

December
2017



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

"THE PRESIDENT'S OWN" UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

ARIOSO

COLONEL JASON K. FETTIG, DIRECTOR

The Marine Band recently released its 33rd educational recording, *Arioso*. Read more on page 1.

IN THIS ISSUE 1-2 *Arioso*: A Conversation with the Marine Band Director
3 Marine Band in Photos 4 Featured Programs 5 Band Member News

20
17

ARIOSO: A CONVERSATION WITH THE DIRECTOR

BY GUNNERY SGT. RACHEL GHADIALI

The Marine Band will release its annual educational recording in December 2017. Recently, Assistant Communication Strategy Chief Gunnery Sgt. Rachel Ghadiali sat down with Col. Jason K. Fettig to learn more about this year's CD: *Arioso*.

GHADIALI: How was *Arioso* conceived?

FETTIG: This CD project started with James Stephenson's Symphony No. 2, *Voices*, which we commissioned and premiered at The Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in 2016. I knew that this piece really should be recorded because it is such a tremendous addition to the repertoire. So I wanted to find a collection of music that would complement the symphony. Symphony No. 2 is subtitled *Voices*, and it was inspired by the nature of voices and singing and how voices relate to music. So it sparked this idea for me that the voice was the oldest instrument in human history. Before any other external instruments were created, we had the human voice. So everything on the CD is connected to Symphony No. 2 and this concept of voices.

GHADIALI: How did you determine which pieces to record for *Arioso*?

FETTIG: Whenever I select a collection of music for a CD, I want to always include a little bit of something from different categories. I want to make sure we have some new music; I also want to make sure we have some substantial music from the core concert band repertoire—music that students and professionals are playing on a regular basis and works that are central to our collection of music in the band world.

For our recording, it was also important for me that there be some sort of thread that runs through all the repertoire. Something that ties it together, that is thought provoking, and perhaps makes you hear music maybe a little differently if you know there are connections between the pieces. But at the same time, there should be variety in a recording as well. The thread doesn't mean that everything sounds the same, but quite the opposite. It should showcase the diversity of the repertoire we have for symphonic band. It's also an important initiative in the Marine Band to include music that comes from all different places in the spectrum of band music, from original pieces that were written specifically for winds, brass, and percussion, to transcriptions of great orchestral pieces. That heritage of transcribing music from other instruments to the concert band is a valuable part of our history as a concert band and something we've done in the Marine Band for centuries.




Col. Jason K. Fettig sits down to talk about the Marine Band's latest educational recording, *Arioso*.

GHADIALI: Tell us about the collection of music on "Arioso."

FETTIG: As I looked for pieces that could be connected to Symphony No. 2, *Voices*, I realized that there's a lot of band music that is inspired by and based on original songs. Probably one of the most famous of these is Gustav Holst's Second Suite in F for Military Band. The Second Suite is entirely based on British folk tunes, so I thought this was a perfect opportunity to pair that cornerstone of band repertoire with Jim's brand new symphony.

The collection of pieces on *Arioso* represents a wide variety of music, some of which was written for professionals and some of which is often played by high school and college bands. The Holst Suite in particular is an important addition to this collection. It helped establish the military band and the concert band as an important ensemble in classical music in the early part of the 20th century. I thought this was a great time to record this staple in our repertoire and have it stand as an example for students to hear how the Marine Band plays this particular work.

In Symphony No. 2, Jim actually has a mezzo-soprano singing with the band, but there's no text. It's simply the



quality of the human voice mixed in with the instruments. So I started to think about what other pieces in the standard repertoire also had this kind of singing. Perhaps the most famous of these is Joseph Schwantner's *and the mountains rising nowhere*. This was a landmark piece written in 1977 which essentially changed the rules of what a wind ensemble could sound like. He was taking the normal instruments of wind ensemble and augmenting them with all kinds of special techniques, unusual instruments, aleatoric or improvised passages, strictly notated passages, and adding things in like the band members singing, whistling, and playing crystal glasses. He created this sound that was unlike anything anyone had ever heard before and it really broke open new ground for other composers to use the wind ensemble's conventional sounds and mix that with unusual sounds to create something completely new. So the pieces by Holst and Schwantner are kind of on opposite ends of the concert band spectrum of the 20th century, but both are connected by the concept of voices and singing.

