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

notes

The Marine Band performed at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Mass., during its 2012 National Tour. The band will return to Mechanics Hall on Oct. 18 as part of its Northeast tour. Full story on page 1.



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A HEARTY WELCOME TO THE NORTHEAST

BY GUNNERY SGT. RACHEL GHADIALI

When John Philip Sousa first took “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band away from Washington, D.C., on a national tour in 1891, he did so with the permission of President Benjamin Harrison because he believed that the ensemble belonged to all Americans. According to a program from that first tour, the President and Secretary of the Navy consented to “give a leave of absence to the band ... in response to many pressing requests, and because they recognize the fact that the people throughout the country should have an opportunity to listen to the band.” Since that time, “The President’s Own” has regularly traveled to small towns and big cities across the country to bring music to the American people.

This fall, the Marine Band will travel 2,551 miles throughout the Northeastern region of the United States, performing 28 concerts in 10 states, with stops in Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Delaware. The concerts are free but tickets are required. View the full tour itinerary at www.marineband.ticketleap.com.

“Every tour includes some new venues, new sponsors and new communities that perhaps haven’t had a chance to hear the band before,” explained Marine Band Director Col. Jason K. Fettig. “We always try to explore different areas and get into every part of the continental U.S. But we also have several sponsors and venues that year after year have been faithful to supporting the Marine Band and military music in general. One of those is Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Mass. The Marine Band performed there on its first tour with Sousa in 1891. It’s a beautiful, historic concert hall. And we always have an extremely supportive and enthusiastic audience when we visit.”

According to a review in the Worcester Spy from the Marine Band’s 1891 performance in Mechanics Hall, the band played with “splendid dash,” and encores and “novelties kept the audience on the edge of their chairs, wondering what was coming next.” The Metronome, a music magazine published from 1881 to 1961, said “every seat in the vast auditorium was taken,” and “should the organization visit us again, a hearty welcome will be assured.”

Mechanics Hall Associate Executive Director Kathleen Gagne assures a hearty welcome this October, saying, “The people of Worcester can’t wait for this concert! This year we are celebrating our 160th anniversary. Here at Mechanics Hall we’re extremely proud of our heritage and proud of our military. And the band is beautiful to look at while they perform, especially with the life-size portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln flanking the stage. We get symphonies from all over the world representing so many different varieties of music and cultures, but none of them has the presence of the Marine Band. These ambassadors sound wonderful in our hall; the audience is all smiles when

they leave from a Marine Band concert.”

Fettig added that “when we go to these communities that are faithful supporters of the military and military bands, you feel their dedication and excitement. In the case of Ridgefield, Conn., our sponsor Jack Herr was a big supporter of military music and he sponsored a military band performance every year for 50 years. That is quite a legacy.”

A former military musician himself, Herr had been a member of the 101st Airborne Division Band. He passed away on July 8, after already having met with a Marine Band

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Then-Lt. Col. Jason K. Fettig conducts the Marine Band during a 2016 tour concert at Glen Allen High School in Glen Allen, Va. The Marine Band heads to the Northeast for its 2017 National Concert Tour in October.





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advance team to finalize logistical details for the band's upcoming Oct. 24 concert. His associates and concert organizers at the American Legion are looking forward to having the Marine Band perform in Ridgefield High School Auditorium as they celebrate his legacy of patriotism and music in their community. The band's performance will be the culmination of a 50-year celebration honoring the tradition of military music in Ridgefield, which Herr initiated in 1967.

In Ridgefield and throughout the tour, Col. Fetting will imitate Sousa's popular programming style which includes a little something for everyone—a blend of popular and patriotic works, orchestral transcriptions, marches, and original music for concert band. Each program opens with a fanfare and march and concludes with John Philip Sousa's iconic "The Stars and Stripes Forever," followed by A Salute to the Armed Forces of the United States of America. (See repertoire on page 6)

"We always try to highlight music on our programs that celebrates the region we are visiting, whether it be marches that provide a connection or folk music that might be associated with certain areas of the country," Fetting said. "So this year several of the selections have connections with New England and the Northeast part of our country."

"Leonard Bernstein, one of our nation's best known classical musicians, had a relationship with both Boston and New York. He was born in Massachusetts, attended Harvard University, had a great relationship with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and served as the music director of the New York Philharmonic. So I've programmed the *Divertimento*, which he wrote for the BSO in 1980, as well as a new transcription of the Theme, Variations, and Finale by Miklós Rózsa. The Rózsa composition was on the program he conducted when he came to international prominence by guest conducting the New York Philharmonic on an emergency basis when the orchestra's conductor Bruno Walter got sick. The young 25-year old Bernstein took the concert at the last minute and it launched him into super stardom in the orchestral world in 1943."

