

John Philip

SOUSA

Band Festival

March 23 - 24, 2019

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts





Music Celebrations International is pleased to present the Sousa Band Festival, an exclusive music event that will take place on March 24, 2019 at the Concert Hall of Washington, D.C.'s John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Four select concert bands will be featured in performance at this historic concert venue. All participating bands are selected by application process through Music Celebrations.

The program will emphasize the life and influence of John Philip Sousa, "The March King," on the American Band movement. Participating bands will have the opportunity to visit important Sousa sites in Washington, D.C., including Historic Congressional Cemetery, where he was laid to rest.

Each band will also take part in a clinic with Col. Arnald D. Gabriel.

Sousa began his musical career at age 6, when he first learned the violin. When the young Sousa turned 13, his father, a trombonist in the United States Marine Band, enlisted his son in the Marine Corps as an apprentice. Sousa served his apprenticeship for seven years, until 1875, and learned to play all the wind instruments while honing his mettle with the violin. Several years later, Sousa left his apprenticeship to join a theater orchestra where he learned to conduct.

Founded in 1798, the oldest professional music organization in the United States is the United States Marine Band. For all its rich history and traditions, it is probably best known as being led by Sousa from 1880 to 1892. These years started a very long and prolific period of march composition for Sousa, including legendary marches that are still performed today - The Washington Post, The Gladiator, and of course, Stars and Stripes Forever. Semper Fidelis, in addition to being the motto of the United States Marine Corps, is also the title of the official march of the Corps, composed by Sousa in 1889.



The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is a world-renowned arts complex on the Potomac River in Washington, D.C. It opened in 1971 as a living memorial to the 35th President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Designed by architect Edward Durrell Stone, it was built by Philadelphia contractor John McShain and is administered by a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution. It is often referred to as the "National Center for the Performing Arts," serving as the home of the National Symphony, Washington Ballet, Washington National Opera, and the Washington Performing Arts Society. Thousands of art performances are given annually on the various stages and theaters that exist within the structure.

Sample Itinerary

Day One: Friday, March 22, 2019

- Arrive in Washington, D.C.
- Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will escort you through the duration of your activities
- Take a panoramic motorcoach tour of Historic Washington, D.C.
- Check into the hotel
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Take an evening walking tour of the Jefferson Memorial and the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial
- Return to the hotel for overnight

Day Two: Saturday, March 23

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Take a walk along Pennsylvania Avenue for a view of the White House (White House visits must be requested through a member of Congress)
- Visit Capitol Hill and see the Supreme Court and Capitol buildings
- Lunch, on own
- Visit Historic Congressional Cemetery for a wreath-laying ceremony at the graveside of John Philip Sousa
- *Participate in a clinic with the Col. Arnauld D. Gabriel*
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Take an evening walking tour of the Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, and National World War II Memorials, as well as a view of the outside of the Washington Monument
- Return to the hotel for overnight

Day Three: Sunday, March 24

- Breakfast at the hotel and check-out
- *Morning sound check at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts*
- Lunch at the KC Café
- Take a tour of the Kennedy Center facilities
- *Sousa Band Festival Performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts*
- Following the performance, depart for home

*Longer and shorter tour options are available upon request.



Upcoming Events

Percy Grainger Wind Band Festival | March 22 - 23, 2019

Chicago, Illinois

Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center

The ninth-annual Percy Grainger Wind Band Festival will feature four outstanding wind ensembles on April 7, 2018, conducting featured, stand-alone performances of Percy Grainger literature in an afternoon matinée performance in Chicago's Historic Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center.

National Memorial Day Concert Series | May 25 - 27, 2019

Washington, DC

Washington National Mall

The 2018 National Memorial Day Concert Series is an exclusive event hosted by Music Celebrations International, with support from the American Veterans Center. This concert series will feature outstanding musical performances by choirs, concert bands, and orchestras in Washington, D.C. at various memorial and monuments on the Washington National Mall over Memorial Day Weekend

Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival | July 5 - 10, 2019

Vienna, Austria

Musikverein
Wiener Konzerthaus

The Summa Cum Laude Festival in Vienna is Austria's premier global youth music festival for choirs, bands and orchestras. Taking place every July in Vienna's two main classical concert venues, the Golden Hall of the Musikverein and the Konzerthaus, it offers an international environment where a thousand young musicians enjoy inter-cultural exchanges and build bridges that span continents.



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