We also recently had the privilege to premiere the band version of American composer Jonathan Leshnoff's Clarinet Concerto which was written specifically for Ricardo Morales,

For performing musicians there really is no more enlightening experience than being able to work directly with those who create the music that we play.

COLONEL JASON K. FETTIG

principal clarinet of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Ricardo came to perform the concerto with us in concert, so I thought this would be a great opportunity to make a recording of this concerto and have Ricardo be our guest soloist. Ricardo is an incredible musician. He is not only able to play anything that's ever been written for the clarinet, but he also plays with such a gorgeous singing sound and with such tremendous expression. Jonathan wrote this concerto with those qualities in mind, and the concerto highlights all of Ricardo's skills, from tremendously fast and virtuosic passages to the outer passages which are soulful and beautiful and sound as though they are being sung by the human voice. That quality permeates the entire piece and made a wonderful fit for this theme of voices across this recording.

Beginning the disc is Johann Sebastian Bach's Fantasia and Fugue set for orchestra by the great British composer Edward Elgar and transcribed for band by our own Assistant Director Captain Ryan Nowlin. I wanted to open the

recording with Bach—even though this piece was not written for voices, all of Bach's music has a vocal quality. He wrote so much sacred music during his lifetime for choruses and voices that even his instrumental works have a vocal quality. So I thought it was a terrific way to open the recording and set the tone for all of the music that would follow.

GHADIALI: What was it like having composers participate in the recording process?

FETTIG: We are very fortunate this year to have played and recorded music by several living composers so we were able to collaborate directly with them. For performing musicians there really is no more enlightening experience than being able to work directly with those who create the music that we play. Often when we are playing music by those who have passed, we are guessing to some degree what their intent was based on the printed music. But when you are working with a living composer, you know exactly what he or she intends and you are able to realize that in a very direct and very accurate way.

While we were recording *Arioso*, we had both Jonathan Leshnoff and James Stephenson in session with us. So we were able to collaborate with them, get their feedback, make adjustments, and be sure that what we were recording was as close to what they intended as possible. We were also able to collaborate with Joseph Schwantner from afar. I was able to communicate with him and send him recordings throughout the process so that I could get his feedback and make adjustments on his seminal work *and the mountains rising nowhere*.

GHADIALI: What do you hope listeners will take away from *Arioso*?

FETTIG: I hope this CD represents a collection of music that is connected in an important and interesting way but also represents music that spans a good part of the history of our repertoire. It was a great joy to record and I am so very excited to be able to share this collection of music with music lovers and music students all over the world.

Arioso was recorded May 8-12, 2017, at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus, after performing the program live on May 7. Marine Band compact discs are distributed free of charge to schools, libraries, and radio stations. To be added to the distribution list, [sign up here](#). Not an educator? You can still access Marine Band recordings on the band's [YouTube Channel](#). *Arioso* will be released on YouTube on Dec. 4.

MARINE BAND IN PHOTOS



On Oct. 31, 2017, the U.S. Marine Band supported the funeral ceremony for Maj. Gen. Terrence P. Murray, USMC, at Arlington National Cemetery. Maj. Gen. Murray formerly served as the Operations Officer at Marine Barracks Washington, and as the Director of Public Affairs for the Marine Corps, overseeing the Marine Band. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Gunnery Sgt. Brian Rust/released)



