

TO THE GOLDEN GATE.

One year ago upon the request of many prominent citizens, the President permitted our great National musical organization, the Marine Band, with its distinguished leader, Mr. John Philip Sousa, to make its first tour of a portion of the country. So phenomenal a success followed, that a second appeal was made and granted for another tour this year, particularly in sections which the band was unable last year to visit, including the great West and the Pacific Coast.

It gives the undersigned great pleasure to add that he has secured Mlle. Marie Decca as the soprano soloist of the band, an artist who out-ranks every American singer before the public, and whose brilliant and meteoric success dated from her first appearance upon the concert stage after her arrival from Europe at the end of four years of study with the great Marchesi.

D. BLAKELY,

Manager Marine Band Tours.

THE MARINE BAND AND ITS LEAVE.

What is the Marine Band of Washington? That everybody knows. It is the pride of the Nation and of Washington official life. It is the band of the White House, of Congress, and of Army and Navy circles in Washington. It is the band which beguiles the guests of the President at all of the White House receptions. It is the band which, on Saturday afternoons in the White House grounds, causes all Washington to flock to the scene and charms them with its delightful strains. It is the band which heads all the Grand Army parades and every distinguished official procession. It is the band which is the chief musical feature of the inauguration ceremonies and balls. And it is, in fact, the boast of Washington official life, and the only band in America which is regarded as the official exponent of the musical republic. No pains or expense is spared to make it perfect. It consists of a great leader, the best musicians that can anywhere be obtained, and its fine equipments, resplendent uniforms, etc., make it a perfect picture to the eye.

As this is the second leave of absence ever given the Marine Band, and the first to go to the Pacific Coast, and as this leave has been granted in particular as a commemoration of the anniversary of the discovery of America, the event will be heralded with acclaim by every lover of rare music, as well as by every citizen of the country who has never had the pleasure of hearing the band in Washington.

How this leave was secured will be discovered by a perusal of the earnest and influential letters to be found in the following pages, and the written consent of the President, Secretary of the Navy and Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps, following.

THE MARINE BAND.

Its Origin, Development, and Functions.

THE United States Marine Corps, consisting of about 2,000 members, was created in 1798 as an adjunct to the Navy, with headquarters in Washington. The Band of the United States Marine Corps, which is the official title for that organization, dates back to one hundred years ago, when thirteen Italian musicians were enlisted and stationed in the Marine barracks, in Washington, for general musical service there and at the Capitol. Several German members were shortly added, and the band met with varying favor for some time. Some of its earlier leaders were Prof. Carusi, Antonio Pons, who recently died at over eighty years; Prof. Trei, who died in service, and Francisco Sala, now retired. The band received congressional recognition in 1856.

General Grant was a warm friend of the band, and during his administration the membership was increased to fifty-six. This was cut down in 1878 to forty members by Secretary of the Navy Thompson. Some additions have since been made, and now the band has nearly fifty members, and a bill introduced in the Senate a few weeks since, provides for an increase to seventy-two, besides making many other provisions for the best musical results.

Since the Hon. B. F. Tracy has been Secretary of the Navy, the Marine band has had a particularly warm friend and admirer; and he is regarded with the highest esteem and gratitude by every member of the organization.

The whole of the present administration, and especially the President and Mrs. Harrison, seem to take an unusual interest in the welfare of the band, and exhibit a pride in its well-known excellence. To this warm appreciation of a deserving National institution is due the permits for the band to leave the capital for the purpose of exhibiting its real merits to the people of the Republic; and they are granted with the cordial approval and good wishes of the entire administration.

The Marine band was first assigned to duty at the White House, at a New Year's reception in 1822, since which time it has been "The President's Band," in all that the title implies, and now

it is one of the most interesting and best appreciated adjuncts of all social and official ceremonies of the Presidential household.

It is also regularly on duty from 8.30 to 12 o'clock every morning at the Marine barracks, where a public concert is given every Monday. During the summer months concerts are given on the White House lawn every Saturday, and when Congress is not in session, Wednesday concerts are also given at the Capitol.

