



Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Nowlin, Director

UNITED STATES MARINE BAND
Wednesday, July 31, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace
Thursday, August 1, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.
Sylvan Theater
Captain Darren Y. Lin, conducting

John Williams (b. 1932)
arranged by Paul Lavender

Midway March

Paul Hart (b. 1954–2022)

Cartoon

Martin Ellerby (b. 1957)

Concerto for Clarinet (2001)

Carousel
Charabanc

GySgt Jonathon Troy, soloist

Snarky Puppy Medley

Shofukan
Semente
Kite
Skate U

Randy Newman (b. 1943)
arranged by GySgt Scott Ninmer*

“Almost There”

SSgt Hannah Davis, soprano

Arturo Márquez (b. 1950)
arranged by Oliver Nickel

La Conga del Fuego Nuevo

*Member, U.S. Marine Band

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PROGRAM NOTES

Midway March

John Williams (b. 1932)

arranged by Paul Lavender

The 1976 feature film *Midway* chronicles the incredible Battle of Midway, which was a turning point in the Pacific during World War II. Until this critical stand and victory, the Imperial Japanese Navy had been undefeated in battle for nearly eighty years. The film highlighted the remarkable American strategy and success against all odds with an all-star cast, including Charlton Heston, James Coburn, and Henry Fonda, who played the part of legendary Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Several scenes in the film were shot using the USS *Lexington*, the last Essex-class aircraft carrier from World War II in service at the time of production. The movie also employed a special sound mix called Sensurround. This early technique of enveloping the audience in the sonic action of the movie was used in only a few films of the era and required special speakers to be installed in theaters where they were shown.

John Williams provided the dramatic and visceral musical score for the movie. Williams had recently won his first Academy Award for his score to *Jaws* in 1974 and was quickly becoming one of the most sought-after composers in Hollywood at the time of *Midway*'s release. Right after his work on this film, he composed the now-iconic music to the first installment of *Star Wars*.

Cartoon

Paul Hart (1954–2022)

British composer Paul Hart is best known for his numerous works for television, films, and commercials. His more substantial works for orchestra and band include a jazz-influenced concerto for legendary Australian guitarist John Williams. *Cartoon* was commissioned in 1990 for the Royal Tournament, a popular annual competition at Earl's Court in London that features military bands, marching exhibitions, and battle re-enactments.

Cartoon is Hart's nod to the energetic and captivating music that accompanied classic Warner Brothers animated shows such as *Looney Tunes*, as well as Walt Disney's *Silly Symphonies*, and later, MGM shorts directed by Tex Avery. These cartoons featured distinctive music, and many of the best scores of this era were written by legendary composer Carl Stalling or his protégés. Stalling's compositions have remained a cult favorite among musicians for their tongue-in-cheek quotations of classical music's "greatest hits" and for the imaginative way that the music brought to life some of film's most hilarious and memorable characters, often without their even having to talk. Hart wrote, "It's all here! The big opening credits, the cat-and-mouse tease and chase, the strutting swagger, and of course the BIG FINALE! Best of all, it can all happen in the imagination of the audience, not on the film screen."

Concerto for Clarinet (2001)

Martin Ellerby (b. 1957)

English composer Martin Ellerby has enjoyed an immensely successful career in Europe and abroad as a composer of primarily instrumental works. Ellerby has contributed widely to the oeuvre of band music. Much of his output features woodwinds, especially the clarinet. Ellerby studied at the Royal College of Music in London, and his compositions have been heard at the BBC Proms, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Carnegie Hall, and others. Ellerby's fondness for band music is closely tied to his seven-year post as a civilian composer-in-residence to the Regimental Band of His Majesty's Coldstream Guards, as well as his service as the External Examiner to the Royal Air Force Music Services. Soloist GySgt Jonathon Troy had this to say about the work: "[The piece] is filled with influences of American composers, particularly John Adams (b. 1947) in the first movement, and other elements of pop and jazz music. It's a piece that's fun to play and should put a smile on your face."

Gunnery Sergeant Jonathon Troy, clarinet soloist

E-flat clarinetist Gunnery Sergeant Jonathon Troy of Ann Arbor, Michigan, joined "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in May 2011. Gunnery Sgt. Troy began his musical training on clarinet at age ten. After graduating from Huron High School in Ann Arbor in 2001, he attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he earned a bachelor's degree in music performance in 2005. In 2008, he earned a master's degree in music performance and an artist's diploma from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. His instructors included Gabriela Cohen of Washington, D.C., David Shifrin of Yale University, and Fred Ormand of the University of Michigan. Prior to joining "The President's Own," he attended the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California, performed with the Ann Arbor Symphony and the Delaware Symphony Orchestra in Wilmington, and was principal clarinet of the Las Vegas Philharmonic.

