

"THE PRESIDENT'S OWN"
UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Nowlin, Director

SOUSA SEASON OPENER



SUNDAY, JAN 21 | 2 PM

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center
Northern Virginia Community College
Alexandria, VA

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of "The President's Own,"

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the 2024 concert season featuring the men and women of the United States Marine Band.

As our historic organization enters its 226th year, we are thrilled to open the curtain on a season teeming with the timeless grandeur of symphonic band and orchestral masterpieces, electrifying chamber ensembles, and unforgettable experiences.

From the Sousa Season Opener to the Wolf Trap "Summer Blast Off," this year's series is filled with excitement to include:

- celebrated masterworks such as: Gustav Holst's *The Planets*, Paul Hindemith's *Symphony in B-Flat*, Béla Bartók's *Divertimento*, and Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 6* alongside new, innovative concert works
- an historic collaboration with legendary conductor H. Robert Reynolds at The Music Center at Strathmore
- two special performances in conjunction with the American Bandmasters Association Washington, D.C., conference
- a Young People's Concert where children of all ages will be introduced to the thrilling sounds of the concert band with a chance to try the instruments themselves in our very own "musical petting zoo"
- an incredible guest appearance by iconic New Orleans jazz clarinetist Doreen Kitchens at the Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts
- the much-anticipated debut of our newly-appointed Assistant Director, 1st Lt. (sel.) Jose Toranzo Infante

Whether you are a curious newcomer or loyal follower, our series is more than a collection of individual concerts—it is a community. We invite you to join us and allow the music to spark curiosities, make meaningful connections, and create lasting memories.

We look forward to sharing the fellowship of music-making and thrill of live performance in our 2024 concert series.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ryan Nowlin".

Lt. Col. Ryan Nowlin
Director, United States Marine Band



SCAN FOR THE
2024 SEASON
BROCHURE

SOUSA SEASON OPENER

Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Nowlin, conducting

John Philip Sousa* (1854–1932)
edited by The United States Marine Band

March, “The Black Horse Troop”

A. Carlos Gomes (1836–96)
arranged by Donald Patterson*

Overture to *Il Guarany*

Anthony Barfield (b. 1983)

North Star (2016)

MSgt Amy McCabe, trumpet soloist
GySgt Russell Sharp, trombone soloist

Percy Grainger (1882–1961)

Irish Tune from County Derry

John Philip Sousa* (1854–1932)

Symphonic Poem, “The Ben-Hur Chariot Race”

INTERMISSION

Sir Charles Mackerras (1925–2010)
based on the music of Sir Arthur Sullivan
transcribed by W. J. Duthoit

Suite from *Pineapple Poll*

Opening Number
Jasper’s Dance
Poll’s Dance
Finale

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–91)
arranged by GySgt Scott Ninmer*

“Là ci darem la mano” from *Don Giovanni*

SSgt Hannah Davis, soprano
MGySgt Kevin Bennear, baritone

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921)
transcribed by Leigh Steiger

Danse Bacchanale from *Samson et Dalila*

MGySgt Kevin Bennear and SSgt Hannah Davis, concert moderators

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



Unequaled by his predecessors, John Philip Sousa is responsible for bringing the United States Marine Band to an unprecedented level of excellence: a standard upheld by every Marine Band Director since. Sousa grew up with the Marine Band, and his intimate knowledge of the band coupled with his great ability provided the ideal medium to showcase the marches which would earn him the title, the “March King.”

Sousa was born Nov. 6, 1854, at 636 G Street, SE, Washington, DC, near the Marine Barracks where his father, Antonio, was a musician in the Marine Band. He received his grammar school education in Washington and for several of his school years enrolled in a private conservatory of music operated by John Esputa, Jr. There he studied piano and most of the orchestral instruments, but his first love was the violin. John Philip Sousa gained great proficiency on the violin, and at the age of 13 he was almost persuaded to join a circus band. However, his father intervened and enlisted him as an apprentice musician in the Marine Band. Except for a period of six months, Sousa remained in the band until he was 20.

After his discharge from the Marine Corps, Sousa remained in Washington for a time, conducting and playing the violin. He toured with several traveling theater orchestras and moved, in 1876, to Philadelphia. There he worked as a

composer, arranger, and proofreader for publishing houses. Sousa was fascinated by the operetta form and toured with a company producing the musical *Our Flirtation*, for which he wrote the incidental music and the march. While on tour in St. Louis, he received a telegram offering him the leadership of the Marine Band in Washington. He accepted and reported for duty on Oct. 1, 1880, becoming the band’s 17th Leader.