As to the quality of the Marine Band's playing, it is difficult to imagine a finer organization. In point of balance, musical smoothness and melodious charm, it is beyond criticism. The warm, sympathetic nature of its musicianly conductor, together with his extensive musical knowledge, brilliant conceptions and absolute control of his forces, unite to produce from this body of splendidly drilled artists the rarest musical effects.

The director, MR. JOHN PHILIP SOUSA, who is the seventh in the career of the band, was appointed eleven years ago, under the Hayes administration; and his great abilities as a conductor and composer have placed the Marine band in the very front rank of National bands of the world, and made it the pride of the Navy Department and Marine Corps. On its first tour last spring, its marvelous perfection proved a revelation to such cities as were visited, while the warmest appreciation of its merits was most emphatically demonstrated, and the personal and social popularity of Mr. Sousa extended from the circles of the Capitol to every community which heard his concerts. Such another leader and band do not exist, and no others can so reach the hearts of the American people, who realize that this is their own peerless band, and their own great conductor.

The members are enlisted as marines and classified as musicians, and entitled to retirement for old age, or pensions for disabilities received in the service. All have to be subjected to the most rigid physical and musical examination, and must be over five feet six inches tall. The strictest discipline is maintained, the members all taking pride in the military character of their organization, and, furthermore, being prompted by the kindest consideration and esteem for their distinguished leader.

The instruments of the band consist of 14 B clarinets, 2 E clarinets, 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 bassons, 4 saxophones, 2 alto clarinets, 1 bass clarinet, 4 French horns, 2 cornets, 2 trumpets, 2 flugel horns, 3 trombones, 2 euphoniums, 3 basses, and drums, triangles, tympani, etc.



MR. JOHN PHILIP SOUSA,
MUSICAL DIRECTOR U. S. MARINE BAND.

MR. JOHN PHILIP SOUSA.

A BRILLIANT CONDUCTOR AND COMPOSER, WHO HAS DEVELOPED
THE HIGHEST EXCELLENCE IN THE NATIONAL BAND.

John Philip Sousa, the celebrated director of the U. S. Marine Band, was born at Washington, D. C., of Spanish father and German mother. That his early musical training was of the very best is evidenced by his unusually brilliant career after completing his studies. In 1880, at the remarkably youthful age of 26 years, he was offered the position of musical director of the Band of the U. S. Marine Corps, a position which he has so ably and brilliantly filled to the present time. This position, from its very nature, would be sufficient to give the person filling it a national reputation; but Mr. Sousa's attainments are such that, instead of being exalted by the position, it has been exalted by his occupancy of it.

As a composer Mr. Sousa is unusually prolific. His compositions for military band are well-known everywhere, and his marches are so popular and sparkling that he is called the "March King" by musicians.

Altogether he has composed over two-hundred musical works, including a great number of Marches, Songs, Overtures and five operas respectively entitled "Desiree," "Queen of Hearts," "Katharine," "The Smugglers," and his latest opera, "The Wolf," which is to be produced in New York next season. He has also entered the domain of sacred composition, and written a "Te Deum" for quartette and chorus. At present he is at work on a cantata. His symphonic poem, founded on the "Chariot Race" from "Ben Hur," was one of the successes of the former tour of the Marine Band, and his latest composition of this class based on "Sheridan's Ride," is pronounced the best work that he has written. It will be played in every city visited.

In appearance Director Sousa is of medium height, possessing a well-knit frame, with features of southern brunette type, bespeaking a warmth of temperament, great enthusiasm, energy and intelligence. He possesses that magnetic personal charm which attracts others and at the same time enables him to control a band as much by force of character as by vested authority.

PROGRAMME I.*

1. Overture, "Raymond,".....*Thomas.*
2. Ballet Music, "Rosamunde,".....*Schubert.*
3. Pantomime, "The Romance of a Harlequin,".....*Massenet.*
Entrance of Harlequin, Reverie of Columbine, Serenade of
Harlequin to Columbine, The Pas Deux.
4. Excerpts from "The Walkure,".....*Wagner.*
5. Bolero, "Sicilian Vespers".....*Verdi.*
Mlle. Marie Decca.
6. Idylle, "Gypsy Life,".....*Le Thiere.*
a. Morning. d. "The Serenade."
b. "In the woods." e. "The Tarentella."
c. "The Bolero." f. "Dance of the wooden shoes."
7. a. Intermezzo Sinfonico, "Cavalleria Rusticana,"...*Mascagni.*
b. Valse Caprice, "Flirtation".....*Steck.*
8. Scenes Historical, "Sheridan's Ride,".....*Sousa.*

SYNOPSIS.

