

Sounds of Sousa

Established by an act of Congress in 1798 and dubbed “The President’s Own” by Thomas Jefferson, the U.S. Marine Band (below) – the nation’s oldest professional music organization – performed at SU in the fall. As the only musical organization charged to perform for the president, the U.S. Marine Band has a rich history. The band debuted at the White House on New Year’s Day 1801 in a performance for President John Adams. That March, it played during the inauguration of President Jefferson and has performed at every presidential inaugural since. John Philip Sousa was perhaps the organization’s most famous member. As its 17th director, from 1880-92, he shaped the band into a world-famous musical organization. Three of his compositions were played at the SU concert.

ard Earns Accreditation

SU’s Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art (below) achieved accreditation from the American Association of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition for a museum. Accreditation signifies that the Ward Museum has met and exceeded the highest standards of the museum field and is among the best institutions in the country. AAM accreditation is the field’s primary vehicle for quality assurance. The Baltimore Consort, whose albums have placed in *Grammagazine*’s top 10, performed a repertoire that included early music from England, Scotland, France, Italy, Spain and beyond. Closing out the series was classical guitarist Manuel Barrueco (below bottom), who is internationally recognized as one of the most important guitarists of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Back by Popular Demand

Among the high points of the year's cultural offerings were repeat engagements from some of the world's best. "Colorful China: A Celebration of China's Ethnic Communities" returned with a presentation of high-spirited song and elaborately costumed dance. The program was derived from research, collection and preservation of the country's 56 ethnic groups by the Chinese National Museum of Ethnology, represented by 48 performers (below right). The American Spiritual Ensemble (below left) once again shared its unique musical art form. The ensemble strives to keep the tradition of American Negro spirituals alive.

It has performed throughout the world, including such prestigious venues as the Metropolitan and New York City operas. It also has been broadcast as part of the PBS documentary *See, Hear, Hear*. The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre (above) shared the history and flair of one of the nation's most celebrated choreographers with SU audiences. Created by Ailey in 1974, the company helps talented students make the transition from the studio to the stage. Visiting 40 cities a year, each performance reflects the company's mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training and community programs for all people.

Fusion-Focused Experiences

As part of an ongoing series, several cultural events illuminated the fusion of the many rich traditions that make up the United States' cultural heritage. DJ Rekha (right) introduced SU to Bhangra, a type of music combining Punjabi folk traditions from southeastern Asia with Western hip-hop. *See, Hear, Hear* calls her "one of the top 100 influential South Asians in the United States."

The members of the Grammy-nominated Gerald Clayton Trio (below) looked beyond the ideals of traditional jazz, mixing influences including neo-soul and hip-hop to produce a one-of-a-kind sound.

Singer Gretchen

Parlato shared arrangements that blended everything from jazz to R&B, pop classics and even a mixture of some Brazilian sambas. The Zydeco Cha-Chas performed their fast and furious accordion-driven dance music. Originating from the Creole people of southern Louisiana after World War II, zydeco blends rubboard percussion, electric guitars and R&B influences.

The *See, Hear, Hear* film series explored the musical conversation between Latinos and non-Latinos that has helped shape the history of popular music in the United States. University faculty added to the discussion with lectures ranging from a look at the ever-changing face of contemporary families to the fusion of the religious traditions of Buddhism and Shintoism to "Divine Fusion in Milton's *Paradise Lost*."