"Another interesting connection with the Northeast is that of the life of President John F. Kennedy. Kennedy was from Massachusetts, and this year is the 100th anniversary of his birth. So to honor our former president and his legacy and heritage as well as our special relationship with composer and conductor John Williams, I decided to include Williams' Theme from *J.F.K.*"

"Since I became Director of the band, one of the things

that has interested me is continuing the legacy of programming in the style of our former Director John Philip Sousa. He would often include encores after the major pieces on his tour programs. We continue to do that to this day, so not only do patrons get to enjoy the music that's on the planned program, but there are always a few twists and turns and musical surprises built into every performance that we present while we're on the road."

The audience at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (UMASS) will enjoy a few of those twists and turns as Fetting returns to his alma mater on Oct. 10.

"Tour with the Marine Band is always a special event for me," Fetting said. "It's one of the things I appreciate most about serving in this organization—to be able to take this historical institution and share it with people across the nation. So every single year it's a special occasion. But this year is extra special for me because I'll be returning to the places where I grew up and where I received my education. This is the first time I have had the opportunity to return to the Northeast with the band as the Director. So when we go to UMASS, it'll be the 20th anniversary of when I graduated from there."

For this musical reunion of sorts in Amherst, Fetting invited one of his own mentors, UMASS former director of bands Malcolm W. "Bill" Rowell Jr., to conduct a selection on the concert. Rowell played a critical role in Fetting's development as a musician.

"I would not be here doing what I love to do if it weren't for his guidance and inspiration during my formative years as a musician and conductor," Fetting said. "It's an honor for me to bring the Marine Band back to this community and share music-making with one of my great friends and mentors."

Fetting will also return to his home state of New Hampshire on this tour. "When I was growing up in New Hampshire thinking about the possibility of a career in music, of course I never could have imagined that I would be able to work with this world-famous organization," Fetting said. "It's hard to describe what a thrill it is to be able to return home and share music at this level with so many people that have played an important role in my life, both musical and otherwise."

Fetting isn't the only Marine Band member returning to his stomping grounds. Percussionist Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Bisesi is looking forward to performing as a xylophone soloist at Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, N.Y., where he spent so much time growing up.

"When we have soloists from the area performing in their own hometown, you can feel the electricity and

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feel the town's support when they play a featured role in a Marine Band performance," Fetting said.

Featured soloists have been a tradition dating back to the band's very first tour with Sousa, displaying impressive technique and fine musicianship to demonstrate the virtuosity of the band's musicians. In addition to Bisesi, this year's soloists include seasoned tour soloists baritone vocalist Master Sgt. Kevin Benneer, trumpeter/cornetist Master Sgt. Daniel Orban, and first-time tour soloist flutist Staff Sgt. Heather Zenobia. Benneer also serves as concert moderator, introducing soloists and providing the titles and background information on each piece and composer.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with the audience and to share information about what we're doing and who we are," Benneer said. "When you look at the band on stage, they're wearing these resplendent scarlet Marine Corps uniforms and they're some of the finest musicians in the world. So I think the moderating gives us a human factor and human touch. As moderator I like to invite the audience to be part of the concert and enjoy the experience. Of course I also have the opportunity to recognize our veterans and thank them for their service. That's my favorite part. I love when the band honors our veterans by playing the service

2017 tour soloists from left to right: percussionist Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Bisesi; baritone vocalist Master Sgt. Kevin Benneer; flutist Staff Sgt. Heather Zenobia; and trumpeter Master Sgt. Daniel Orban.



songs because it highlights their service and what they gave. It is always powerful."

Fetting echoed that sentiment, saying: "Nothing makes us more proud than to honor veterans at our concerts and finish each performance with music that stirs patriotism and reminds them of how appreciative we are of their service."

In addition to the band's 28 tour concerts, Marine Band musicians will also provide dozens of master classes, clinics, and recitals in schools. In 2016, the Marine Band reached 4,430 students through 38 master classes and clinics. This year, 23 of the tour concerts will take place at a high school, middle school, or university, allowing the Marine Band musicians to reach hundreds of students throughout the Northeast. Fetting, who received a music education degree along with his clarinet performance degree from UMASS, actively seeks these educational opportunities.

"The educational outreach aspect of what the Marine Band does has always been really important to me and our Marines," Fetting said. "It has become a wonderful aspect of our travel as we spend time with students and impact their lives. Every opportunity I have to get into the schools and talk about the band and share my experiences is something I really enjoy doing. Many of my former colleagues and classmates continue to perform and teach in New England, so I'm really excited to see the influence they're having on the next generation of musicians. I'm excited about the work they're doing in their communities as performers and teachers and I'm looking forward to spending time with some of their ensembles."

