

"THE PRESIDENT'S OWN" UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

NOTES

FALL 2018 | ISSUE 3



INSIDE:

MAKING MUSIC - An overview of the Marine Band's total musical commitments
EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT - Texas Bandmasters Association Annual Convention
MEET THE BAND - Get to know percussionist GySgt Gerald Novak in Staff Lines

NOTES

FALL 2018 | ISSUE 3

Notes is a quarterly publication produced by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band’s Office of Communication

MARINE BAND OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.
8th & I Streets, SE
Washington, DC 20390-5000
(202) 433-5809
marineband.communication@usmc.mil
www.marineband.marines.mil

[facebook.com/marineband](https://www.facebook.com/marineband)
twitter.com/marineband
[youtube.com/usmarineband](https://www.youtube.com/usmarineband)

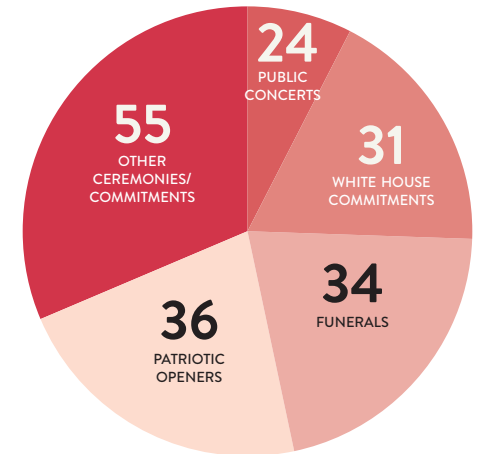
EDITOR AND DESIGNER
Gunnery Sgt. Brian Rust

CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS
Master Sgt. Kristin duBois
Gunnery Sgt. Rachel Ghadiali



making MUSIC

180 Total number of musical performances presented by members of “The President’s Own” between July and September 2018. From solo playing and small ensembles to the full band or orchestra, members perform several times each week through multiple musical commitments, including **public concerts**, **White House musical support**, **full honors funerals**, **patriotic openers**, **educational initiatives**, and **other ceremonial duties**.



Brass quintet performance at the National Museum of American History



Summer concert at the U.S. Capitol



Marine Band 220th Anniversary Concert at Strathmore featuring guest conductor Bramwell Tovey



Evening Parade honoring 100 years of women in the USMC



Fourth of July at the White House

EDUCATIONAL

engagement

TEXAS BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION

2,350

of people that attended concerts by the Marine Band at the Texas Bandmasters Association (TBA) annual convention in San Antonio. Members of the Marine Band also interacted with educators and students at the band's booth. TBA hosts the largest annual state bandmasters association convention in the country with over 6,500 people in attendance, including 2,400 band directors. [View complete photo album here.](#)



EDUCATIONAL CLINICS

105

of students reached through educational clinics and master classes conducted by members of "The President's Own"

CONCERT VIDEOS

[Watch the Marine Band's concert at TBA](#)

[Watch a performance of Marine Band chamber groups at TBA](#)



DIGITAL

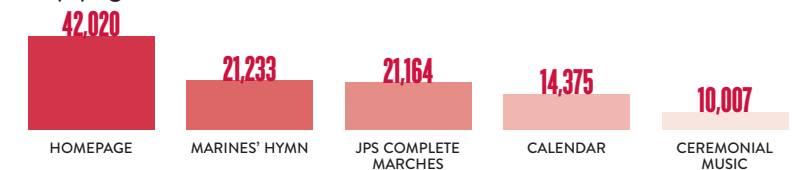
FOOTPRINT



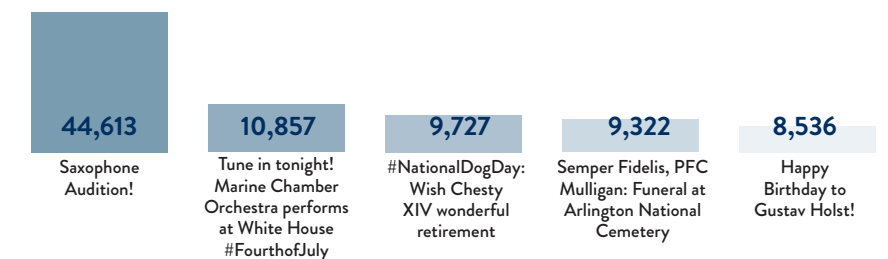
656,071

Total website hits
July-September 2018

Top page hits below:



Top Facebook posts and their reach:



Major appreciation for @txbandmasters, @marineband and Frank Ticheli because yesterday was one of the best days of my entire life :))

The United States Marine Band in concert at the Texas Bandmasters Assn Convention!



