

The Quarter Note

Happy New Year!

MCBNOLA is ready to tackle the New Year, and so far, it's packed with performances and events that at least one of our ensembles will be involved with. Keep a check on our official Marines.mil and Facebook pages for our event calendars and updates, and we hope to see you at some of our shows!



Mardi Gras, 2016

"Laissez les bons temps rouler"

Who hasn't heard about Mardi Gras? It's a tradition observed around the world, though in very different ways, and one of the largest commitments we have annually here at MCBNOLA. Celebrations here begin the last day of Christmas (Twelfth Night) and continue all the way until Fat Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday). Mardi Gras arrived in North America as a French Catholic Tradition, and celebrations here include raucous parades, beads, masks, costumes, lavish balls, king cake, and general revelry all throughout the season. Celebrations around the world, however, have different durations and involve different traditions. Some places begin Mardi Gras events in November, with parades and festivals picking up in January and February and lasting until Ash Wednesday. Other celebrations only last the three days prior to Ash Wednesday. No matter where you're from, or how you celebrate the lead in to the Lenten season, experiencing a community's celebration of Mardi Gras is always a unique and awesome experience.

Trust us. This year, Marine Corps Band New Orleans marched in 8 parades covering over 60 miles, and performed for numerous balls hosted by the social clubs (civic organizations) called Krewes. We were led on the march by Drum Major GySgt Beebe, as well as Trombonist Sgt Berninger, and Clarinetist Sgt Guin. There were so many requests for Mardi Gras support this year that we also called in some reinforcements in the form of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Band from Parris Island, SC; and the II Marine Aircraft Wing Band from Cherry Point, NC.

COMING UP

Stay tuned in to our official Marines.mil page and all of our Social Media accounts. We're on the road a lot, and chances are, pretty soon, we'll be coming to an area near you! We've got so much going on right now, in fact, we've included a separate page in this quarter's newsletter outlining some of our biggest upcoming performances!



GySgt Justin Hauser, Enlisted Conductor, Conducts the band during the CAMAN Military Mardi Gras ball, the band's first ball of the season.

"One Mind, Any Weapon": Marine Corps Martial Arts Program

The Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP) began in 2001, and is a combat system that combines hand-to-hand and close quarters combat techniques with morale and team-building exercises. MCMAP teaches unarmed combat, edged weapons, weapons of opportunity, and rifle and bayonet techniques. The "One Mind, Any Weapon" concept incorporated into the program teaches Marines the importance of maintaining a combat mindset, and using any resources available for self-defense and mission completion. This concept; along with mental and character development, including the responsible escalation of force, leadership, teamwork, and Corps Values; makes up the Warrior Ethos. Bassoonist Corporal Nicole Pompei completed her Instructor qualification in January, while Hornist Staff Sergeant Roberto Gonzales completed his Instructor Trainer qualification in March, both joining Clarinetist Sergeant Marcus Robinson as MCBNOLA's current Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructors.



The Origins of Military Bands

As we head into a new year, let's look back at the history of military music, and how Marine Corps ensembles evolved into their current form.

Military bands were around long before the United States came marching into existence, being imported along with the various European cultures that comprised our colonial ancestors. Battle lines exclusively were seen in the engagements of the day, and a drum and fife were able to signal commands to troops when battle fog often rendered visual commands ineffective. The bugle was added to this pairing in the nineteenth century, usurping many of the commands previously relayed by drum. These three instruments regimented a soldier's day, signaling everything from when to wake and assemble to when to be paid and dismissed. This was referred to as "Field Music", and has since been replaced largely by modern radio communications.

While the bugle, fife, and drum dominated the battlefield and military camp life, woodwind instruments dominated military ceremonies. Small ensembles comprised primarily of horns, bassoons, and oboes were called *Harmoniemusik*, and were used ceremonially and to raise troop morale. These bands would play to entertain visiting officials, provide dinner music at military events, and accompany troops on their expeditions to provide entertainment and a reprieve from the hardships of military life on the road in Colonial America.