The Marine Band was Sousa’s first experience conducting a military band, and he approached musical matters unlike most of his predecessors. He replaced much of the music in the library with symphonic transcriptions and changed the instrumentation to meet his needs. Rehearsals became exceptionally strict, and he shaped his musicians into the country’s premier military band. Marine Band concerts began to attract discriminating audiences, and the band’s reputation began to spread widely.

Under Sousa the Marine Band also made its first recordings. The phonograph was a relatively new invention, and the Columbia Phonograph Company sought an ensemble to record. The Marine Band was chosen, and 60 cylinders were released in the fall of 1890. By 1897, more than 400 different titles were available for sale, placing Sousa’s marches among the first and most popular pieces ever recorded, and the Marine Band one of the world’s first “recording stars.”

The immense popularity of the Marine Band made Sousa anxious to take his Marine Band on tour, and in 1891 President Benjamin Harrison gave official sanction for the first Marine Band tour, a tradition which has continued annually since that time, except in times of war.

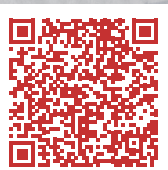
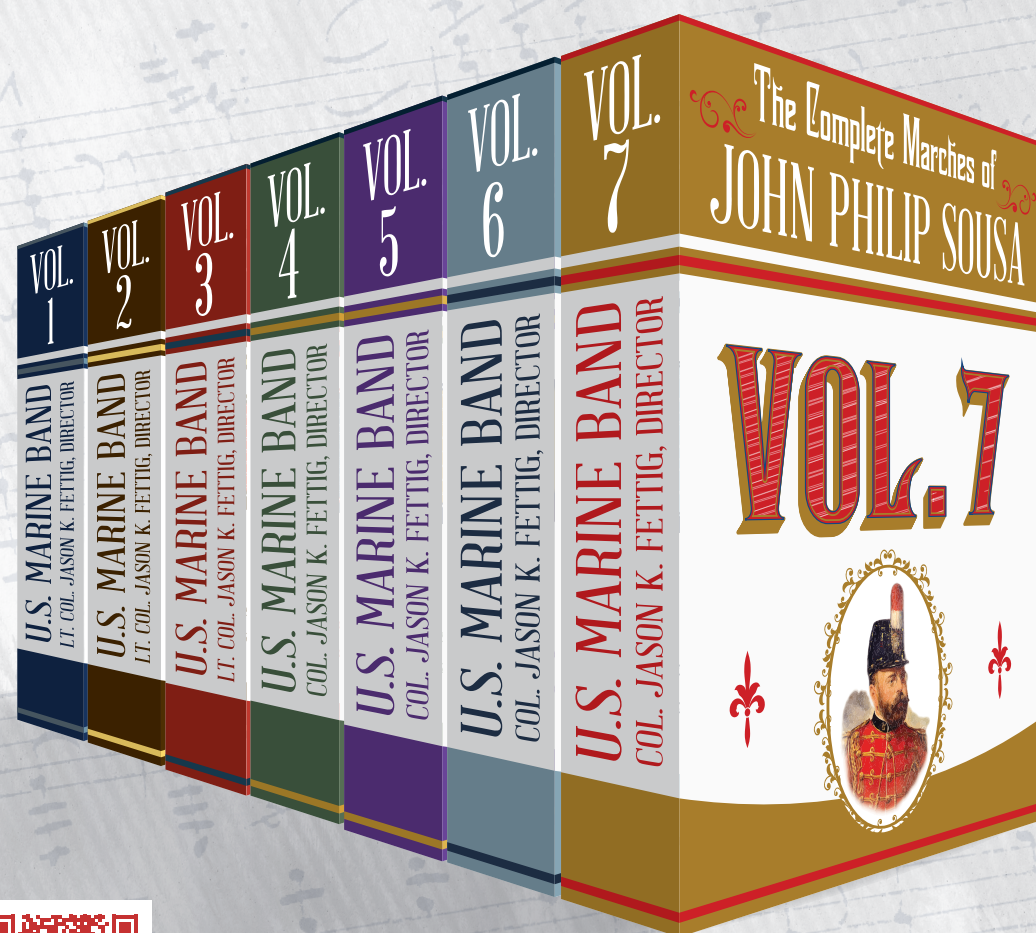
In his 12 years as Leader of the Marine Band, he served under five Presidents, and the experience he gained with the Marine Band would be applied to his civilian band for the next 39 years. With his own band, Sousa’s fame and reputation would grow to even greater heights.

Perhaps the most significant tribute to Sousa’s influence on American culture, “The Stars and Stripes Forever” was designated as the national march of the United States on Dec. 11, 1987. A White House memorandum states the march has become “an integral part of the celebration of American life.”

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A comprehensive collection of marches by John Philip Sousa, including audio recordings, scores, and historical information, all for free! Don't miss this incredible resource!

