change of Command concert and ceremony in July. The Sousa Season Opener typically features music the March King either wrote himself, or music he would have programmed on one of his concerts. But Lt. Col. Fettig took it one step further and added a special feature that has its roots

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The Marine Band’s Music in the High Schools program features educational presentations designed to entertain and challenge high school music students. A brass quintet, string quartet, jazz combo, or vocalists are available to present programs Feb. 16 through March 13. For more information, please call (202) 433-5813, email kristin.dubois@usmc.mil, or visit www.marineband.marines.mil.

FEATURED DOWNLOADS



JANUARY

March of the Month

March, “Hands Across the Sea”
John Philip Sousa*

Director’s Choice

Carnival Overture
Antonín Dvořák/trans. Clarke

FEBRUARY

March of the Month

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

New Music Corner

Quiet Heroes (A Symphonic Salute to the Flag Raisers of Iwo Jima)
Chris Brubeck/trans. D. Patterson*
Wilford Brimley, narrator

*Member, U.S. Marine Band

To download selections, visit the Marine Band website, www.marineband.marines.mil and click on Audio Resources.

Copland wrote his Finale from Symphony No. 3 largely during the years of the war and completed it following the war's tragedies and triumphs. The composer himself said the work was "intended to reflect the euphoric spirit of the country at the time." Based on his iconic "Fanfare for the Common Man," which he composed in 1942 as part of a series of wartime fanfares, the symphony is arguably the centerpiece of his contribution to American music.

As a nod to the 150th anniversary of the end of another major American conflict, the program will also feature Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*, narrated by Jim Lehrer, former anchor of PBS' NewsHour. In *Lincoln Portrait*, Copland drew parallels between the turmoil of the Civil War and World War II and perseverance of a nation. He began working on the piece shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor as part of a commissioning project representing a musical portrait gallery of great Americans.

"Mr. Lehrer came from a family of Marines and served in the 1950s as a Marine Corps infantry officer," said Lt. Col Fetting. "He would, of course, go on to become a world class journalist, and he has often spoken about the life-changing experiences he had in the service. He continues to be an ardent supporter of the Marine Corps, and we are incredibly honored to welcome him back to collaborate with the band."

Another highlight of the program is the world premiere of the band version of Adam Schoenberg's American Symphony, transcribed by Marine Band Music Production Chief and Staff arranger Master Sgt. Donald Patterson. According to the composer, he set out to write a modern American symphony, inspired by Copland's Symphony No. 3, that "paid homage to our past and looked forward to a brighter future. ... It is about our collective ability to restore hope within

ourselves and our neighbors, both here and around the world."

Lehrer will read letters and personal stories of servicemen who served in World War II. Letters to and from home served as a lifeline to those fighting the Axis powers. Whether a few short sentences of reassurance from a mother or words of longing from a sweetheart, they served as a comfort in faraway lands marred by destruction. When birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays passed them by, those in the fight held close the words that offered a glimmer of hope while they were surrounded by chaos and death.

One such letter was written by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class John E. Lee to his "Most Precious Ones"—his wife and daughter—from "Somewhere in the Western Pacific:"

"Most Precious Ones -

They loaded us up into a Marine truck and started out. We rode and rode. We passed through the different camps and then up a road we passed some tanks and then I see a lot of Marines in foxholes. Well, I thought, 'If those Marines are in foxholes, what the hell are we doing riding around in this truck like a bunch of Sunday drivers up Wilshire Boulevard?' ... So I hollered at the driver if he knew where he was going and he said he was lost. Boy did we ever get out of that place. We found out later that we'd been about a mile inside [enemy] lines, and to this day I don't know why we weren't all killed.

... This is the hellhole of creation."

Lee didn't consider himself a hero, just an ordinary guy. In fact, many World War II veterans have said the real heroes are the ones who paid the ultimate price for freedom and victory and never came home.

Former long-time NBC news anchor and recent presidential Medal of Freedom honoree Tom Brokaw wrote reverently of the veterans of the 1940s in his book "The Greatest Generation," noting that he "began to reflect on the wonders of these ordinary people whose lives were laced with the markings of greatness. ... I think this is the greatest generation any society has ever produced."