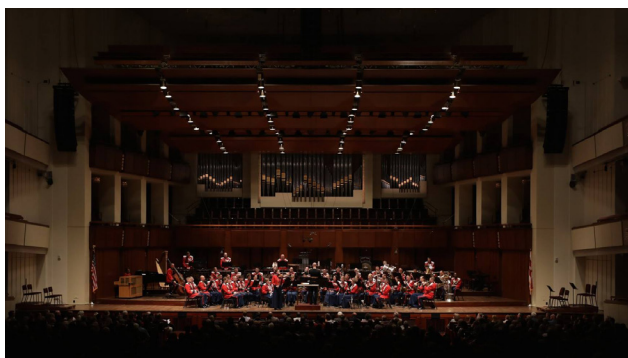
On Oct. 31, 2017, the U.S. Marine Band concluded its National Concert Tour by performing for high school musicians in the Philadelphia area at Irvine Auditorium at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Master Sgt. Kristin duBois/released).



On Nov. 6, 2017, the Marine Band performed at John Philip Sousa's grave at Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. in honor of the composer's 163rd birthday. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Gunnery Sgt. Rachel Ghadiali/released)



On Nov. 10, 2017, the U.S. Marine Band and the Ceremonial Escort from Marine Barracks Washington participated in a wreath-laying ceremony in honor of the Marine Corps' 242nd birthday at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Master Sgt. Amanda Simmons/released)



On Nov. 10, 2017, the U.S. Marine Band and the National Symphony Orchestra presented a concert titled "Notes of Honor." The joint concert, held at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall in Washington, D.C., was conducted by Gianandrea Noseda and Col. Jason K. Fettig. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Master Sgt. Amanda Simmons/released)



On Saturday, Nov. 11, the Marine Chamber Orchestra performed a Veterans Day Concert at the Washington National Cathedral, followed by a Marine Corps Worship Service the next day, also at the Cathedral. (U.S. Marine Corps photos by Gunnery Sgt. Brian Rust and Gunnery Sgt. Rachel Ghadiali/released)



FEATURED PROGRAMS

All concerts are free and open to the public. Schedule is subject to change. For concert information, please call (202) 433-4011 or visit www.marineband.marines.mil.

MARINE BAND

HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG

4 PM | Saturday, Dec. 2

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

Capt. Ryan J. Nowlin, conducting

Leroy Anderson
"Sleigh Ride"

Robert Lopez and Kristin Anderson-Lopez/
arr. Bulla*
Symphonic Highlights from *Frozen*

Adolphe Adam/arr. Bulla*
"Cantique de Noel"
Gunnery Sgt. Sara Sheffield, mezzo-soprano

arranged by Stephen Bulla*
Rhapsody for Hanukkah

Randol Alan Bass
The Night Before Christmas
Master Sgt. Kevin Benneer, baritone

Leroy Anderson
A Christmas Festival

Choral Sing-A-Long
Joy to the World
Deck the Halls
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Feliz Navidad
The First Noel
Frosty the Snowman
Hanukkah Dance
Wassail Song (Here We Come A-Caroling)
Winter Wonderland
Jingle Bells
Dreidel Song
White Christmas
Hallelujah Chorus
Let it Snow
We Wish You a Merry Christmas
Silent Night

MARINE BIG BAND

2 PM | Sunday, Dec. 10

Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, Bowie, MD

The Marine Big Band will perform a jazzy holiday set-list with big band arrangements of "Joy to the World," "Christmas Bells Are Ringing," "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!," "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," Ellington & Strayhorn's arrangement of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker Suite*, and more!

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

7:30 PM | Saturday, Dec. 15

Leatherneck Gallery, National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, VA

Col. Jason K. Fettig, conducting

Leroy Anderson
"Sleigh Ride"

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky/arr. Schmid
The Nutcracker Suite

Glen Ballard and Alan Silvestri/
trans. Brubaker
The Polar Express

arranged by Stephen Bulla*
Rhapsody for Hanukkah

Leroy Anderson
A Christmas Festival

Choral Sing-A-Long
Joy to the World
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Jingle Bells
Let it Snow
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
Angels We Have Heard On High
Deck the Halls
Frosty the Snowman
Silent Night
White Christmas
Santa Claus Is Coming to Town
We Wish You a Merry Christmas

VACANCIES



Click on each image above for specific details and the application packet of the specific audition. For more information call (202) 433-5714 or email marineband.operations@usmc.mil.

