



Lieutenant Colonel Jason K. Fettig, Director

UNITED STATES MARINE BAND
Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 8:00 P.M.
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace
Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 8:00 P.M.
Sylvan Theater
Major Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

Carl Maria von Weber (1786–1826)
transcribed by MGySgt Donald Patterson*

Jubel Overture, J. 245

Bedrich Smetana (1824–84)
transcribed by Jack T. Kline*

Three Dances from *The Bartered Bride*

Polka
Furiant
Dance of the Comedians

Richard Strauss (1864–1949)
transcribed by John Boyd

Horn Concerto No. 1 in E-flat, Opus 11

Andante
Allegro

SSgt Cecilia Buettgen, soloist

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

An American Elegy (2000)

Sammy Cahn (1913–93)
and Jule Styne (1905–94)
arranged by SSgt Scott Nimmer*

“10,432 Sheep” from *The West Point Story*

GySgt Sara Sheffield, mezzo-soprano

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

March, “The Charlatan”

GySgt Sara Sheffield, concert moderator

PROGRAM NOTES

Jubel Overture, J. 245

Carl Maria von Weber (1786–1826)
transcribed by MGySgt Donald Patterson*

German composer Carl Maria von Weber was a multi-talented musician, earning success as a concert pianist, orchestral director, and composer. Known as the father of German Romanticism, he composed more than three hundred works including the successful operas *Der Freischütz* (1821), *Euryanthe* (1823), and *Oberon* (1826), as well as music for the piano and notable works for bassoon, horn, and clarinet.

Jubel Overture is not associated with any of Weber's famous operas, but instead stands alone as an independent concert piece composed in 1818 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the reign of Friedrich August of Saxony. A solemn opening precedes a jubilant main section featuring fast scalar passages as well as gentle melodies. Weber brings the work to a dramatic climax by showcasing the anthem "God Save the King," a tune which will be familiar to Americans who use the same melody to sing "My Country, 'Tis of Thee."

Three Dances from *The Bartered Bride*

Bedrich Smetana (1824–84)
transcribed by Jack T. Kline*

One of the first Czech operas to gain recognition as part of the standard repertoire worldwide, Bedrich Smetana's *The Bartered Bride* tells the story of a young Bohemian girl's struggle with an arranged marriage. The comic opera features realistic characters and folk-inspired music. This suite of three dances was transcribed for band by LtCol Jack T. Kline, the Marine Band's twenty-fourth director who served from 1974 to 1979.

The opening Polka features sudden tempo changes and graceful pauses, perfectly capturing the character of this jaunty Bohemian dance. In the Furiant, another traditional Bohemian dance form, Smetana uses uneven rhythms to create a lively "hitch" in the main melody, which returns several times. In its original orchestral version, the Dance of the Comedians opens with a blazing fast passage for the violins. LtCol Kline entrusted this material to the Marine Band's virtuosic clarinet section, surely no coincidence since he began his musical studies on clarinet. A more lyrical and graceful tune briefly contrasts the busy nature of the dance before the clarinets reenter to bring the piece to a rousing close.

Horn Concerto No. 1 in E-flat, Opus 11

Richard Strauss (1864–1949)
transcribed by John Boyd
[*SSgt Cecilia Buettgen, soloist*](#)

The French horn, with its characteristic pure, rich, and mellow tone, has been called the "soul" of the orchestra and the most beautiful of all instruments. For German late romantic composer Richard Strauss, the French horn held a more personal significance as it was the instrument of his father Franz Strauss. Richard studied music with Franz from an early age, composing his first piece when he was just six years old. Franz, the principal horn player of the Munich court orchestra until age sixty-seven, was still an active performer when Richard completed his Horn Concerto No. 1 in 1883. Originally intended for his father to premiere, the piece's demand for extremely high as well as very low notes proved too much of a challenge for the elder Strauss to perform in public. Now considered a staple in the repertoire, the piece is still recognized as one of the most difficult works for solo horn.

The concerto's three movements are played without pause. After an opening chord from the ensemble, the horn begins its virtuosic display with boldness and spirit. The second movement is more reflective while the third has a march-like feel, similar to the opening movement. The overall style reflects Felix Mendelssohn or Robert Schumann more than Richard Wagner, in a character of highest drama.

An American Elegy (2000)

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

Frank Ticheli, professor of composition at the University of Southern California since 1991, is especially well-known for his concert band works amongst his other musical contributions as a conductor and orchestral composer. He composed *An American Elegy* to memorialize the victims of the tragic shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado on April 20, 1999. The piece was premièred by the Columbine High School Band on April 23, 2000, with the composer conducting. Ticheli describes the process of its composition:

I was moved and honored by this commission invitation, and deeply inspired by the circumstances surrounding it. Rarely has a work revealed itself to me with such powerful speed and clarity. The first eight bars of the main melody came to me fully formed in a dream. Virtually every element of the work was discovered within the span of about two weeks. The remainder of my time was spent refining, developing, and orchestrating.

Ticheli also composed music and lyrics for an alma mater anthem for Columbine High School, which he quotes in the climax of *An American Elegy*. The accompanying words from the anthem are “We are Columbine! We all are Columbine!”

“10,432 Sheep” from *The West Point Story*

Sammy Cahn (1913–93) and Jule Styne (1905–94)

arranged by SSgt Scott Nimmer*

[GySgt Sara Sheffield, mezzo-soprano](#)

“10,432 Sheep” is a quirky little song from the 1950 musical comedy film *The West Point Story* starring James Cagney, Virginia Mayo, and Doris Day. The movie features an unemployed musical theater director who travels to West Point Military Academy to transform the cadets’ annual amateur show into a Broadway-level production. The song “10,432 Sheep” was written by Jule Styne and lyricist Sammy Cahn, the same pair who collaborated to create the familiar holiday tune “Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!” Sung in the film by Doris Day, the lyrics express exuberance (and subsequent insomnia) after a kiss from a young cadet.

March, “The Charlatan”

John Philip Sousa* (1854–1932)

edited by The United States Marine Band

Composer of the national march of the United States of America, “The Stars and Stripes Forever,” John Philip Sousa was the Marine Band’s most famous Director. He first joined the organization at age thirteen when his father, a trombonist in the band, enlisted him as an apprentice to prevent the young Sousa from running away to join a circus band. Sousa remained in the Marine Band until he was twenty, only to return several years later in a new role as the Band’s seventeenth’s Director.

Though best remembered for his marches, Sousa wrote several operettas, providing an American counterpart to the popular and influential works of Gilbert and Sullivan. *The Charlatan*, Sousa’s second most successful operetta, played in the major cities of the eastern United States as well as London for more than sixteen months. In his setting of this tale of nobility and trickery, Sousa deemphasized march melodies, possibly in an attempt to prove himself as more than just a rhythmic composer. Yet even at his least rhythmic, Sousa still provided himself enough material to extract this march from the opera’s second and third acts. Its stately and elegant nature is a fitting reflection of the royal Russian characters depicted in the operetta. A recording of “The Charlatan,” the full score and parts, and a video of the score synchronized with the audio are available in Volume 3 of [“The Complete Marches of John Philip Sousa.”](#)