The @marineband is off the chain! Grainger's Lincolnshire Posy never had it so good!!! Be still my heart!

#OnThisDay in 1800 @marineband presents its first public concert in Washington "on a hill overlooking the Potomac" near the future site of the Lincoln Memorial. Early settlers thronged to hear the "Marines' brand of music."



Watch live at 8 pm EST as the @marineband premieres a new song honoring 100 years of women in the Marine Corps. [pic.twitter.com/ic7TEYovRw](#)



The stage is set and rehearsals are complete! Tune in tonight (7/4) at 8 pm ET @hallmarkchannel to watch the Marine Chamber Orchestra perform @WhiteHouse #FourthofJuly. [pic.twitter.com/e2kuGipZu7](#)



1,527,720

Total Marine Band YouTube views



IN THE NEWS

618



Number of articles or mentions in media sources, including print, web, radio, and television, with mentions by media such as **Fox News, New York Times, WNET TV, Washington Post, Hallmark Channel, Rolling Stone, Chicago Tribune, Travel Channel, and “All in with Chris Hayes.”**

ONLINE

TELEVISION

NEWSPAPER

RADIO



22,498,085

Total Reach

FEATURED STORIES & MENTIONS



“The national anthem was presented by **The President’s Own, United States Marine Band...**”- **The Washington Times, “Nationals host U.S. Marine Corps Day at Nationals Park”**

“The **U.S. Marine Band**, the U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters and the U.S. Air Force Band’s Max Impact are also on the line-up ...” - **The Hill, “White House to host Hallmark Channel special on July 4”**

“He was joined by the **U.S. Marine Band ... for a once in a lifetime performance ...**” - **The Country Note, “Chris Janson Performance at U.S. Marine Barracks In Washington, D.C. Taped For Hallmark Channel’s Fourth of July Special”**



““Out of all of the service bands, **I would say this one [the Marine Band] is considered the finest. ... We’re really fortunate.**” - **Sun Prairie Star, “U.S Marine Band to perform at PAC on October 23”**



MEET THE BAND



STAFF LINES

GySgt Gerald Novak

POSITION IN BAND
Percussion Section Leader

EDUCATION

Baylor University, Bachelor of Music Education;
Temple University, Master of Music in Orchestral Percussion Performance

PET

Fen, a 16 year-old cat

JOINED THE BAND

December 2006

SELF-PORTRAIT

Quiet, proactive

FAVORITE SAYING OR MOTTO

The sooner we start, the sooner we stop

WALTER MITTY FANTASY

Playing auxiliary percussion onstage with Bon Iver

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN BAND

The 2009 Inauguration of Barack Obama

BAD HABITS

Procrastination, letting old copies of papers pile up

INSPIRATION

My loving family and tremendous colleagues in “The President’s Own”

FAVORITE MOVIE

Moonstruck

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE

Nicholas Cage

PET PEEVES

DC traffic, impatient people

HOBBIES

Fantasy Sports Leagues,
Visiting the many outstanding
restaurants in the DC area

FAVORITE FOODS

New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc, Indian
and Thai food

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

Being gainfully employed as a professional musician

BEST-KEPT SECRET

Well if I tell you that defeats the exercise, doesn’t it? :)

THREE THINGS ALWAYS IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR

Parmesan, pesto, Arnold Palmer Iced Tea/Lemonade mix

MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHER

Alan Abel (Philadelphia Orchestra, retired)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE BAND

Principal Percussionist with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra

LUXURY DEFINED

Being able to attend every live performance by the group Bon Iver

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE

The Week Magazine and the Washington Post

FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC

Mahler Symphony No. 2 and the album “22, A Million” by Bon Iver

PLACE YOU’D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED

New Zealand

LAST WORDS:

Can you get the light, please?