"I also want these students to see the band live in concert. It's important that we bring our musicians directly to students across the country," Fetting said. "There's absolutely no substitute for hearing an ensemble like the Marine Band live."

He added: "When students, educators, veterans, and patrons of all walks of life come to hear the Marine Band in concert I really want them to leave having had a community experience. It's important to me for our concertgoers to walk away feeling great pride for our American arts and history and heritage, but also a great joy and a feeling of just how special music is in our country; how much it represents an opportunity for us even for a short period of time and celebrate something that is collectively important to all of us."

The Marine Band's 2017 National Concert Tour will take place Oct. 1-30. The performances are free but tickets are required. Times, dates, and location information may be found at www.marineband.ticketleap.com. 🎺

MEET THE TOUR SOLOISTS

by Gunnery Sgt. Rachel Ghadiali



Baritone vocalist and concert moderator Master Sgt. Kevin Benneer joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in January 2000, becoming the third featured vocal soloist since the position was established in 1955. He will solo on every single Marine Band tour concert; therefore he has collaborated with Col. Jason K. Fettig to select three different works to perform on the road. [Read Benneer’s Biography](#)

Irish Songs, Set No. 2 was arranged by Master Sgt. Stephen Bulla, USMC (ret.), who served as the Marine Band’s chief arranger from 1989 until his retirement in 2010. In 2009 he created this medley of Irish favorites for Benneer which includes “When Irish Eyes are Smiling,” “The Little Beggarman,” “Rocky Road to Dublin,” “The Minstrel Boy,” “Morrison’s Jig,” and “The Wearing of the Green.”

“I grew up with my grandma singing around the kitchen,” Benneer said. “She had a beautiful voice. She’s from Ireland, so when I sing this set I feel like she’s right there with me. She was a little lady—maybe five feet tall—who sang ‘Danny Boy’ as she worked around the kitchen baking bread. We weren’t allowed to bother her when she was singing in there because that was her time, so we respected it. She was so funny; she’d yell at us in her thick Irish accent to get out of her kitchen. But I just loved hearing her sing, and I love those beautiful Irish melodies.”

Ol’ Blue Eyes: The Hits of Frank Sinatra was arranged by Marine Band staff arranger Staff Sgt. Scott Ninmer and includes “Come Fly with Me,” “For Once in my Life,” “I’ve Got the World on a String,” and “All the Way.” One of the country’s most popular musical artists of the 20th century, Sinatra was born in 1918 in Hoboken, N.J.

“We picked this selection because we’re going through New Jersey and Frank was born in the Garden State,” Benneer explained. “This medley has some of my favorite pieces, particularly ‘Come Fly with Me.’ I grew up in West Virginia in a rural area, and that song was sort of my introduction to the world of jazz and big band and that era of music. When I was a little boy I would sit in the living room and sing along to Frank Sinatra records with my dad. So I’ve known these tunes for decades. I love each of them; they take you back in time especially with the Marine Band playing the accompaniment to capture that 40s era big band sound.”

Pride of a People was arranged by Master Sgt. Bulla, weaving together three songs that have become an integral part of our American culture: “This is My Country,” “You’re a Grand Old Flag,” and “My Country ‘tis of Thee.”

“This medley is very special to me,” Benneer said. “We took it on tour in the fall right after September 11. It was a very emotional time, obviously. So to sing this patriotic medley when we were all hurting and all very raw from those events—we had these songs to sing together and come together as we tried to heal and make sense of it all.”



Percussionist Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Bisesi joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in May 2004. Bisesi will solo in the following cities: Chambersburg, Pa.; Fredonia, N.Y.; Buffalo, N.Y.; St. Albans, Vt.; Durham, N.H.; Springfield, Mass.; Dix Hills, N.Y.; Clifton, N.J.; and Sewell, N.J. [Read Bisesi’s Biography](#)

Xylophone Rags of George Hamilton Green was arranged by Marine Band staff arranger Staff Sgt. Scott Ninmer and includes the following five pieces: “The Ragtime Robin,” “Log Cabin Blues,” “Cross Corners,” “Chromatic Fox Trot,” and “Rainbow Ripples.”

Bisesi explains how the arrangement came about:

“It’s common for these short ragtime works to be played with piano accompaniment, and I’ve even come across brass quintet arrangements for these works. But it’s rare to find these specific pieces with wind band accompaniment. So I wanted to compile ragtime works by George Hamilton Green together along with ensemble accompaniment. I went to Colonel Fettig to see if he would be interested in something like this, and he put our talented arranger Staff Sgt. Scott Ninmer on the task. We wanted the medley to feature the band

along with the novelty of the music, the band, and the soloist. I gave Scott my own written out noodling and improvisation ideas which he incorporated into the accompaniment. So those ideas are passed throughout the ensemble, creating a brilliant realization of Green’s rags. It is going to be very entertaining and make the audience smile.”