Waiting for the Bugle.
"We wait for the bugle; the night
dews are cold,
The limbs of the soldiers feel jaded
and old,
The field of our bivouac is windy
and bare,
There is lead in our joints, there is
frost in our hair,
The future is veiled and its for-
tunes unknown
As we lie with hushed breath till
the bugle is blown."

The Attack.
"Up from the South at break of day,
Bringing to Winchester fresh dis-
may,
The affrighted air with a shudder
bore,
Like a herald in haste to the chief-
tain's door,
The terrible grumble, and rumble
and roar,
Telling the battle was on once more
And Sheridan twenty miles away."

The Death of Thoburn.
"But bear me first to yonder grassy
sod,
Whence I can turn my eyes upon
the fight;
Gently—there, leave me now a'one
with God,
And go you back to battle for the
right."

The Coming of Sheridan.
"Far away in the rear was heard
cheer after cheer. Were re-
enforcements coming? Yes, Phil
Sheridan was coming, and he
was a host!"

9. Humoresque, "Good-bye,".....*Sousa.*
10. Echo Song for Soprano,.....*Eckert.*
Mlle. Marie Decca.
11. Patriotic Song, "The Star Spangled Banner,".....*Arnold.*

*These programmes are very nearly as they will be performed on the tour,
but are liable to slight changes.

"The first that the General saw
were groups
Of stragglers, and then the retreat-
ing troops.
What was done? what to do? a
glance told him both.
* * * * *
He dashed down the line, 'mid a
storm of huzzas,
And the war of retreat checked its
course there, because
The sight of the master compelled
it to pause.
With foam and with dust the black
charger was gray.
By the flash of his eye and the red
no-trills play,
He seemed to the whole great army
to say
I have brought you Sheridan all
the way
From Winchester down, to save
the day."

The Apotheosis.

Hurrah! hurrah! for Sheridan!
"Hurrah! hurrah! for horse and
man!
And when their statues are placed
on high,
Under the dome of the Union sky,
The American soldiers' Temple of
Fame,
There with the glorious general's
name
Be it said in letters both bold
and bright,
Here is the steed that saved the day,
By carrying Sheridan into the fight,
From Winchester—twenty miles
away!"

PROGRAMME II.

1. Overture, "Der Freischutz".....*Weber.*
2. Suite, "Peer Gynt,".....*Grieg.*
a. Morning. b. "Asa's Death." c. Anitra's Dance.
d. "Peer Gynt chased by the King of the Mountains."
3. Ballet Music, "Pharaoh's Daughter,".....*Pugni.*
4. Grand Aria, "Perle du Brezil,".....*David.*
Mlle. Marie Decca.
5. Episode Symphonique, "Mysora,".....*Wettge.*
6. a. Prelude, "The Last Sleep of the Virgin,".....*Massenet.*
b. Danse des Savoyards.....*Lamathe.*
7. Symphonic Poem, "The Chariot Race,".....*Sousa.*

SYNOPSIS.

The trumpeters blew a call at which the absentees rushed back to their
places. * * *
All the time the trampling of eager horses and the voices of the drivers
were heard behind the stalls.

The trumpets sounded short and sharp; whereupon the starters, one for
each chariot, leaped down from behind the pillars of the goal, ready to give
assistance if any of the fours proved unmanageable.

Again the trumpets blew, and simultaneously the gate-keepers threw the
stalls open. Forth from each stall, like missiles in a volley from so many
great guns, rushed the six fours * * * the fours neared the rope together.
Then the trumpeter by the edit or's side blew a signal vigorously.

