

The Quarter Note

Welcome Back!

Marine Corps Band New Orleans' quarterly newsletter is back, and better than ever! Stay tuned, and we'll bring you information about upcoming events, some of the great events we've already supported, and how you can help us share our music with the world!



Katrina: "Spirit of Rebirth" Concert Series

On the last weekend in August, Marine Corps Band New Orleans performed a series of concerts across the greater New Orleans area, celebrating the "Spirit of Rebirth" of the people in the city of New Orleans and the surrounding region. The area is known for numerous disasters throughout time, from its destruction at the hands of a massive hurricane in the 1600s, to a fire in 1788, to the most recent devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The city has weathered catastrophe after catastrophe, and each time, residents and neighbors have come together to rebuild what has been destroyed. These rebirths bring with them advents in culture and the arts, building upon New Orleans' reputation as the home of Jazz, the music of America. The band's concert tour celebrated many of the cultural components that met to form New Orleans' sound, to include the music of Native America, France, Italy, Spain, and the continent of Africa. The series featured Jazz selections and a tribute to the New Orleans Brass Band style, but the feature selection was Robert W. Smith's "Promising Skies", which was commissioned by Marine Forces Reserve after the storm as a gift to the people of New Orleans. It was premiered at a concert held by the then-titled Marine Forces Reserve Band on August 30th, 2009, under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Smith. The concert was held the day after the 4th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, said Chief Warrant Officer Smith, "because ...the 29th is the event of the hurricane. We didn't want to commemorate the hurricane. We wanted to pay tribute to the spirit of rebirth, to the people who came back."

"Pain is Weakness Leaving the Body"

As United States Marines, our bandsmen train constantly to better themselves, maintain mission readiness, and meet training standards for the Marine Corps. Each year, Marines are required to take a Physical Fitness Test in the spring, consisting of Pull-ups or Dead-hangs, Crunches, and a timed three mile run. Your Marines are currently entering the fall season, where we will be taking the Combat Fitness Test. This consists of a timed 880-meter sprint simulating Movement to Contact, 30 lb. ammo can lifts, and a timed course simulating Maneuver Under Fire. Marines are expected to maintain these fitness levels year-round, and train constantly to meet and exceed the standards. Other annual training requirements include Marine Corps Water Survival training, gas chamber training, and annual rifle qualification, as well as ongoing training in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. All of these things factor into what we call the "Total Marine Concept", which keeps us up to date on the diverse skill-sets required as both Marines and musicians, and helps keep us ready for the fight!

COMING UP

We're currently working on our knocking out some annual training. Every Marine is a rifleman, and we are all Marines first and foremost. Stay tuned in to our social media accounts and official webpage for updates on our Fall Concert Tour in October!



KATRINA "Spirit of Rebirth" 10 YEARS LATER

New Orleans Superdome
(Left) 2005, after Hurricane Katrina
(Right) Present-day



New Orleans' Spirit of Rebirth

Time and again, over the course of history, the city of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region at large have been destroyed by a barrage of natural catastrophes. And yet, each time the area has been ravaged, people from everywhere join together to rebuild, not just to the area's former glory, but to new heights of wonder.

On 21 March 1788, the Great New Orleans Fire destroyed 856 of New Orleans' 1,100 structures. Rebuilding was done now using thick masonry structures with courtyards and wrought iron balconies. After six years of rebuilding, the Great New Orleans Fire of 1794 destroyed an additional 212 buildings. As New Orleans was still a colony of Spain, rebuilding continued in the Spanish style, causing more and more of the city's original French architecture to disappear.

In 1831, a hurricane called Great Barbados made landfall at Isle Dernieres, killing 1500, bringing strong gale-force winds, and destroying crops of cotton across the region. In 1893, a category 3 hurricane referred to as Number 10 entered the area at the mouth of the Mississippi River, with a casualty total of 2000. This is the deadliest hurricane in Louisiana history. High winds and over 16ft storm surges devastated the region, with over sixty-percent of Plaquemines Parish's orange crops destroyed. The Chandeleur Island lighthouse sustained a tilt of several feet, and waves occasionally washed over its beacon, which was still around 50ft high.

