

“The President’s Own”: The United States Marine Band



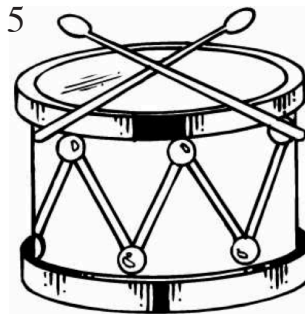
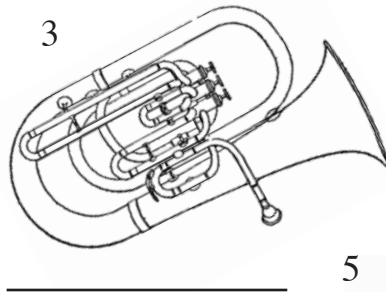
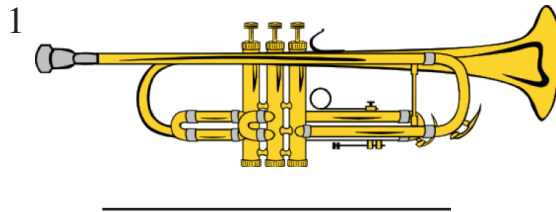
The United States Marine Band is the most famous band of the United States Marine Corps. The Marine Band’s mission is to provide music for the President and the Commandant. It was established by Congress on July 11, 1798, and is the oldest of the United States military bands. The Marine Band is believed to have been named “The President’s Own” by Thomas Jefferson and has played in nearly every presidential inauguration since 1801. They have become a universal symbol of excellence, discipline, and spirit of the Marine Corps.

John Philip Sousa

John Philip Sousa was the most famous director of “The President’s Own.” He was appointed the 17th director of the Marine Band on October 1, 1880, and remained so until July 30, 1892. Sousa brought the Marine Band to a new level of excellence that is still upheld today. He composed some of the Band’s most memorable marches, like *Semper Fidelis*, which is now the official march of the United States Marine Corps.



Can you name these instruments?



The Drum Major



The Drum Major is the senior enlisted member of “The President’s Own.” He directs the Band in its ceremonial commitments, trains new members in military subjects, and is responsible for the Band’s uniform appearance, ceremonial drill, and military decorum. He also leads the Band in review for the President and other important public figures. The Drum Major’s uniform makes him stand out from the rest of the Band. He wears a large bearskin headpiece and carries a ceremonial mace used to signal commands to the musicians. He also wears an ornate baldric, which is similar to a sash, embroidered with the Band’s crest, the Marine Corps’ battle honors, and miniatures of his own medals.

Did You Know?

Musicians of “The President’s Own” are chosen at auditions that are similar to those of major symphony orchestras. Band members who are selected to be apart of the Marine Band serve under a four-year contract as active duty enlisted Marines. They are the only members of the United States Armed Forces who are not required to go through recruit training. They are not assigned to any unit other than the Marine Band.

“The President’s Own” Word Search

T Z S N J X V I I G M C P W V I T T H W
 I N N Q V S C F T J A X O L G P T J J U
 R G O U P O P E Q O J R O N S U V F L U
 B Z I D A Q A R T G Z W S O C Y P P K O
 L C T Z Q W R D I L D E U P H E V Q G D
 B W A J P K A U W O I S P L M G R A S I
 Y K R L S K D S T N A Z X I S A O T K X
 P O U K V E E D O F A X G D S Y A G S O
 A Z G D Y A S M X T Z E T P L E W A H X
 J V U X X Y E L K T T R F Y N K W R I B
 C Q A X P R F S V N N P R L K E N P F F
 M U N P E L W N D X F H G I Y M C Z U Y
 A P I C Z I C V J M Y L V Z X N C C F B
 D R U M M A J O R O X Q M N S J A S Q B
 R Z P C Y E J H I I Y O U H G E L G C Y
 P S D V C U J X U O W E E X K D S G W H
 S Z O X F U S E L H P L C F M Y J L D M
 P K J O C Y B U Y F D G M T C Q S E Q A
 C R J J P B G B T X S T O C M K W N K Q
 R W L I E A K K J L H X Y U F J C B R J

Ceremonies
Parades

Sousa
Concerts

Drum Major
Inaugurations

Be sure to visit “**The President’s Own**” exhibits in the Museum, located in the Global Expeditionary Force Gallery and in the second deck hallway!

To learn more, visit www.marineband.usmc.mil