The World War II generation showed an indomitable resolve and enduring spirit during one of the nation's most difficult eras. So as we continue to celebrate the monumental accomplishments of the men and women of the Greatest Generation, the members of "The President's Own" celebrate the legacy of that hard fought victory in 1945 and honor those who carried the nation on their shoulders during this iconic year in American history.

The concert is free; but tickets are required. The Music Center at Strathmore is located at 5301 Tuckerman Lane in North Bethesda, Md. For detailed directions and parking information visit www.strathmore.org. 🎫



"The President's Own" performed at Franklin D. Roosevelt's fourth inauguration at the White House on Jan. 20, 1945. Marine Band sousaphones can be seen in the far right of the photo.

CONCERT PROGRAM SELECTIONS

MARINE BAND

2 PM | Sunday, Jan. 11

GMU Center for the Arts

Lieutenant Colonel Jason K. Fettig, conducting

SOUSA SEASON OPENER:
BY REQUEST



This program was determined by votes for marches, overtures, suites, dances and interludes, opera features, and orchestral showpieces. The final program may be found at www.marineband.marines.mil.

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

Herbert L. Clarke
"Nereid"
MSgt Michael Mergen, cornet soloist (below)



Camille Saint-Saens/arr. Mollenhauer
"My Heart at Thy Sweet Voice" from *Samson and Delilah*
GySgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano (below)



MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

2 PM | Sunday, Jan. 18

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

Lieutenant Colonel Jason K. Fettig, conducting

PRIMARY COLORS

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Overture to *The Magic Flute*, K. 620



Jean Françaix
L'Horloge de Flore (Flower Clock) (1959)
SSgt Trevor Mowry, oboe soloist (above)

Adam Schoenberg
Finding Rothko (2006)

Ludwig van Beethoven
Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Opus 67

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

2 PM | Sunday, Jan. 25

John Philip Sousa
Band Hall
Marine Barracks Annex



Staff Sergeant Patrick Morgan,
coordinator

Astor Piazzolla
"Adios Nonino"

Victor Ewald
Brass Quintet No. 2, Opus 6

James Stephenson
Vast and Curious (2014)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Quintet in A for Clarinet and Strings, K. 581

MARINE BAND

2 PM | Sunday, Feb. 1

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

1st Lt. Ryan J. Nowlin, conducting

MASTER CLASS

Paul Hindemith/ trans. Wilson
March from *Symphonic Metamorphosis on Themes of Carl Maria von Weber*

David Maslanka
Concerto for Marimba and Band
GySgt Steven Owen, soloist (below)



Zoltán Kodály/trans. Rogers
Dances of Galánta

Carl Orff/trans. Krance
Carmina Burana

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

2 PM | Sunday, Feb. 8

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

Major Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

SIBELIUS AND NIELSEN: 150 YEARS



The 2015 Showcase Series is Lt. Col. Ryan J. Nowlin, first as Director of "The President's Own U.S. Marine Band."

*Available for download at www.marineband.marines.mil

Jean Sibelius

Suite No. 2 from *The Tempest*, Opus 109 (1927)



Carl Nielsen

Clarinet Concerto, Opus 57 (1928)

SSgt Patrick Morgan, soloist (above)

Jean Sibelius

Suite from *Pelléas et Mélisande*, Opus 46 (1905)

CONCERTO COMPETITION FINALS

2 PM | Saturday, Feb. 14

**John Philip Sousa
Band Hall
Marine Barracks Annex**



The 2015 competition was open to high school musicians (grades 9-12) enrolled during the 2014-15 academic year. Finalists will compete in the final round, which is open to the public. The winner will be invited to perform his or her solo selection in concert with the Marine Band on March 22 at NOVA and will receive a cash prize of \$2,500 from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.



Trombone player Issac Johnson performs at the 2014 Concerto Competition Finals on Feb. 22. He was named the winner and performed as a soloist with the Marine Band on April 27.