Hurricane Katrina is one of the five deadliest hurricanes in United States history, and has been the costliest. In the havoc wreaked from central Florida to Texas, most of it due to the storm surge, over 1,245 people lost their lives. After weakening from a category 5 hurricane to a category 3 while in the gulf of Mexico, Hurricane Katrina made her second landfall on 29 August 2005, in southeast Louisiana. New Orleans suffered the highest loss of life in the storm's destruction, as its levees failed even hours after the storm had moved inland, in what is considered the worst civil engineering disaster in United States history. Over 80% of New Orleans and many surrounding parishes were inundated with flood waters for weeks.

However, as has happened time and again, the city rose from her watery ashes. Slowly, but tirelessly, she grew again, hosting people from all corners of the U.S. Skilled laborers poured in from around the country, often working alongside New Orleanians at night to rebuild the city. Roofers, construction teams, drywall companies, electricians-myriad tradesmen answered the city's call for aid, offering employment to those in the area that were unemployed due to the storm, and turning everyone's hand to rebuilding what was lost. And rebuild they did. As the people of New Orleans had done before, and, it is comfortable to assume, will always do, they built bigger and better, fixing old design flaws and shoring up against future disasters. New life was breathed into the city, and her cultural exuberance was once again almost tangible in the air. Street performers and musicians moved back to their old haunts, using their craft not only to entertain, but to tell a new story: a story of what was lost, and what was painstakingly restored, bit by bit. A story of a city that would not fall – that will not fall. A story of New Orleans. The story of her people.

From Me To You

Hello, everyone! If you're reading this, it means you found our updated newsletter! We haven't put one of these out in quite some time, but we're back and better than ever! Stay tuned for a newsletter every annual quarter, and we'll keep you informed on our most recent goings on and upcoming events!

We've been really busy this quarter, wrapping up some of our annual required training events and performing all across the country. We've sent ensembles out to South Carolina, Texas, Ohio, and Mississippi; as well as performing a ton of ceremonies and concerts around New Orleans and Louisiana. We honored our fallen brothers in the tragic attack in Tennessee, and celebrated the spirit of rebirth in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region in the wake of Hurricane Katrina ten years ago. We spent a week completing our annual rifle range qualification at Camp Shelby, MS, and our own Sgt Robinson has held multiple Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP) courses to help our Marines attain higher-class belts and become more combat-efficient.

We've been to many places, and done a lot of things; but one thing, to me, has resonated most strongly: the patriotism, strength, and endurance of the American people. Hearing stories from Gulf Coast and NOLA residents about Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath, and about people pouring in from all over the country to bring humanitarian relief and help rebuild and heal, it illuminates such a sense of compassion and neighborly ideals that is truly peerless. Honoring our fallen brothers and sisters in funerals and memorials across the nation, and watching as Americans stand shoulder to shoulder in solidarity, paying their respects to men and women who swore their lives to the defense of these United States, and payed that oath with the ultimate sacrifice.

You, the American People, are the reason your family members, friends, and neighbors answer the call to service. You are the reason they stand tall in defense of their homeland. Your unwavering support, compassion, and patriotism helps them to serve for you with honor. So, here's to you!

~ 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: CWO3 Bryan Sherlock, MSgt William Call, SSgt Stephen Howell, Sgt Robert Flack, Sgt Michael Prater, and Cpl Robert Frieders. Fair winds and following seas, Marines!

We have also welcomed LCpl Spencer Day, saxophonist; and LCpl Jonathan Richardson, piano; to the Marine Corps Band New Orleans family. We're excited to have their talent and motivation in the team!