A native of Orchard Park, N.Y., Bisesi is especially looking forward to performing his solo on stage at Shea’s Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, only 20 minutes from his hometown.

“I’ve been going to this hall since I was four years old!” Bisesi exclaimed, “My parents took my sister and me to shows at Shea’s, so I’ve watched performances on this stage my whole life. I was always so inspired. I remember like it was yesterday seeing Sesame Street on that stage and thinking wow! I also wondered what Big Bird was doing in Buffalo.”

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“When I was a kid I dreamed about playing on that stage,” he continued. “For as long as I can remember. When I was little I used to wish I could be up there performing and now I get to do it, so this tour is very special to me. Maybe some student can see the Marine Band and be inspired.” If the enthusiasm of the audience at Shea’s demands an encore performance, Bisesi has chosen the familiar tune “When You Wish Upon a Star.”

In high school, Bisesi marched in the Orchard Park High School Quaker Marching Band under the direction of band directors Don Carducci and Chris Revett. He notes that members of the QMB, Don and Chris, and many of his family members and friends will attend the concert.

“Don and Chris are incredibly talented musicians who are humbly inspirational people. Along with my parents, these mentors set me up for success. It really means a lot to me to be able to perform with my parents there and those who helped me to realize my dreams as a musician.”



Flutist Staff Sgt. Heather Zenobia joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in September 2006. Zenobia will solo in the following cities: Lancaster, Pa.; State College, Pa.; Rochester, N.Y.; Amherst, Mass.; Everett, Mass.; Worcester, Mass.; Hopewell Junction, N.Y.; Ridgefield, Conn.; Allentown, Pa.; and Wilmington, Del. [Read Zenobia’s Biography](#)

Fantasie on Der Freischütz, composed by Paul Taffanel and transcribed by Marine Band staff arranger Master Gunnery Sgt. Donald Patterson, is a technical showstopper and considered one of the standard pieces of the flute repertoire today.

“When I was invited by Col. Fettig to play a solo on tour, I knew I would need to find something relatively short and technically brilliant with some singing, tuneful moments,” Zenobia said. “I took to YouTube for my search and found the Taffanel to be a good fit. It’s exciting, dramatic, flamboyant, and operatic, with some really beautiful melodies. The technical passages are a whirlwind and quite challenging. The tempos are fast, and there are a lot of notes. I’ve had to work hard on keeping my fingers light and easy. One unique aspect of the piece is that even though the composer was a flutist, there are many passages where he left the performer

nowhere to breathe! So working on this piece has benefited me as a flutist in multiple areas.”

Zenobia notes that the audience should listen for the quiet, prayerful, yearning hymns in the piece. “It’s a huge shift and contrast from the previous sections. And the lyrical passages are so sweet and tender; it’s passionate and very powerful.”

Only a month after Zenobia joined the band in 2006, she traveled on her first tour—to the Northeast. “So the Northeast tour is special to me since it was the first tour I traveled on as a member of ‘The President’s Own.’ Also, much of my husband’s extended family lives near Ridgefield, Conn., so they’ll all be at our concert in Ridgefield. I’m excited for them to hear a Marine Band concert since they haven’t heard one before. I’d like to think that tour is just as Sousa envisioned it—we’re taking the Marine Band music to the people.”

Interestingly, the Marine Band performed in Worcester on its first tour in 1891 and featured a flute soloist—a ‘very agile performer’ with ‘remarkable execution,’ according to the Worcester Spy newspaper. Zenobia will be performing her solo in Worcester and hopes to make her family and colleagues proud while representing the Marine Band with excellence and remarkable execution, just like the Marine Band flute soloist in 1891.



Trumpeter/cornetist Master Sgt. Daniel Orban Jr. joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in September 1998. He will solo in the following cities: Johnstown, Pa.; New Wilmington, Pa.; Utica, N.Y.; Concord, N.H.; Biddeford, Maine; Providence, R.I.; New Haven, Conn.; East Brunswick, N.J.; and Philadelphia. [Read Orban’s Biography](#)

Tribute to Louis Armstrong was arranged by Master Sgt. Stephen Bulla, USMC (ret.), and includes music from the jazz icon’s most influential years, the 1920s and 1930s. The medley includes “West End Blues,” “Hotter than That,” “Struttin’ With Some Barbeque,” “Cornet Chop Suey,” “Skokiaan,” and “I Gotta Right to Sing the Blues.”

