

"THE PRESIDENT'S OWN" UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

NOTES

SPRING 2018 | ISSUE 1



INSIDE:

MAKING MUSIC - An overview of the Marine Band's total musical commitments

EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT - The massive impact of Sousa's March Mania

MEET THE BAND - Get to know MGySgt Vicki Gotcher in Staff Lines

making MUSIC

131 Total number of musical performances presented by members of “The President’s Own” from January-March 2018. From solo playing to small ensembles and 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, and other ceremonial duties.



Marine Band Concert
January 2018



Orchestra Concert
February 2018



Marine Band Concert March 2018



Funeral for Sgt. Maj. Robert
E. Cleary February 2018



Orchestra Concert March 2018



EDUCATIONAL

engagement

SOUSA'S MARCH MANIA

>100,000

of students that participated in 2018 competition from schools across the nation, including elementary, middle, and high school music programs.



880,450

Total votes cast



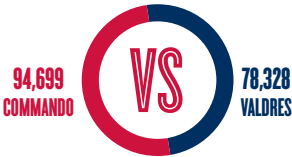
>1,300

Participating schools



173,027

Votes cast in final match



EDUCATIONAL CLINICS

5,885

of students reached through educational clinics, master classes, & performances, including the Music in the High Schools program



DIGITAL FOOTPRINT



503,892

Total website hits
January-March 2018.

Top page hits below:

37%

HOMEPAGE

21%

CALENDAR

18%

JPS COMPLETE
MARCHES

14%

MARINES' HYMN

10%

SEASON
BROCHURE



Top Facebook posts below and their reach:

74,916

#SuperBowl

59,374

Join our
Support Staff!
Recording
Engineer
vacancy

44,582

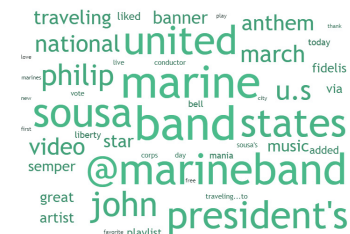
2018 Concert
Season
Announced

29,873

Clarinet
vacancy

20,516

Let the Mania
begin! Sousa's
March Mania
2018



Most used words in tweets
by or about @marineband

Top tweets and impressions of each:

5,970

First Female
Drum Major
to Lead "The
President's Own"

5,043

Let the Mania
Begin! Sousa's
#MarchMania/
Feb. 26/Game 1

4,476

#MusicMonday
Joseph Schwanter
discusses his
piece "and the
mountains rising
nowhere"

4,433

2018 Season
Announcement

4,297

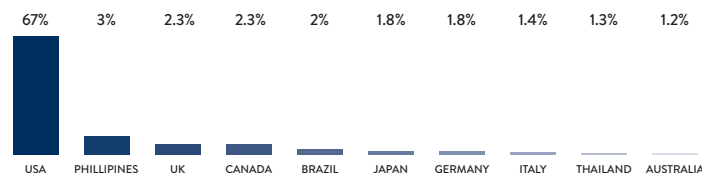
Sousa's
#MarchMania/
March 3/Game 6:
Raider's March vs
Sabre and Spurs



1,686,107

Total Marine Band YouTube views

Who's watching? Viewing countries



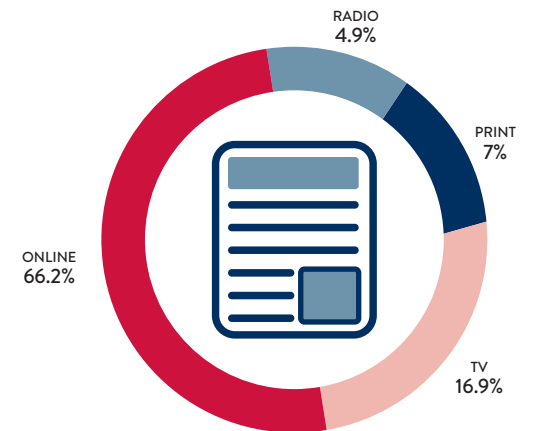
IN THE NEWS

142

Number of articles or mentions
in media sources, including print,
web, radio, and television, with
mentions by media such as the
**Travel Channel, CSPAN, The
Washington Post, Boston Globe,
and The Houston Chronicle.**

230.52M

Total
Reach



FEATURED STORIES & MENTIONS



From Superbowl LII: "Presenting the colors is a joint service color guard from the Military District of Washington. They carry our nation's flag and are flanked by the colors of each of the five military services as well as **drummers from 'The President's Own' United States Marine Band.**" - NBC

"...Benjamin Harrison added music to the Easter Egg Roll, ordering the **United States Marine Band** to play lively tunes while..." - KNBC-TV

From the White House: The Houston Astros were welcomed at the White House "under elegant chandeliers as a **Marine Band** played 'Deep in the Heart of Texas.'" - **Houston Chronicle**



"This year, the award will be given to Tessa Vinson, a member of **"The President's Own" United States Marine Band.**" - Santa Monica Daily Press