There was a crash, a scream of rage and fear, and the unfortunate
Cleantes fell under the hoofs of his own steeds. * * * On swept the
Corinthian, on the Byzantine, on the Sidonian. * * * Ben-Hur, unhurt,
was to the front, coursing freely forward along with the Roman. * * *

Along the home stretch—sixth round—Messala leading, next him Ben-Hur.
Above the noises of the race there was but one voice, and that was Ben-
Hur's. In the old Aramaic as the Sheikh himself, he called to the Arabs—

"On, Atair! On, Rigel! What, Antares! dost thou linger now?" Good
horse-oho, Aldebaran! I hear them singing in the tents. I hear the children
singing—and the women—singing of the stars, of Atair, Antares, Rigel, Alde-
baran, victory! and the song will never end.

* * * Down on its right side toppled the bed of the Roman's chariot.
There was a rebound as of the axle hitting the hard earth; another and an-
other; then the car went to pieces; and Messala, entangled in the reins,
pitched forward headlong * * * Presently, out of the turmoil, the fighting
of horses, the resound of blows, the murky cloud of dust and sand, he
crawled, in time to see the Corinthian and Byzantine go on down the course
after Ben-Hur, who had not been an instant delayed. When the Byzantine
and Corinthian were half-way down the course, Ben-Hur turned the first
goal.

AND THE RACE WAS WON."

BEN-HUR.

8. Humoresque, On a Familiar Theme,.....*Stasny.*
9. Polka Staccato,.....*Mulder.*
Mlle. Marie Decca.
10. Patriotic Song, "Hail Columbia".....*Fyles.*

**LETTERS TO SECRETARY TRACY ASKING FOR
LEAVE FOR A TOUR, AND
HIS REPLY.**

Gov. Francis applies for Missouri.

St. Louis, Mo., October 8th, 1891.

HON. B. F. TRACY, Secretary of the Navy.

Dear Sir: The Annual tours of the United States Marine Band cannot fail to be of great benefit to our citizens generally, and in a professional view, to our local bands in Western Cities.

In addition, I believe it to be a good public policy, and conducive to the development of a national sentiment, that the national band should visit the principal cities of our country. I therefore trust the Honorable Secretary will issue to Mr. Sousa and his band the necessary permit for this tour.

I am, very respectfully, etc.,

DAVID R. FRANCIS, Gov. of Missouri.

The Mayor of St. Louis asks for a Concert.

Mayor's Office, St. Louis.

TO COL. CHAS. HEYWOOD, Commandant U. S. Marine Corps.

Dear Sir: In their recent tour, the United States Marine Band did not stop at St. Louis, although our citizens fully expected them. I understand they were unable to get a suitable hall at the time of their trip through the West.

As the chief officer of our city of St. Louis, and representing the wishes of many of my fellow citizens, and in their behalf, I request that permission be granted Mr. Sousa and his band to visit our city some time during this season.

Respectfully, EDWARD A. NOONAN, Mayor.

Kansas City's Mayor Applies.

Kansas City, Mo., October 8th, 1891.

HON. B. F. TRACY, Secretary of the Navy.

Dear Sir: It was with a great deal of pleasure that the musical people of Kansas City and vicinity, learned of the tour last spring of the United States Marine Band, and it was a source of much disappointment that a proper place could not be secured in this city for their grand concerts. I feel sure that I express the sentiments of all our people when I say that a similar tour of the Band for this season would be welcomed with great delight by all.

Should you see fit to spare the band from Washington once more for such a trip, your action would meet with universal approbation.

Very respectfully,

BENJ. HOLMES, Mayor.

Congressman Tarsney speaks for Kansas City.

Kansas City, Mo., October 7th, 1891.

To the HON. B. F. TRACY, Secretary of the Navy.

Dear Sir: The musical people of Kansas City read with interest the announcement last spring of the tour of the Marine Band, and anticipated their visiting this city, but on account of disappointment in securing the proper place to play, the band could not visit us, much to our regret. The reports of the concerts, however, reached us with such flattering flavor that we feel we missed a grand treat. It would, therefore, greatly please the undersigned if the band could be permitted to visit our city at some early time, and afford great pleasure to hundreds of our citizens who would appreciate the fine music of the great National Band.

I therefore trust you will find it within your kind nature and the good grace of our President, to spare the band from Washington for another such trip at some convenient time.

Very respectfully, JOHN C. TARSNEY, M. C.

Rochester Wants More.

Rochester, N. Y., October 7th, 1891.

HON. B. F. TRACY, Secretary of the Navy.