Snarky Puppy Medley

Snarky Puppy, an eclectic musical collective formed in Denton, Texas in 2004, has rapidly risen to become one of the most innovative and influential bands in contemporary jazz. Led by bassist Michael League, the group defies categorization, blending elements of jazz, funk, rock, and world music into a unique and dynamic sound. Known for its virtuosic performances and collaborative spirit, Snarky Puppy boasts a rotating cast of talented musicians, each bringing their distinctive flavor to the ensemble's ever-evolving sound. Snarky Puppy's music video for "Lingus," a tune from the album *We Like it Here* (2014), has accumulated over thirty-five million views on YouTube, and the band has won five Grammy awards.

The tunes selected by Marine Band arranger Gunnery Sergeant Scott Nimmer exemplify the diverse stylistic abilities of members of the Marine Band. Gunnery Sgt. Nimmer had this to say about his arrangement:

We mainly strove to identify pieces that would cover a range of styles and be feasible for the band to play, given that our ensemble is of much larger size and is perhaps not as nimble as a smaller group such as Snarky Puppy. We also wanted to find pieces that would highlight some of the jazz-leaning members of our group with some improvisational solos.

“Almost There”
Randy Newman (b. 1943)
arranged by GySgt Scott Nimmer*

Two-time Academy Award winner Randy Newman is a versatile musician, working as a singer, pianist, songwriter, composer, arranger, and conductor. He has scored nine Disney-Pixar animated films. For his accomplishments, Newman was recognized as a Disney Legend in 2007 and inducted into the Songwriter Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2013. Newman studied music in his native Los Angeles at the University of California, Los Angeles and cites Ray Charles as his greatest influence during his early career.

“Almost There” comes from Walt Disney Pictures’ 2009 animated film *The Princess and the Frog* and was originally recorded by Anika Noni Rose. It was nominated for Best Original Song at the 82nd Academy Awards. Set in New Orleans during the Roaring Twenties, the film is a supernatural and magical adventure beset with swampy Cajun charm. The ambitious and hardworking Tiana, who sings this song, works tirelessly towards her goal of opening the best restaurant in New Orleans. Tiana’s character is based on the true story of Leah Chase, a famous New Orleans Chef whose cooking pot, restaurant menu, and signature pink chef’s coat are displayed in the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History.

The lyrics of this song embody the strength of Tiana’s enduring tenacity as she casts aside leisure time and a social life to double her efforts towards her culinary aspirations. Musically, the piece is filled with references to New Orleans jazz, particularly the bluesy clarinet licks that adorn spaces between the vocalist’s stanzas.

Staff Sergeant Hannah Davis, soprano

Soprano vocalist and concert moderator Staff Sergeant Hannah Davis of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in September 2023. She is the band’s second official female vocalist. Staff Sgt. Davis began her musical instruction at age eight. After graduating in 2017 from Moon Area High School in Moon Township, Pennsylvania, she attended West Virginia University (WVU) where she studied under Hope Koehler and earned a bachelor’s degree in music in 2021. Prior to joining “The President’s Own,” she performed with the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra and WVU Opera Theatre and was a private voice instructor.

La Conga Del Fuego Nuevo
Arturo Márquez (b. 1950)
arranged by Oliver Nickel

Born in Álamos, Mexico, Arturo Márquez is a prolific composer renowned for his vibrant and evocative compositions that blend elements of traditional Mexican music with contemporary classical techniques. Raised in a musical family, Márquez studied composition at the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico City and later pursued advanced studies in Paris and at the California Institute of the Arts. His music, characterized by rhythmic vitality, lush orchestrations, and rich harmonic language, often draws inspiration from Mexican folk music, incorporating elements such as mariachi, danzón, and others. Márquez’s most famous work, *Danzón No. 2*, has achieved international acclaim, becoming a staple of the orchestral repertoire worldwide and

solidifying his reputation as one of Mexico's foremost composers of contemporary classical music.

Initially associated with the carnival celebrations in Havana and other Cuban cities, conga music was traditionally performed during processions and street parades, accompanied by dancers. Marquez's *La Conga Del Fuego Nuevo* has been performed on stages worldwide by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Minnesota Orchestra, The National Youth Orchestra of the United States, the Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar (Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra), and others. The title comes from the Aztec New Fire Ceremony, in which all fires were extinguished and rekindled from a newly lit fire.