"Colonel Jason Fettig, conductor of the **"President's Own" Marine Band** guest conducted this symphonic band of 170 high school players.." - KENS 5 NEWS

meet the BAND



STAFF LINES
MGySgt Vicki Gotcher

POSITION IN BAND
Clarinet; clarinet section leader and section commander

EDUCATION
Bachelor of Music Education from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas; Master of Clarinet Performance and a Clarinet Performance Certificate, from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

JOINED THE BAND
September 1997

SELF-PORTRAIT
Caring, strong, stubborn, funny

PETS
2 old cats: Sadie and Bagheera

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT
Becoming an Ironman triathlon finisher

PET PEEVES
Washington, D.C. traffic, choke or pinch collars on dogs, whining children

WALTER MITTY FANTASY
Singing backup and playing auxiliary percussion on a Foo Fighters tour

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN BAND
Hearing the roar of the crowd during President Obama’s first inauguration and later getting a personal introduction to First Lady Michelle Obama by Paul Pelosi

INSPIRATION
My brother, Andy. He’s a great dad and was a wonderful son, especially when he was taking care of our very sick dad

- FAVORITE MOVIE
“Steel Magnolias”
- WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE
Tina Fey or Xena Warrior Princess
- BEST-KEPT SECRET
I worship John Denver and heard him in concert twice! I can barely listen to his music anymore - it hurts my heart too much....
- FAVORITE FOODS
Chips and salsa/Tex Mex, shrimp, my Grandma’s coconut cream pie
- HOBBIES
I’ve been a positive reinforcement dog trainer for the past 12 years, swimming, biking, anything outside
- BAD HABIT
Not screwing lids back onto things
- THREE THINGS ALWAYS IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR
Diet Coke, Diet Coke, and more Diet Coke
- MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHERS
Bob Parsons, my high school band director in Jacksonville, TX, Russell Dagon, clarinet teacher at Northwestern University, and Will Reavis, my step dad and high school clarinet teacher
- PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE BAND
Chicago Civic Orchestra and freelance musician in Chicago
- LUXURY DEFINED
Nothing on the schedule
- FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC
Mozart’s “Gran Partita,” Mahler 4, anything by the Foo Fighters
- PLACE YOU’D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED
On a secluded, beautiful beach, with a fully stocked bar
- LAST WORDS
“Call Joelle (he does my hair!)”

RETIREMENTS



French horn player **Master Sergeant Mark Questad** joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in July 1992. Master Sgt. Questad began his musical instruction at age 12 with Howard T. Howard. After graduating from Ridge High School in Basking Ridge, N.J., he attended The Juilliard School of Music in New York. He holds a bachelor of music degree from Indiana University in Bloomington in 1982 where he studied with Robert Elworthy, Philip Farkas, and Michael Hatfield. Prior to joining “The President’s Own,” Master Sgt. Questad was a member of the Evansville Philharmonic in Indiana, the Owensboro Symphony in Kentucky, and Top Brass. He also has performed with the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, the New Philharmonic of New Jersey in Morristown, the Group Opera of New York, the American Arts Ensemble, and the West End Chamber Players. In addition, he has made commercial and soundtrack recordings.



Clarinetist **Master Gunnery Sgt. Charles Willett** retired on March 16, 2018, after serving 28 years in the Marine Band. Master Gunnery Sgt. Willett of Alton, Ill., joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in May 1989. He began his musical instruction at age 12. Upon graduating from Alton Senior High School in 1979, he attended Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Ill., where he earned bachelor’s (1983) and master’s (1984) degrees in music performance. While at Southern Illinois University, he studied clarinet with George Mellott. He earned a Premier Prix in clarinet from the Conservatoire d’Orléans in France where he studied with Michel Arrignon. In 1996 he completed his doctorate degree in clarinet performance at Florida State University in Tallahassee where he studied with Frank Kowalsky. Prior to joining “The President’s Own,” Master Gunnery Sgt. Willett performed with the Columbus Symphony in Georgia and the Tallahassee Symphony in Florida.

IN MEMORIAM

Former clarinet player **Master Gunnery Sgt. David Knighton** of Bennington, Vt., passed away on April 26, 2018. Knighton served in the Marine Band from 1962–85. Prior to joining the Marine Band, he served for seven years in the Army Field Band.

OVERHEARD ON THE WEB

My mission is accomplished when every morning this week I’ve had 6th grade beginners asking each other, “Did you vote yet?” and “How’s your bracket doing?” • Thank you for giving us such a great program to participate in with great matches and great performances. We look forward to it every year! • They love listening in class and voting. Had to laugh though when they never heard of March from 1941! Am I really that old? • It’s the most wonderful time of the year! • It’s back! The truest march madness that exists. • Excuse me, something very important is happening! • It’s that time of year when underdogs are paired against favorites in a single elimination tournament to earn bragging rights!! That’s right, it’s Sousa’s March Mania. • March Mania really helped one young man make connections between Sousa, what he’s learning, loving music, and USMC heritage. • Norway’s honor and position as the world’s leading korpsnasjon is in danger!