*L. Jason K. Fetting's
Own."*

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

2 PM | Sunday, Feb. 15

**John Philip Sousa
Band Hall
Marine Barracks Annex**



*Master Sergeant David Haglund, coordinator
(below)*



Darius Milhaud

Chamber Symphony No. 5, Op. 75 (1922)

Ernest John Moeran

String Quartet No. 1 in A minor (1921)

Bohuslav Martinů

Quartet, H. 139 (1924)

Kurt Weill/arr. Kramer

Suite from *The Threepenny Opera*

George Hamilton Green

"Log Cabin Blues"

"Jovial Jasper"

"Chromatic Foxtrot"

Paul Hindemith

Sonata for Trumpet and Piano (1939)

MARINE BAND

7:30 PM | Monday, Feb. 23

The Music Center at Strathmore

*** Free, tickets required**

Lieutenant Colonel Jason K. Fetting, conducting

TIME CAPSULE 1945: THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

John Williams/trans. Lavender

Midway March

Adam Schoenberg/trans. D. Patterson*

American Symphony (2011)

transcription world première

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II/

arr. Ninmer*

Selections from *South Pacific*

GySgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano

MSgt Kevin Bennear, baritone

Aaron Copland/trans. Beeler

Lincoln Portrait

Jim Lehrer, narrator

Pre-concert ensembles will return in 2015, performing brief and entertaining programs in the lobby 45 minutes prior to select Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra concerts. "The President's Own" also will continue **Post-concert chats**, a series of conversations with the conductor, soloists, and guest artists in the lobby following most concerts.



This stamp indicates that this performance will be available to watch live on the Marine Band's website and YouTube channel. Please see page 2 for more details.

All concerts are free and open to the public and no tickets are required, unless otherwise noted. 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.

**Member, U.S. Marine Band*

BAND MEMBER NEWS

STREAM continued from page 2

in a different part of Marine Band history: he invited patrons via the newsletter Notes and social media to request selections they'd like to hear during the Jan. 11 performance.

Listeners could write in to request works to be performed by the band during the Marine Band's "Dream Hour" radio broadcasts during the 1930s and 40s. By bringing that exciting element to the Sousa Season Opener, patrons had the opportunity to choose the program from among some of Sousa's favorite works. The performance will be rounded out by encores and featured solos to create an entertaining program modeled after Sousa's unique style.

Patrons may also "tune in" to watch Chamber Music Series performances Sundays at 2 p.m., on Jan. 25, Feb. 15, March 1 and 29, May 10 and 31, and Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, as well as the Concerto Competition Finals at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 14. 🎺

PROMOTIONS

To Lance Corporal: Stage crewmen Jeremy Burgett of North Tonawanda, N.Y.; Jonathan Jester of Royse City, Texas; Carmine Mancini of Virginia Beach, Va.; and Juan Nunez-Espinosa of Las Vegas.

IN MEMORIAM



Flutist **Master Sgt. Leslie Sheary, USMC (ret.)**, originally of Akron, Ohio, passed away on Sept. 17, 2014 at the age of 94. He served in the Marine Band from 1955-68. Prior to his service with the Marine Band he was a member of the U.S. Air Force Band in Washington, D.C., New Orleans Symphony, Dallas Symphony, and the 11th Army Air Force Band.

STAFF LINES



SSgt Patrick Morgan
Assistant Principal
B-flat Clarinet

BIRTHDAY
Aug. 27, 1985

HOMETOWN
Maryville, Tenn.

JOINED THE BAND
January 2008

FAMILY
Wife: Emily

PETS
Two cats, Paco and Gio

PET PEEVES
Burgers past medium, drivers who don't use blinkers

EDUCATION
BM in clarinet performance, Indiana University
Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington

BAD HABIT
Selecting "next episode" a little too late at night

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE
Dustin Diamond. Before the regulation haircut, I may have had a passing resemblance to "Screech"

SELF-PORTRAIT
Fun-loving, outgoing, particular

WALTER MITTY FANTASY
To be a pitcher for the Washington Nationals, and throw a complete game shutout in game four of the NLCS to sweep the St. Louis Cardinals. And then, sure, win the World Series.