BAND MEMBER NEWS

STAFF LINES



Master Sgt. Daniel Orban Jr.

POSITION IN BAND

Trumpet/cornet

PETS

A very cute Pom-Chi named Demi (as in the actress Demi Moore)

EDUCATION

Masters and bachelors degrees

in Music from University of Maryland, College Park

JOINED THE BAND

1998

SELF-PORTRAIT

Hard working, technology challenged, impatient with easily solved problems, overambitious, tunnel visioned, light hearted, and humorous.

FAVORITE SAYING OR MOTTO

Carmine Caruso, a former teacher of mine said: "If you practice positive, you'll play positive, and if you practice negative you're not letting your body know what you want from it, then it becomes a confused muscular motion."

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

My 18-year-old kids, Timothy and Jacqueline... I am proud of them beyond words.

FAVORITE FOODS

Potato chips... plain and salty please!

WALTER MITTY FANTASY

To go back in time to the 1940s, 50s and 60s and play with the NBC orchestra trumpet section.

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN BAND

During the White House Hungarian State dinner, President Bill Clinton asked me to pull my valves out of my horn in the middle of our performance to demonstrate how my instrument worked. I had exactly 32 measures of rest to show Prime Minister Viktor Orbán how the intricate valve system of a flugelhorn operated without getting piston springs and valve oil on his dessert plate! Needless to say, it was an awkward but swift lesson, and I was terribly late on my next solo entrance!

INSPIRATION

My parents and my grandparents. They have inspired me to work hard and earn the fantastic life that I have.

FAVORITE MOVIE

"Young Man With A Horn" starring Kirk Douglas

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE

Chris Hemsworth; we look so much alike...!

BEST-KEPT SECRET

A young trumpet player in high school, I used to transcribe trumpet solos from old Johnny Quest, Jetson, and many other 60s and 70s cartoon soundtracks.

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE

"The Complete Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook."

HOBBIES

Ballroom dancing, video gaming, and hot yoga

THREE THINGS ALWAYS FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR

Banana peppers, IPA beer, lots of fresh vegetables to make homemade soup and stir fry

BAD HABITS

Wasting time

LUXURY DEFINED

Peace of mind, maybe a cabin with many scenic mountain views in the quiet woods of West Virginia

PET PEEVES

Dirty dishes left in the sink, dirty restaurant floors, and peanut butter left on spoons/knives in the sink

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE BAND

Trumpeter in the United States Naval Academy Band

MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHERS

Dr. Emerson Head, Trumpet Professor, University of Maryland, and Raymond Danner, my high school band director who toughened me up for the music business and the rest of life.

FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC

"El Gato"

PLACE YOU'D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED

Bourbon Street, New Orleans

LAST WORDS

Good morning sweetie and good night sweetie. I love you Maria.

WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



Recent appearances by "The President's Own" supporting the White House include:

- Remarks on Combating Drug Demand and the Opioid Crisis
Solo piano
- Collegiate National Champions Day
Jazz ensemble
- White House Christmas Tree Arrival
Brass quintet
- Turkey Pardon
Jazz ensemble

MARINE BAND CONTACT INFORMATION

Marine Band Office of Communication

Marine Barracks Washington
8th & I Streets, SE
Washington, DC 20390-5000

office: (202) 433-5809

concert information: (202) 433-4011

email: marineband.publicaffairs@usmc.mil

www.marineband.marines.mil

Editor: Gunnery Sgt. Brian Rust

"The President's Own" is a registered trademark.



www.facebook.com/marineband
www.twitter.com/marineband
www.youtube.com/usmarineband