Awards and Promotions

- July - Robert Flack: **Promotion to Sgt**
Michael Prater: **Promotion to Sgt**
Cpl Nicole Pompei: **Completion of Corporals Course**
Cpl Ryan Vanaman: **Completion of Corporals Course**
Sgt Kyle Riley: **Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal**
- August - Marcus Robinson: **Meritorious Promotion to Sgt**
Cpls Espinoza, Buzak, J. Gardner, Wente, Edwards, Zimmerman;
LCpls Linnenkamp, Leonard, Draffen, Scheffler, Richardson, Palmer,
Ramirez, Bernik, and Black: **MCMAP Grey Belt**
- September- Kinsey Spurr: **Promotion to Sgt**
Benjamin Black: **Promotion to Cpl**
Adam Chandler: **Promotion to Cpl**
Nathan Scheffler: **Promotion to Cpl**



FROM THE BAND

Saxophonist, Lance Corporal Spencer Day: Coming Home

I feel both very excited and fortunate to be coming home to St. Louis, MO. I know how rare it is for a Marine Corps Band member to be able to tour through their hometown. It feels like the perfect time to be home. Family, friends, and loved ones are all home; the weather hasn't changed drastically yet; and the Cardinals are in the playoffs.

I've been sharing the secrets of St. Louis with my fellow bandsmen; including the zoo, the food, and especially Forest Park. Hopefully, we get the time to experience it all during our time there.

St. Louis has been my home for nearly 20 years. Sometimes I wonder why I ever left, however, being a traveling Marine Musician has its perks. Everything I know and love is in St. Louis, and I'm excited to show the people of St. Louis who the Marine Corps Band New Orleans is, as I'm also excited to show the band the beauty of St. Louis.

Trombonist, Corporal Nathan Scheffler: From College to Corps

Looking back, my time at Southeast Missouri State University was a blessing. I learned a lot, experienced a lot, and gained many friends, colleagues, and mentors. In four short years, classmates and instructors became family. Being a music major was great, because the music field is so small that you learn and interact with everyone all the time. There are no classrooms full of 100 plus students, nor instructors recording the lesson plan and showing it on a screen. There are maybe 20 students per class and everything is hands on; whether it's playing new instruments, teaching your peers, or throwing around ideas on how to make a Dr. Seuss Instrument.

It takes a strong-willed, smart, and patient person to be a musician. It takes an even stronger person with high morals and a good conscience to be a United States Marine. When you combine the two, you create an unstoppable force and an extremely unique person (there are only 500 Marine Musicians). Having the opportunity to join the Few and become the Fewer has been a crazy, wonderful experience. Even in the short two years I have been a part of the Marine Corps, it has taken me to all the corners of the U.S. and even into Canada. It is a great feeling to be able to serve and yet still do what I love to do- what we all love to do: perform.

Percussionist, Private First Class Jarred Hargrove

Joining the Marine Corps was everything I expected and nothing I expected, at the same time. I have met and played with amazing musicians and individuals, and I do not regret my decision to become part of the Nation's Finest. I was given the chance to play all over the country, and across international borders, and I'm very excited to be back in my own backyard of St Louis, MO.

Euphonium, Gunnery Sergeant Michael Maschmeier: Going Home

I am so excited to be going back St. Louis Missouri. I was born in Kirkwood, raised in Eureka and grew up on the Cardinals. I have had a fantastic career in the Corps. I've traveled and played music in 26 countries, and only been shot at in two. I'd say that is pretty good odds. I've lived all over the world and have lived in, or traveled to 45 state in this great country of ours. This is, however the first time I've ever performed as a Marine musician in my home city. What a fantastic time to come home. Cards are in the playoffs, I still have a whole lot of family and friend in the area and I'm with the best playing band in my career. And as a bonus I'm getting to conduct and play! We will even get to play in Busch Stadium during the championship series (go Cards, Ooh Rah). Well anyway, I hope we meet and I "See you in St. Louie."

Flautist, Sergeant Kinsey Spurr

Ever since I've joined the Marine Corps, I've always hoped to make it up to Indiana to perform. I'm originally from Turkey Run but was recruited out from RSS Terre Haute. This month I am home on Recruiting Duty in Terre Haute. I am so excited to get to perform one last time with Marine Corps Band New Orleans in my hometown area, seeing as I am headed to Okinawa, Japan in just a few short weeks! I really hope to get a large turnout of friends, family, and community members!