RETIREMENTS



Percussionist Master Sergeant David Murray joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in June 1992. Master Sgt. Murray began his musical training at age 12. After graduating in 1986 from Caddo Parish Magnet High School in Shreveport, La., he earned a bachelor’s degree in music from Rice University in Houston in 1991, where he studied with Richard Brown. He earned a master’s degree in music from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., in 1996, where he studied with former Marine Band percussionist John Beck. Master Sgt. Murray retired in July after 26 years of service with “The President’s Own.”



Clarinetist Master Gunnery Sergeant Jeffrey Strouf joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in July 1988. He became assistant principal clarinetist in 1997 and in 2005, was appointed clarinet section commander. He served as principal clarinet since 2012 and was appointed co-principal in March 2015. Master Gunnery Sgt. Strouf began his musical instruction at age 14. After graduating in 1980 from Laramie High School in Laramie, Wyo., he earned a bachelor’s degree in music from Temple University in Philadelphia in 1986 where he studied with Anthony Gigliotti of the Philadelphia Orchestra. He also pursued graduate studies at Michigan State University in East Lansing, and as a member of the Halyburton Quintet. Master Gunnery Sgt. Strouf retired in August after 30 years of service with “The President’s Own.”

NEW MEMBERS



Percussionist Staff Sergeant Michael Hopkins joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in July 2018. Staff Sgt. Hopkins began his musical training on piano at age 8 and percussion at age 11. After graduating in 2012 from William G. Enloe High School in Raleigh, N.C., he attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., where he earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering and bachelor of music degree in percussion performance in 2017. He has also pursued master’s-level study at the Cleveland Institute of Music in Ohio. [Read Staff Sgt. Hopkins’ complete bio.](#)



French horn player Staff Sergeant Joseph Cradler joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in August 2018. Staff Sgt. Cradler began his musical training on violin at age 5 and French horn at age 11. After graduating in 2013 from W. T. Woodson High School in Fairfax, Va., he attended the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in Ohio from 2013-15 and the New England Conservatory in Boston from 2016-18. [Read Staff Sgt. Cradler’s complete bio.](#)



French horn player Staff Sergeant Claire Ross joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in August 2018. Staff Sgt. Ross began her musical training on French horn at age 12. After graduating in 2014 from East Kentwood High School in Kentwood, Mich., she attended Michigan State University in East Lansing where she graduated with high honor and earned a bachelor’s degree in music performance in 2017. [Read Staff Sgt. Ross’ complete bio.](#)

IN MEMORIAM



Gunnery Sgt. John Jenkins passed away on Aug. 25, 2018. He served the Marine Band as a baritone saxophone player and a clarinet player in the Dixieland Band from 1973-88 and spent his last five years of service with the Army National Guard.

OVERHEARD ON THE WEB

Thank you for inspiring our nation and young musicians. • I was there. An out-of-this-world awesome concert. Y’all brought it... • Stumbling upon the U.S. Marine Band performing in front of the Capitol was incredible. I quite honestly got goosebumps more than once. • U.S. Marine Band is pretty rad. • For my 80th birthday my wife said we are going to a concert of the President’s Finest Marine Band. • A very enjoyable concert. Fabulous band, funny conductor. Loved it! • That concert “made” my entire TBA experience. Heck it made my summer! • Now THAT’S how you play Lincolnshire Posy! • Some of those chords were soul penetrating. • That was the most moving rendition of the anthem I’ve ever heard. • You never hear an ensemble that starts at such a high level and stays there for the entire concert. But you did and it was amazing. • The suspended cymbals were luscious. • None of us will ever hear a finer, more beautifully nuanced performance of Grainger’s “Lincolnshire Posy” than that just offered by Col. Jason Fettig and the United States Marine Band. Flawless in every way. • The soloist threw down! • Standing room only for the U.S. Marine Band. Simply amazing! Music Education at its finest! • The U.S. Marine Band version of the National Anthem always gives me goosebumps and makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up... Beyond proud to be an American. #Happy4th • It was a privilege being in the audience! I also had the pleasure of sharing the experience with my wife and son - it was their first time hearing “The President’s Own”! • The @marineband is off the chain! Grainger’s Lincolnshire Posy never had it so good!!! Be still my heart! • Wow! Fantastic concert. Thank you for your service. • We Women Marines, past and present, are an amazing group! Thank you also for honoring us, as you do the entire Corps every day.