As musical innovation blossomed, and valved, chromatic brass instruments replaced the harmonic brass instruments of old, military bands grew in size and became increasingly popular. Military band performances became steadily more valuable to commanders as tools for improving troop morale, and came with the added benefit of promoting good will with the local civilian populace. Bands no longer performed exclusively for troops and ceremonies; they now performed for a larger audience from a wider variety of backgrounds. This placed more demands on the military bands that they were ready and willing to fulfill. Over time, smaller component ensembles were formed within bands to handle a wider variety of commitments. Brass and woodwind quintets, jazz ensembles, big bands (seeing their hay day in 20's and 40's), popular music groups and brass bands were soon established within bands in order to be sent out to cater to the demands of any occasion.

Marine Corps Band New Orleans is a descendant from those early *Harmoniemusik* ensembles, and has taken full advantage of the evolution of its military music predecessors. Established on 1 October 1978, MCBNO performs in over 280 commitments a year, entertaining over 6 million people. They regularly utilize all of the aforementioned small ensembles, as well as full concert and ceremonial bands. Ensembles within MCBNO perform for military ceremonies, parades, festivals, and recruiting tours, and are dedicated to providing support for music and music education in and around the area of New Orleans, Louisiana. The current structure and function of the band surpasses anything that any musician dared to dream of during our colonial beginnings, and it is always seeking to bring the best professional music to the United States Marine Corps and to the people of the USA.

From Me To You

I'd like to take this spot of The Quarter Note to look back at our 2015 year, now that we've checked all our boxes to end it and begin 2016. MCBNOLA has traveled around the country, and to Canada, in support of military ceremonies, community relations tours, anniversaries and commemorations, and recruiting support. We've performed for thousands, and gotten the opportunity to interact with many of our audiences, before and after our performances. One that is prominent in my mind is performing with the Woodwind Quintet at Woldenberg Village, a retirement home in New Orleans, for a Veteran's Day celebration. We had a brief intermission in the middle of our set, and we able to talk to many of those in attendance. WWII veterans that were part of the final invasions of the Japanese homeland, Korean and Vietnam War veterans who were in the heat of those conflicts, all who had lost brothers to the enemy; men and women from all over the nation and from nations abroad, all with their heads held high. Their pride in being able to claim the title "American" was almost palpable as we performed patriotic standards like Washington Post march and Fairest of the Fair. That, I think, is one of our most vital roles as Marine Musicians: to carry on the legacy of those who have gone before, and to share that legacy with the world. Sure, we strive to inspire feelings of patriotism in our audiences by putting on a great performance, wearing our uniform with pride and mastering our instruments in order to deliver a superior product of music and performance. But we stand on the backs of those that came before, and they are an integral part of our story, too. As one of the final lines in the Non-Commissioned Officer's Creed states, "For such is the legacy I have received from that long, illustrious line of Marines who have worn the blood-stripe so proudly before me."

~ Corporal Dalton M. Guin, Horn, Public Affairs; Editor – "The Quarter Note"



Hails and Farewells

This quarter, Marine Corps Band New Orleans has bid farewell to some great Marine musicians: Sgt Samuel Gardner, PCS to Marine Forces Pacific Band; and Cpl Cammie Lucas, EAS. Both of these Marines were great assets to Marine Corps Band New Orleans, but were also great members of our MCBNOLA family, and will be missed. Fair winds and following seas, Marines!

We have also welcomed LCpl Kevin Fedelem, tuba; Sgt Andrew Araki, trombone; and SSgt Roberto Gonzales, horn; to the Marine Corps Band New Orleans family. We're excited to have their talent and motivation added to our team!

Awards and Promotions

- January – Carlos Sierra, Promoted to Sergeant
Spencer Day, Promoted to Corporal
- February – Jordan Gardner, Promoted to Sergeant
- March – Michael Ramirez, Promoted to Corporal
Sgt Marcus Robinson, Good Conduct Medal
Sgt Andrew Araki, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
Cpl Christopher Quarto, Good Conduct Medal
Cpl Scott Wentz, Good Conduct Medal



FROM THE BAND

Corporal Nicole Pompei, a bassoonist and operations clerk with MCBNOLA, attended the Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor course in Quantico, Virginia, in January of this year. To get an idea of what the course was all about, we conducted an exclusive interview with Cpl Pompei.