Dear Sir: The musical citizens of Rochester feel that they are under great obligations to the administration for permitting the U. S. Marine Band to make a tour which included our city last spring. The playing of the band was so fine that it afforded great pleasure and no little instruction to our public and musicians. While listening to the grand concert, the heart of every one was stirred with pride at the contemplation of the beautiful picture of the national band, and its matchless rendition of a rich programme.

It would be gratifying, indeed, if such a musical treat could be repeated, and it is hoped by all the undersigned, that you will find it consistent and proper to grant Mr. Sousa and the band another leave at some convenient time during next spring, that they may pay our city another visit, and receive renewed evidence of appreciation from our people. Particularly will the coming year be a specially fit occasion for the appearance throughout the country of our representative national musical organization, because it is the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, and because in that year, the rendition of the national airs by our National Band throughout the country would be an exceedingly grateful and universally appreciated boon.

A tour of this kind would bring the band into competition with no civil organization, because the brief time the band could be spared, would necessarily limit their stay in any city to one or two days.

Yours respectfully,

C. R. PARSONS, Ex Mayor, and M. of A,
JOHN VAN VOORHIS, Ex Member of Congress.
WM. PURCELL, Chairman State Board of Arbitration
DONALD McNAUGHTON, State Senator.
CHAS. S. BAKER, M. C., AND MANY OTHERS.

Cincinnati—Nothing Finer Ever Heard.

Cincinnati, O., October 24, 1891.

HON. B. F. TRACY, Secretary of the Navy.

Dear Sir: Nothing has ever better pleased the music-loving people of Cincinnati than the performances given by the Marine Band in this city recently, under the able direction of Mr. Sousa.

I am satisfied that this famous organization will be again most royally welcomed, and that our citizens will ever remember gratefully your kind indulgence in the matter.

I am, my dear sir, very respectfully,

MONTGOMERY PHISTER,
Amusement Ed. *Commercial Gazette*.

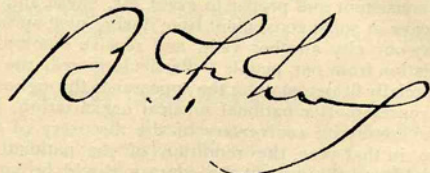
LEAVE GRANTED.—THE OFFICIAL APPROVAL.

Navy Department, Washington, Dec. 14, 1891.

THE PRESIDENT:

Sir:—I have the honor to submit herewith an application from the Bandmaster of the Marine Corps, Professor Jno. Philip Sousa, for leave of absence for himself and Band, from March 19 to May 7, 1891, with the privilege of giving Concerts in the leading cities of the United States, which the Colonel Commandant asks authority to grant, provided the services of the Band will not be required by the President during the period stated.

Your orders in the premises are respectfully requested. I am, Sir, with great respect,



Secretary of the Navy.

This request is approved
Benjamin Harrison

PRESS NOTICES.

THE MARINE BAND IN BOSTON.

"An Enthusiastic Success."

From the Boston Times.

The concert given in Music Hall Friday evening by the U. S. Marine Band was an enthusiastic success. Such music is most inspiring. From beginning to end the programme was thoroughly enjoyed, and encores were constantly demanded. The organization is one of which the country has reason to be proud.

"An Enormous Success."

From the Boston Transcript.

Measured by the applause received, the Marine Band concert was an enormous success. Every piece brought out a demand for more, and the catching encores were invariably followed by such enthusiastic applause that a repetition was inevitable.

"The Best Band of its Kind in the Country."

From the Boston Gazette.

The Marine Band is a splendid organization which gave ample evidence of fine training under an able leader. The body of tone is well-balanced, rich and sonorous, and it is handled with a skill which produces marvellous effects when occasion calls for them. Upon the whole, it is perhaps the best band of its kind in the country, and its performances were enthusiastically applauded and the encores were so frequent that the already long programme was nearly doubled.

Boston Enjoyed It Keenly.

D. BLAKELY, Manager, New York City.

My Dear Sir: I understand that a movement has been started for a second tour of the Marine Band, under your direction, and I desire to express a hope that this great organization may again visit New England.

The concerts given here last season by the Marine Band not only gave keen enjoyment to vast audiences, but created a new interest in military band music which has been productive of excellent practical results. A second tour would certainly result in added benefits to this section of the country.