“I started listening to Louis Armstrong when I was 13 years old,” Orban said. “My grandma loved Louis Armstrong so she bought me a standard book and a Louis Armstrong album. Then she asked me to play her favorites, so I’ve been playing ‘Hotter than That’ since junior high.”

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“Trying to emulate Louis Armstrong is a difficult task,” Orban said. “The amount of energy expended playing his music can be exhausting, so my efforts in preparation were multifaceted. I approach the physical aspect seriously with multiple trumpet callisthenic techniques and buzzing basic programs I have learned over the years. For sound and style, I listened to and transcribed all my favorite trumpet players like Louis Armstrong, Roy Eldridge, John Jones, Doc Severinson, and Maynard Ferguson, just to name a few. It’s through the process of transcriptions that I learned their music intimately. Over the years, I have transcribed over 50 Louis Armstrong vocal and trumpet solos in an effort to emulate his techniques.”

Orban continued: “The audience is going to love the energy of this musical performance. Louis Armstrong used to come out with a big cadenza to grab everyone’s attention, so that’s how the medley begins. And he was famous for his high note trumpet solos and seemingly holding them forever, so that is also incorporated into the arrangement. Armstrong was a showman; a communicator. He engaged the audience by telling stories through his trumpet and vocal techniques. He talked through his horn. And when he played, he told stories. For me, I love the idea of being able to communicate and engage the audience. I like to approach each performance with a fresh attitude and in the end put my own interpretation on the style. My goal in playing this piece is to accurately represent the excitement Louis Armstrong conveyed while telling his stories.” 🎺

TOUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Tour concerts will include selections from the following:

John Williams

Fanfare, “For ‘The President’s Own’”

arranged by Staff Sgt. Scott Nimmer*

Xylophone Rags of George Hamilton Green
Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Bisesi, xylophone

Leonard Bernstein/trans. Grundman

Divertimento

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky/trans. Cramer

Dance of the Jesters from *The Snow Maiden*

Scott Lindroth

Passage

arranged by Stephen Bulla*

Irish Songs, Set No. 2
Pride of a People
Master Sgt. Kevin Benneer, baritone

John Philip Sousa*

March, “The Stars and Stripes Forever”
March, “The Invincible Eagle”
March, “The Fairest of the Fair”
March, “Comrades of the Legion”

arranged by Thomas Knox*

A Salute to the Armed Forces of the United States of America

Andrew Boysen Jr.

Kirkpatrick Fanfare

Joseph Turrin

Regiment of Heroes March

George Whitefield Chadwick/trans. Claus

“Jubilee” from *Symphonic Sketches*

Paul Taffanel/trans. D. Patterson*

Fantasia on *Der Freischütz*
Staff Sgt. Heather Zenobia, flute soloist

Percy Grainger

Irish Tune from County Derry

arranged by Staff Sgt. Scott Nimmer*

Ol’ Blue Eyes: The Hits of Frank Sinatra
Master Sgt. Kevin Benneer, baritone

John Mackey

Aurora Awakes

John Williams/arr. Lavender

Theme from *J. F. K.*

W. Paris Chambers

March, “The Boys of the Old Brigade”

Charles Ives/ed. Brion

March, “Omega Lambda Chi”

Adam Gorb

“Awayday”

arranged by Stephen Bulla*

Tribute to Louis Armstrong
Master Sgt. Daniel Orban, trumpet soloist

Alberto Ginastera/trans. D. Patterson*

Dances from *Estancia*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Toccata Marziale

MARINE BAND DIRECTOR PROMOTED TO COLONEL IN WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY

by Master Sgt. Kristin duBois



On Aug. 4, 2017 Marine Band Director Jason K. Fettig was promoted to colonel by President Donald Trump in a ceremony in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. He is the third Director of “The President’s Own” to be promoted in a White House ceremony and the first military promotion performed by President Trump.

Col. Fettig was moved and humbled by the honor. “Having the privilege to serve as Director of this

storied American institution is a distinct honor unto itself, but when it is coupled with the opportunity to also serve as a colonel of Marines, the feeling of that inherent responsibility to both the organization and to the immensely talented individuals with whom I work, is certainly magnified,” he said. “I consider wearing this rank and having it conferred by the President of the United States as a shared honor with the entire organization. It is a symbol of the important place the United States Marine Band occupies within our Corps and at the White House, as well as the special role music plays in the living history of our nation.”

