





Music Celebrations International is pleased to present the Sousa Band Festival, an exclusive music event that takes place annually in the Spring historically held in 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.

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 Foreyer. 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:

- 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:

- 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 festival clinic*
- 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:

- 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

*Subject to confirmation

Longer and shorter tour options are available upon request.





Music Celebrations International

1440 South Priest Drive, Suite 102

Tempe, Arizona 85281-6954

Toll-Free: 800.395.2036 Fax: 480.894.5137

Web: www.musiccelebrations.com Email: info@musiccelebrations.com