Very truly yours,

FRED. P. BACON, Musical Editor *Boston Herald*.

THE BAND IN CHICAGO.

"The Finest Chicago Has Ever Heard."

From the Chicago Tribune.

The U. S. Marine Band made its debut in Chicago last evening in the Auditorium. An immense audience greeted the organization and received its playing with hearty applause and demands for encores after most of the numbers. The playing of the band, so far as accuracy of note and purity of tone are concerned, is so nearly faultless that it is virtually the perfection of band music. The expression and shading are also in excellent taste. The performance was, in every respect, the finest Chicago has ever heard.

"One of the Great Military Bands of the World."

From the Chicago Times.

The first of the four concerts announced by the U. S. Marine Band was given last evening at the Auditorium to an immense audience, despite the storm, which received the performance with profuse demonstrations of pleasure. It is enough to say of the programme that it was a very brilliant one, and that few military bands would care to attempt it. The band is accounted among the great military bands of the world, and the performance of last night gallantly sustained its reputation.

"All were delighted and criticism was the highest praise."

From the Cincinnati Times-Star.

The magic of the name of the Marine Band drew an audience which packed the Odeon last evening. When these red-coated and gilt-edged musicians come back to Cincinnati next year nothing less than Music Hall will do. There was a strong representation of the professional musical element present; some through curiosity to see the much-talked-of band, and some for instructive ideas in band music and manipulation. All were delighted, and their criticism was the very warmest praise.

"The Audience Was Held Spell-Bound."

From the Providence Journal.

Never before has there been heard in Providence such music from instruments of reed and brass as last evening bathed in a flood of melody the walls and arches of Music Hall.

The Marine Band, which its brilliant conductor has under perfect control, executed its numbers in a more than satisfactory manner. Its interpretation of every piece was so precise, so sympathetic, so far above the rendering of the same pieces by the most excellent bands which one is wont to hear, that it is no wonder the audience was held spell-bound until the close of each selection, when, they broke into plaudits that made the walls re-echo.

"A Feast Which No Band Has Ever Given Before in Chicago."

From the Chicago Herald.

Uncle Sam has good reason to be proud of his U. S. Marine Band, and if it has cost the taxpayers of the country a goodly sum, no one who formed a part of the magnificent audience that filled the Auditorium last evening can say that the money has not been well expended. In their handsome uniforms the forty-five musicians presented a gallant appearance, and under John Philip Sousa, their talented conductor, provided a feast of harmony such as no band has ever before given in Chicago.

"Uncle Sam Has Reason to be Proud of His Band and its Director."

From the Chicago Post.

Uncle Sam has good reason to be proud of his Marine Band, and also good and sufficient cause to be proud of its director, John Philip Sousa. The audience at the first concert at the Auditorium last evening filled every seat, and also most of the boxes. And it is no exaggeration to state that never was quite so much enthusiasm shown by any audience that has ever gathered in that magnificent hall. The applause was positively deafening, and it was made all the more grateful because of its spontaneity. The band is notable not only for its intelligence in the interpretation of the selections, but its ability to impart the more delicate shades of coloring to its performances, as well as for the technical skill that is displayed in every number. Its precision is remarkable, and every bar is played in a clean-cut and highly artistic manner.

"A Model for all Similar Organizations."

From the Cincinnati Gazette.

Suffice it to remark then for the band, that the director has wrought a work therein that should stand as the model for all similar organizations in this country. With him each separate department has a place and a bearing upon the general result, without obtrusiveness. In other words, the ensemble is perfect.

Sousa's Success in Louisville.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

The United States Marine Band had something like an ovation at the Auditorium last night. The house was filled, every seat down stairs being taken before the concert began, and the audience was apparently insatiable. Mr. Sousa, the conductor, is a man of fine appearance with a stalwart figure and military bearing, and carries himself with a sufficient amount of enthusiasm to keep his men well up to the work. He has the organization under perfect control, and they play with admirable spirit and precision.

MLLE. MARIE DECCA.