Col. Fettig joined in 1997 as a clarinetist and soon became a frequently featured soloist with both the band and the Marine Chamber Orchestra. After serving four years in the organization, he was selected as an Assistant Director, and he conducted his first Marine Band concert on Aug. 1, 2001. He was commissioned a first lieutenant in July 2002, promoted to captain in August 2003, and became the band’s Executive Officer the following year. He was promoted to major in August 2007 and to lieutenant colonel in July 2014, one week before assuming leadership as 28th Director of “The President’s Own.”

As Director, Col. Fettig is the music adviser to the White House and regularly conducts the Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra at the Executive Mansion and at all Presidential Inaugurations. He also serves as music director of Washington, D.C.’s historic Gridiron Club, a position held by every Marine Band Director since John Philip Sousa. In his first years as Director, Col. Fettig has led the band at numerous major national events both at the White House and throughout the country. He conducted nationally broadcast performances for the 200th Anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner at Ft. McHenry in Baltimore, a special Veterans Day performance with the Mormon

Tabernacle Choir in Salt Lake City, and an appearance on the David Letterman Show at the invitation of Michelle Obama in New York. He leads frequent concerts throughout the Washington, D.C., area and across the country during the band’s annual national tour. Live performances by the Marine Band under his direction are often heard on National Public Radio. Col. Fettig is a fervent advocate for both traditional and contemporary American music and remains dedicated to the ongoing development of music for wind band. In recent years, he has conducted world premières of substantial new works by James Stephenson, Jacob Bancks, David Rakowski, Adam Schoenberg, David Conte, and Narong Prangcharoen.

Throughout his career with the Marine Band, Col. Fettig has been deeply committed to music education and has taken an active role in the evolution and expansion of the many educational initiatives of “The President’s Own.” In addition to helping refine the Music in the Schools and Music in the High Schools programs, he has made it a priority to maintain a significant presence in schools throughout the nation during the band’s national concert tours. He also began an interactive and theatrical Young People’s Concert series in 2006 and authored, hosted, and conducted this popular annual event until 2015. In 2014, shortly after assuming command of the Marine Band, Col. Fettig launched an ambitious project to re-record all of the marches of John Philip Sousa and provide free performance and educational materials online to schools throughout the world.

Col. Fettig is a 1993 graduate of Manchester Central High School in New Hampshire and holds two bachelor’s degrees from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in both clarinet performance and music education with an emphasis in conducting. In 2005, he earned a master’s degree in orchestral conducting at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he served as assistant conductor for two productions of the Maryland Opera Studio. He studied clarinet with Michael Sussman and David Martins, and his principal conducting teachers were Malcolm W. Rowell and James Ross. Additionally, Col. Fettig has participated in workshops with several renowned conductors including Osmo Vänskä and Otto Werner Mueller.

Col. Fettig has represented the Marine Band on numerous occasions as a soloist, adjudicator, and clinician, and regularly conducts both concert bands and orchestras for all-state and honor festivals. In 2014, he was elected as a member of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. 🍷

BACK TO SCHOOL RESOURCES

by Master Sgt. Kristin duBois

When the musicians of “The President’s Own” U.S. Marine Band aren’t hailing the chief at the White House, honoring fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery, performing concerts in the DC metro area and across the country on tour, or in a practice room honing their craft, they can be found in schools, both live and virtually. The following [educational resources](#) are available for free from the Marine Band:



MARINE BAND CONCERTO COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

“The President’s Own” U.S. Marine Band, in conjunction with the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, hosts an annual Concerto Competition for high

school students. The winner will appear as a guest soloist with the U.S. Marine Band and receive a \$2,500 scholarship from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. The runner up will receive a \$500 scholarship. The deadline for applications each year is Nov. 15. Please visit www.marineband.marines.mil/About/Concerto-Competition for more information.

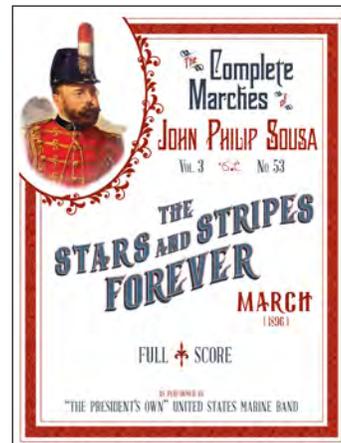
OPEN REHEARSALS

Observing a Marine Band or Marine Chamber Orchestra rehearsal provides young musicians and educators the opportunity to see and hear how a professional musical ensemble works together with the conductor to create a cohesive musical experience. To sign up to observe a rehearsal in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall in Washington, D.C., please visit www.marineband.marines.mil/educational.