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE
Almost entirely nonfiction

FAVORITE MOVIE
"The Godfather" (parts I and II)

FAVORITE SAYING
May you live every day of your life.

BEST-KEPT SECRET
Not secret: I make my own reeds and I think it's totally worth it. Secret: I absolutely HATE every second of it.

FAVORITE FOODS
District Taco, pho, soft ginger cookies, sourdough with butter, hot doughnuts, and Thanksgiving dinner

HOBBIES
Homebrewing, cooking, making coffee, baseball

PLACE YOU'D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED
London, England

THREE THINGS ALWAYS FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR
Beer, vanilla soy milk, spinach

MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHERS
Howard Klug, Indiana University clarinet professor, and RoAnn Romines, my clarinet teacher in Maryville, Tenn.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE BAND
Paper-hat-and-red-bowtie-wearing waiter at Steak 'n Shake (and a few other restaurants) during college

INSPIRATION
Listening to my colleagues. Every one of them does something better than I do.

LUXURY DEFINED
Sitting on the beach during the offseason - wearing a hoodie!

FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC
My favorite composers are Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Richard Strauss. My favorite Sousa marches are "Royal Welsh Fusiliers" and "Manhattan Beach."

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN THE BAND
Snoop Dogg asking the Marine Chamber Orchestra if we could play one of his songs in the Grand Foyer of the White House. Unfortunately, it wasn't in the folder!

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT
My wonderful relationship with my wife

NEW MEMBERS



Staff arranger **Staff Sgt. Scott Ninmer** joined "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in September 2014. Staff Sgt. Ninmer began his musical instruction on piano at age 4, trombone at age 8, and in composing and arranging at age 12. After graduating in 2007 from Taylorville High School in

Illinois, he earned a bachelor's degree in jazz trombone performance in 2011 from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana (UI). In 2013, he earned a master's degree in jazz composition from the Manhattan School of Music in New York. He studied trombone with Jim Pugh of UI and composition with Jim McNeely of the Manhattan School and Jonathan Tunick, the Tony, Emmy, Grammy, and Academy Award-winning Broadway orchestrator. Prior to joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Ninmer was a freelance composer, arranger, and copyist in New York.

Recording Engineer **Staff Sgt. Christian Amonson** joined "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in October 2014.

Staff Sgt. Amonson began his musical training in theory, composition, and keyboard in high school. After graduating in 2005 from Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, Va., he cataloged recordings for the Classical Music Library Online and Jazz Music Library Online and performed on tour as a drummer with a rock trio. He has also studied organ and presented a recital of original chamber compositions. Prior to joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Amonson started his own multimedia studio in 2008 which specializes in audio recording, high-definition videography, and photography. He has produced recordings for such groups as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; NPR's JazzSet; the Virginia Opera in Norfolk; Concordia Choir in Moorhead, Minn.; Washington Master Chorale in Washington, D.C.; Fairfax Symphony Orchestra in Virginia; Imani Winds in New York; the Brevard Music Center Festival in North Carolina; and the Credo Festival at the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio.



MARINE BAND REUNION AND CONCERTS 2015



Marine Band alumni gathered at the U.S. Capitol prior to the first ever Marine Band Alumni Concert on Aug. 25, 2010.

SAVE THE DATE MARINE BAND ALUMNI! JULY 14-16, 2015 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The reunion is open to musicians, support staff, Drum Majors, and Directors who served in the "The President's Own" for any length of time. The festivities will include a formal reception, tours of Marine Barracks Washington, a trip to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and the opportunity to perform in the alumni band concerts. Please note, due to the popularity of the event, there will be a cost associated with the reception. For more details, visit www.marineband.marines.mil or contact Gunnery Sgt. Amanda Simmons at (202) 433-5814 or amanda.simmons@usmc.mil. We look forward to reconnecting with you!

MARINE BAND CONTACT INFORMATION

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