

“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band National Tour

HISTORY

- Began in 1891 under the leadership of the 17th Director John Philip Sousa.
- President Benjamin Harrison approved Sousa’s request to take the Marine Band on tour.
- In 1891 the band toured 32 cities and towns in New England and the Midwest.
- Audiences clamored for Sousa’s marches, but he included them only as encores, offering his audiences what he called the “solid fare” of Richard Wagner, Georges Bizet, Giuseppe Verdi, Franz Schubert, Hector Berlioz, and others.
- In 1892 the band toured 37 cities to the Pacific Coast and back.
- After Sousa left the Marine Band in 1892, “The President’s Own” made five tours—1901, 1907, 1911, 1912, and 1915—before traveling yearly between 1920 and 1931.
- The band suspended its tours during the Depression years of 1932-1934, but took to the road again in 1935 and continued until 1942.
- The band did not tour during World War II, performing in Washington, D.C., and at the White House to boost wartime morale.
- The Marine Band’s national concert tours resumed in 1946, and have continued every year since (except 2013, 2020-2021 when tour was canceled due to sequestration and global pandemic).

2024 TOUR

- This marks the Marine Band’s 104th national concert tour (not consecutive).
- Will take place from October 1 through October 31.
- Will include Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Oregon, Utah, Washington and West Virginia.
- Will last 30 days, performing in 28 cities.
- All concerts are free; ticket distribution methods vary by each city.
- The Department of Defense divides the continental United States into five touring areas available for the four premier service bands in Washington, D.C. Regions within these areas are selected approximately one year in advance.
- By the end of the tour, the Marine Band will have traveled more than 7,046 miles throughout the United States.

PROGRAM

- Conducted by Director Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Nowlin, Assistant Director 1st Lieutenant Jose Toranzo
- Concerts begin with National Anthem and conclude with the Armed Forces service songs
- Program includes John Philip Sousa’s “The Stars and Stripes Forever,” and “Semper Fidelis”
- Marine Band Director Lt. Col. Ryan Nowlin has chosen a diverse mix of programs—from traditional band repertoire and Sousa marches to instrumental solos and a salute to the Armed Forces.