Quarter Note: You attended the MCMAP Instructor course in January of this year. Prior to that, what were you doing to prepare yourself for that kind of training?

Corporal Pompei: I was PT-ing on a daily (and sometimes twice a day) basis. Even during Christmas break, I sacrificed indulging on holiday food and was very conscious about my eating habits and physical training. I also studied the manuals and techniques before attending the course.

QN: What got you interested in becoming an Instructor?

CP: Honestly, at first I just wanted to find a way to advance in my career and stay ahead of my peers. I had a knack for MCMAP, especially when it came to remembering the details of all the techniques. My interest sparked while I was at the course, once I was able to meet the man who created the program and hear the passion behind his creation. It is definitely not an experience I regret!

QN: What types of demands were placed on you, physically and mentally, at the course?

CP: I was the only female out of 39 students, so I immediately felt a type of pressure to prove myself as not only a band member, but as a corporal (there were only five), and as a female. The running was difficult at times, but the worst part of the course, in my opinion, was the bitter cold. At times, we were outside in the mulch pit with a wind chill of 3 degrees! I was also nervous to prepare lessons to teach the class, but they provided us a lot of practice time to feel comfortable in front of my peers. The free sparring also got pretty painful until I got the hang of it.

QN: What, in your opinion, is the most important aspect that Marines retain from their MCMAP training?

CP: When the time comes for you to actually employ the techniques we learn in MCMAP, form is the last thing on anyone's mind. MCMAP was created through the "three-legged stool" concept- physical, mental, and character. We can PT and test someone constantly, but that all means nothing unless the student has a great Marine Corps character. Taking the information from the tie-ins and applying them to your daily life is the best aspect of MCMAP, in my opinion.

QN: What, personally, is your favorite part of MCMAP?

CP: I really love grappling. I know a lot of my peers enjoy it too, and it is quite a workout!

QN: Any advice for Marines interested in furthering their MCMAP qualifications?

CP: Find an instructor and ask when their next course is. It is as simple as that. Sometimes, it is necessary to sacrifice your free time in order to receive your belt. Coming into the course with that realization will help. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, do not doubt yourself. It is an attainable goal!

Upcoming Events

We're starting this quarter off with a Concert Tour in Indiana, and one performance in Illinois, and we don't slow down from there! This year is already shaping up to be one of our busiest yet, and we want to see YOU at one of our many performances. If you're in the area, stop by and let us know how you heard about us. For frequent updates, photos, videos, and questions, check us out on social media, and like our Facebook page. We're YOUR United States Marines, and we want to hear from you!



FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC

— APRIL 17 at 7:30 PM —
INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE
AUER PERFORMANCE HALL
2101 COLISEUM BLVD E, FORT WAYNE, IN 46835

— APRIL 19 at 7:30 PM —
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE
MOREAU CENTER FOR THE ARTS
ST MARY'S COLLEGE, NOTRE DAME, IN 46556

— APRIL 21 at 7:30 PM —
VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY CHAPEL OF THE RESURRECTION
1600 CHAPEL DRIVE, VALPARAISO, IN 46383

— APRIL 22 at 7:30 PM —
UNIVERSITY OF INDIANAPOLIS RUTH LILLY PERFORMANCE HALL
1400 EAST HANNA AVENUE, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46227

— APRIL 26 at 7:30 PM —
INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY TILSON MUSIC HALL
200 NORTH 7TH STREET, TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47809

THIS ALL-MARINE CONCERT BAND WILL PERFORM A VARIETY
OF CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL ORCHESTRAL MUSIC.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO AUDITION FOR THE MARINE CORPS BAND
PLEASE CONTACT CAPT CHAD GREENE, RS INDIANAPOLIS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER • 9152 KENT AVE, BLDG 401, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46216
574-876-7808 • CHAD.GREENE@MARINES.USMC.MIL

AND:

- April 27 at 7:30 PM -

Carterville High School
Timothy C. Bleyer Auditorium
1415 West Grand Avenue
Carterville IL, 62918

See you there!