COMPLETE MARCHES OF JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band has released Volumes 1-3 of “The Complete Marches of John Philip Sousa.” This multi-year recording project, initiated by Director Col. Jason K. Fettig, is the Marine Band’s first comprehensive, chronological collection of Sousa’s marches since the 1970s. The mp3s of Volumes 1-3 are available for free download exclusively on the Marine Band website,

along with scrolling videos and PDFs of the parts and full scores that include historical and editorial notes about each piece. Each march has been carefully edited and corrected by Col. Fettig and Music Production Chief Master Gunnery Sgt. Donald Patterson using some of the earliest known publications and incorporate performance practices employed by the Marine Band that are modeled on those of “The March King” himself. Download here: <http://bit.ly/CompleteMarchesSousa1>.



SOUSA'S MARCH MANIA KICKS OFF ON FEBRUARY 26!

When it comes to the historical knowledge and performance of marches, especially for those written by John Philip Sousa, the United States Marine Band is considered a prime resource. That’s why, from

Feb. 26 to March 28, “The President’s Own” will be hosting “Sousa’s March Mania,” a tournament pitting 32 marches against each other for the Marine Band online community to determine which one is the favorite. Each day, marches will compete head to head while fans vote which ones advance in the tournament. Participants can listen to the competing marches, download and print a tournament bracket, and vote for favorites on the Marine Band Facebook page. The winners of “Sousa’s March Mania” will be named “The March King” for a day! Please visit www.marineband.marines.mil/Unit-Home/Sousas-March-Mania.

EDUCATIONAL DISCOGRAPHY

The Marine Band produces an annual CD recording which is made available to schools, radio stations, and libraries. The recordings are distributed free of charge to educational

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institutions, public libraries, and radio stations. To be added to the list to receive CDs currently in print, please visit: www.marineband.marines.mil/Educational. Once your request is processed, your organization will receive all Marine Band recordings in stock. Your organization will continue to receive new recordings as they are released.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT

Each spring, the Marine Band or Marine Chamber Orchestra presents the Young People's Concert. Director Col. Jason K. Fettig initiated this interactive and theatrical series in 2006 and has authored, hosted, and conducted

the popular annual event since its inception. The band's 2018 performance will take place on Sunday, April 15 and the band will be conducted by Assistant Director Capt. Ryan J. Nowlin. More information about the performance will be available in the 2018 Season Brochure.

YOUTUBE

The Marine Band releases streaming albums and recordings of live performances on its YouTube channel regularly, as well as interviews with band members and historical vignettes. The latest educational video is "March Performance Practices for Euphonium," featuring two of our euphonium players breaking down marches and talking through their musical choices. In addition, the online collection includes many out-of-print educational recordings which have previously only been available to schools and libraries. Many are live recordings never previously released by "The President's Own." Please visit <http://bit.ly/USMBY-youtube>.

MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS (MITS)

Each October, ensembles from the Marine Band present programs designed to introduce musical instruments and concepts to elementary school students throughout the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Designed for grades 3-5, the 45-minute interactive presentations feature instrument demonstrations, explanations about how instruments produce sounds, instruction on musical terms, and a

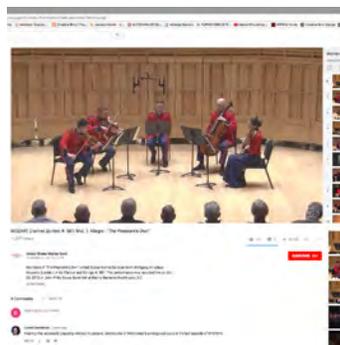
question and answer session. The musicians also perform a wide range of music geared specifically toward elementary school students. **This year's program will take place from Oct. 2-31 and is designed for grades 3-5. The 2017 ensemble options include brass quintet, string quartet, and woodwind quintet. Booking begins Sept. 5, and schools must be within a 15-mile radius of Washington, D.C.** For information, email kristin.dubois@usmc.mil, call (202) 433-5813, or visit www.marineband.marines.mil.



MUSIC IN THE HIGH SCHOOLS (MITHS)

From February-March, musicians and vocalists from the Marine Band visit high school music programs throughout the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area for sessions designed to entertain and challenge

music students. The Marine Band ensembles and vocalists perform varied selections geared specifically toward high school level musicians participating in band, orchestra, or choral programs, and are not suitable for general assembly type audiences. The presentations include instruction and concepts, in addition to providing valuable guidance on chamber music performance. Demand for this program is high and bookings are made on a first come, first served basis starting in December. Schools must be within a 30-mile radius of Washington, D.C.



