

The 2d Marine Division Band



Mar/Apr 2014

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"When you have got an elephant by the hind leg, and he is trying to run away, it's best to let him run." - Abraham Lincoln

A Week with "The President's Own" United States Marine Band!

In April, musicians from "The President's Own" joined forces with the 2d Marine Division Band. For the week that they were here, the focus was on small ensembles, individual lessons, and chamber ensembles. Of course, in true fashion of the 2d Marine Division, we treated them to an M-1 Abrahms Tank PME instructed by Marines of 2d Tank Battalion. "This has really been a great experience, not only on the music side of things, but everyone seems to have a stronger drive to better themselves in every aspect of their lives," said Cpl Cordeiro, a trumpet instrumentalist in the 2d Marine Division Band.



Members of "The President's Own" Marine Band and the 2d Marine Division Band at 2d Tank Battalion

Training

Pistol Range

In April, the 2d Marine Division Band attended the pistol range. With only one day spent at the simulated training facility, several Marines improved their scores from last year.



Welcome Aboard



2d Marine Division Band welcomes the following Marines from left to right:

Sgt Filkins (percussion) from the Quantico Marine Band, Sgt Hickey (trumpet) from the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing Band, Cpl Ortiz (trombone) from Marine Band San Diego, and LCpl Collier (trumpet) from the School of Music.

Recent Performances

Tournament of Dreams Golf Tournament Colors Ceremony

The 2d Marine Division Band was honored to perform for the opening of the 43rd annual Tournament of Dreams Intercollegiate Golf Tournament. This tournament was sponsored by Marine Federal Credit Union. The intent of this tournament is to expose college students to a military environment, as well as to conduct an event to create interaction between college students, active duty, and retired Marines in the Camp Lejeune Area. Brigadier General Castellvi, Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations East, was excited to host this event at Paradise Point. Congratulations to all the winners!



St. Patrick's Day Parade



The 2d Marine Division Band marched down the streets of Wilmington, NC to a sea of green during this year's St. Patrick's Day Celebration Parade.

Pictured on the left is John Philip Sousa, who honored us with his presence while the band was warming up for the parade.

Recent Performances Cont.

Azalea Festival Parade

For more than 60 years, the folks of Southeastern North Carolina have been throwing the best party in the south. There is something for everybody to include a rich array of artwork, gardens, history and culture. The 2d Marine Division Band opened the 67th annual Azalea Festival Parade this year!



Greenevers Fireman's Parade

On April 26, The 2d Marine Division Band participated in the 2014 Greenevers Fireman's Parade in Greenevers, NC. The purpose of the event was to honor the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect the small town from fires, as well as provide a day of entertainment for the whole community.



Featured Fan:

GySgt Harry Ong, Clarinet Instrumentalist

"The President's Own" United States Marine Band



2DMDB: Full Name, Rank, Age, and Unit/Section/Billet?

GySgt O: GySgt Harry Ong, clarinetist in "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, 32 years old.

2DMDB: Where were you born? Raised? High School? College?

GySgt O: I was born and raised in Seattle, WA--my parents immigrated from Indonesia to the United States in the mid-1970s. I attended Roosevelt High School for three years, before graduating from the Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, MI in 1999. Then, I attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where I earned a Bachelor's of Music in 2003.

2DMDB: When/Why did you decide to join the Marine Corps Band?

GySgt O: I saw a job posting for "The President's Own" midway during my senior year at Michigan. While preparing for my auditions, I listened to some of the Band's recordings and was extremely impressed and inspired by their musical quality. I was fortunate enough to win a position after my second audition, enlisted in the Marine Corps in September 2003, and reported to the Band in October.

2DMDB: Why do you believe music is important to the Military Bands?

GySgt O: Military music provided by bands like "The President's Own" is important to the Armed Forces and our nation in many different ways. In our ceremonial capacities, we help remind fellow Marines and other men and women in uniform of our rich national history, shared values, and camaraderie. We also help pay tribute to those that came before us, as well as pay our final respect to those that have fallen.

Musically, we have a rich tradition set by those before us, such as our 17th Director, John Philip Sousa. As a result, our organization is constantly striving to set the musical bar higher and higher through our performances of standard literature, as well as new transcriptions, commissions, and other new works.

From a macro-level, our music making helps present an approachable, more compassionate side to the Marine Corps that is sometimes overlooked. This diplomatic approach helps to foster a rapport with our fellow citizens and those from other countries that don't know much about the United States or the Armed Forces. These and other benefits that military music provides are of great service and value to our nation and Corps.

2DMDB: Who is your idol, or someone you look up to? Why?