Suddenly, and like a comet projected unexpectedly into mid-heavens, Mlle. Marie Decca has taken her place in the lyric galaxy of America, its brightest and most luminous star. No singer after Patti, has received such acclaim, and none has commanded such enthusiastic plaudits from press and people.

Her tour with the Marine Band last year, as its bright particular star, was no less a sensation than the playing of the band itself; and that she will equally cover herself with glory upon this second tour to the Pacific Coast, there can be no question or doubt.

Mlle Decca was born in Georgetown, Ohio, and is the granddaughter of General Thomas L. Hamer, the statesman and soldier, who, when a Congressman, appointed General U. S. Grant (then an unknown lad) to West Point as a Cadet. She received her musical training in Paris, having studied for years under Marchesi.

Mlle. Decca made her *debut* in London at the Covent Garden Theatre, and her success was instantaneous. She was at once engaged by Colonel Mapleson to sing the "Queen of Night" in Mozart's *Magic Flute*, and scored a great success. She subsequently sang for two seasons with Her Majesty's Italian Opera Company throughout Great Britain and Ireland. Her Italian, French and English *repertoire* consists of twenty operas. She was also very successful in concerts and festivals in England and France. Since her *debut* in America in concert Miss Decca's career has been a series of successes, and her first appearance in Boston, on February 7th. 1891, at the Operatic Festival in Music Hall, was a great triumph for the American girl, the entire press being unanimous in her favor and the public highly enthusiastic.

PRESS NOTICES OF MLLE. DECCA.

Mlle Decca came to us a perfect stranger and left us an established favorite. No such success has been made this season in the Chicago Auditorium.—*Chicago Times*.

At the Marine Band Concert last night Mlle Decca did some beautiful singing—some phenomenal singing—singing that won sincere and deserved applause. Certain effects of *diminuendo*, of echo, in which she is amazingly proficient, of *mezzo-voce*, and of extremely high notes, were little short of marvelous. So far Mlle Decca stands enormously high, so high as to be almost alone upon her pinnacle.—*New York Sun*.

Mlle. Decca is unquestionably one of the greatest singers who have ever been heard in Louisville. Her voice is a soprano of great range and extraordinary purity and smoothness, and cultivated to the highest pitch of perfection. Her execution of the brilliant ornate arias of Donizetti and Rossini was faultless. Mlle. Decca's voice reminds one of Gerster's when that great singer's gifts were unimpaired.—*Louisville Courier-Journal*.

Mlle Decca simply delighted her audience and carried all present captive by her magnificent vocal gifts. She is a singer who stands as prominently in the list of world's artists as any heard here in the last decade. Gifted with a voice of remarkable range and singularly even in its development, faultlessly true and pure in all its tones, she makes it perform all the demands of the most difficult compositions with a grace and ease that is positively refreshing. The "Queen of the Night" song has seldom had such a brilliant interpretation as she gave it, and as for the "Pearl of Brazil" aria, no singer has approached the Decca in singing it.—*Boston Herald*.

The success of the evening was made by Mlle Marie Decca, whose wonderful florituri in David's "Perle du Brezil" always astonish audiences. Mlle Decca comes back to New York with the many laurels she has won with the Marine Band in the West, especially in her native state, Ohio, where, in Columbus, the Legislature honored her and itself by adjourning the session and inviting her to occupy a position near the Speaker's desk and to sing "The Star Spangled Banner," a song which New Yorkers would have been glad to hear her sing as one of her encores. Mlle Decca sings with remarkable ease and dramatic expression, while her marvelous gift of vocal brilliancy is her supreme possession.—*New York World*.

Mlle Marie Decca is the most brilliant of all the sopranos America has sent to Europe for years past. Verdi exclaimed, upon hearing her render "Gli Angui d'Inferno" (*Il Flauto Magico*): "C'est une voix hors ligne!" [It is a voice beyond compare.] The young artist is a lyric soprano with a range that is phenomenal. Her voice has been perfectly trained, is flexible in the highest degree, and brilliant throughout. Her staccato and shake are admirable, and her execution of vocal *tours de force* most remarkable.—*The Era, London*.

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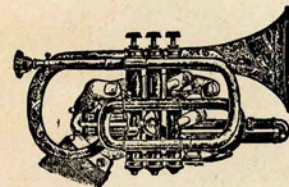
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