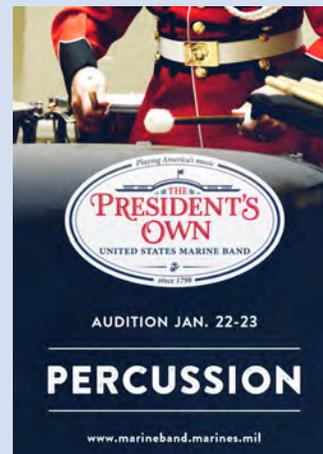
LIVE STREAM PERFORMANCES

The Marine Band live streams all performances from the Chamber Music Series at www.marineband.marines.mil and www.youtube.com/usmarineband. Programs will be posted on our online calendar usually

two weeks before the performance: <http://www.marineband.marines.mil/Calendar.aspx>. 🎷

BAND MEMBER NEWS

VACANCIES



Click on each image above for specific details and the application packet of the specific audition. For more information contact the Marine Band Operations Officer at marineband.operations@usmc.mil or (202) 433-5714.

STAFF LINES



Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Bisesi

**POSITION IN
BAND**
Percussionist

PETS
1 dog, Marco,
chocolate lab

EDUCATION
Bachelor of Music,
University of
Cincinnati College
Conservatory of

Music; Masters of Music, Boston University

JOINED THE BAND
May 2004

SELF-PORTRAIT
Friendly and reliable, hardworking and sincere,
with a nice dose of self-deprecation and honesty to
keep me humble

FAVORITE SAYING OR MOTTO
Hard work and dedication never will let you down

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Marrying my wife and watching our daughter grow

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN BAND
Meeting President Obama days before he left
office was a thrill that I will never forget.

INSPIRATION
My wife, parents, and sister. They are the most
dedicated and devoted people you will ever find.

FAVORITE MOVIE
"The Big Lebowski"

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE
I'd like to say Daniel Craig, but Woody Allen would
probably end up with the role

BEST-KEPT SECRET
Every time I perform I'm far more nervous than I
look.

BOOK AT BEDSIDE
"Blink" by Malcom Gladwell

FAVORITE FOOD
Doritos. They're just the best food group on the
planet.

HOBBIES
Going for a run or taking the occasional Bikram
Yoga class lands me on cloud nine

BAD HABIT
I'm on my phone WAY too much

LUXURY DEFINED
A full night's sleep. It's been so long...what's it like?

**THREE THINGS ALWAYS FOUND IN YOUR
REFRIGERATOR**
Half and half, eggs, and yogurt

PET PEEVES
Getting lost and being late

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE BAND
Faculty at Boston University and Boston University
Tanglewood Institute

MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHERS
Don Carducci and Chris Revett at Orchard Park High
School. Without their wonderful influence right from the
beginning, I would never have been properly set up for
entering this field.

FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC
Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11

PLACE YOU'D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED
Sitting on the lawn at Tanglewood with my family

LAST WORDS
Thanks for the good times

BAND MEMBER NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

PROMOTIONS

To Sergeant: Administrative clerk Kimberly Santiago

To Corporal: Stage Crewman Timothy Murray

NATIONAL ANTHEM AT RICHMOND INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY

At 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 9, the Marine Band will perform the National Anthem at the Federated Auto Parts 400 at the Richmond International Raceway in Richmond, Va. According to the Richmond International Raceway, the Federated Auto Parts 400 is the “Last Race to Make the Chase” in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series. To see the band’s performance of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” tune in to NBC Sports Network at 7:30 p.m. EDT when the band will kick off the event coverage.

For more information visit www.rir.com or www.nbcsports.com.



BARRACKS ROW FALL FESTIVAL

The 16th annual Barracks Row Fall Festival will take place on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. along the 8th Street corridor in southeast Washington, D.C. A brass quintet from “The President’s Own” will perform patriotic music from 11:35-11:55. At noon the Marine Corps Color Guard will present the colors, and the quintet will perform the National Anthem and The Marines’ Hymn to kick off the event. Stop by the Marine Band booth to visit with members of the organization, learn about upcoming events, and visit with the English bulldog Cpl. Chesty XIV, the official mascot of Marine Barracks Washington.

The Fall Festival is free to attend and will feature numerous performing groups, a military culinary competition, food and vendor booths, and tours of Marine Barracks Washington. For additional information visit www.barracksrow.org.

WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



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

- Medal of Valor Presentation for First Responders
String ensemble with piano; brass quintet
- Medal of Honor Presentation for PFC James McCloughan, USA
Brass quintet
- Small Business event:
The Engine of the American Dream
String ensemble with piano

MARINE BAND CONTACT INFORMATION

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Washington, DC 20390-5000

office: (202) 433-5809

concert information: (202) 433-4011

email: marineband.publicaffairs@usmc.mil

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www.marineband.marines.mil

Editor: Gunnery Sgt. Brian Rust



www.facebook.com/marineband

www.twitter.com/marineband

www.youtube.com/usmarineband