GySgt O: I admire many different musicians, artists, athletes, historic figures, etc. With that said, my Seattle clarinet teacher introduced me to recordings by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Their ever-improving and evolving artistry inspires me to this day.

2DMDB: Any advice for current active duty, and/or younger Marines?

GySgt O: Make the most of the opportunities given to you and seek daily improvement as a person, musician, and Marine. You will be pleasantly surprised by the growth that takes place over time by being focused on your desired goals.

2DMDB: What is the difference between a ceremony with a band, and one with a recording, from your perspective?

GySgt O: The only difference is the circumstance in which we perform. In the Marine Band, we always strive to perform at a high musical level whether for our annual recording, tour concert, White House reception, Presidential Inauguration, Full Honors Funeral at Arlington Cemetery, or a Friday evening parade.

2DMDB: What is your favorite, or most memorable moment involving a Marine Corps/Military band?

GySgt O: A couple moments that stand out during my time in the Marine Band include playing the Marines' Hymn while looking at my family during a National Tour concert and performing in a Marine Barracks Washington Friday evening parade for World War II Marines during the dedication weekend for the World War II Memorial.

2DMDB: Any extra words you would like to say to/about the Marines in the band?

GySgt O: I am inspired with the 2d Marine Division Band's professionalism and hard work ethic. It also brings me great joy to see your growth during my two consecutive times working with you. Keep up the excellent work and I look forward to our next time together!

Featured Marine:

Cpl Christopher Schott, Trombone

2DMDB: Where were you born? Raised? High School? College?

Cpl S: I was born in Walnut Creek, CA. Raised in Overland Park, KS. Went to high school at Olathe East High School. Went to College at the University of North Texas.

2DMDB: Why did you decide to join the Marine Corps to be a musician?

Cpl S: I had always wanted to join the military and with my competitive nature I had to join the toughest branch of service. After going to college for music I still wanted to be a musician so I joined the Marine Corps band.

2DMDB: Why do you believe music is important to the Marine Corps?

Cpl S: It has always been a big part of Marine Corps tradition. The band has to be the face of the Marine Corps and that's what is expected of us. It is important to show the world what Marines are made of. The infantry shows it by how they fight and the band shows it through our discipline and high standard when we are in the public eye.

2DMDB: What has been your most memorable performance in your career so far? Why?

Cpl S: In March 2013 I performed with the Marine Corps All-Star Jazz Band at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. I will never forget the experience of performing with the best musicians in the Marine Corps in front of thousands of people and with one of the world's greatest jazz educators/trombonists/composers in jazz history, Phil Wilson.

2DMDB: What are some of your goals you have set for yourself as a musician, and a Marine?

Cpl S: As a musician I want to reach my full potential as a jazz and classical trombonist in an effort to become a collegiate professor and pass what I have learned to my students.

Cpl S: As a Marine, I am at the end of my career, so a lot of the goals I set when I arrived at the 2d Mar Div Band have already been met. Some of those goals are: leading the band as a drum major, conducting in rehearsals, being a section leader, acting as a mentor to junior Marines, becoming a fire team leader, and advancing to green belt in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. One goal that was very important to me was being seen as a dependable Marine by my seniors, peers, and juniors. I hope I have achieved that goal.

2DMDB: What inspires you to play music? Why?

Cpl S: I have always been good at music. I started piano when I was 6 years old and trombone when I was 10 so whenever I met someone better than me, my competitive nature kicked in and always inspired me as a musician. Sometimes when I need some good inspiration I listen to music performed by bands that I would want to perform in someday. That always inspires me to play music and continue to work towards my full potential as a musician.

2DMDB: Who is your idol, or someone you look up to? Why?

Cpl S: I probably haven't told him since I was a kid, but I have always looked up to my Father. He has always set a good example. He always does the right things at the right time for the right reasons. If something doesn't go as planned he moves on to bigger and better things. If I could be half of what he is I would be well on my way to success.

2DMDB: Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

Cpl S: I hope to have a family and be teaching at the university level on the west coast or in the Midwest.

2DMDB: Any advice for fellow, and or younger Marines?

Cpl S: I definitely stole this quote, but I think it really depicts how a Marine should balance themselves as a leader. "Everything matters, but nothing matters that much."



This Month in History

This month in history, the 2d Marine Division Band performed at the Azalea Festival in Wilmington, NC in 1984. The band featured their jazz ensemble for an afternoon performance during the historic festivities.

Starting in 1948, the plan was to create a celebration of the community's "rich array of artwork, gardens, and history." Since then, the festival has grown into a massive celebration that takes place during the springtime in the Wilmington community featuring local and state celebrities, musical performances, tours, and more.

Today, the 2d Marine Division Band continues to perform at the festival. Its marching band remains an important part of celebrating the community of eastern North Carolina.



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