

WRIGHT NOTES



Maj. R. Michael Mench - Commander

News from the Band of Flight

January - March 2011

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Commander's Message



Thank you again for joining us for our winter edition of Wright Notes, the electronic newsletter of the USAF Band of Flight. I hope this finds everyone happy and healthy as we begin a new calendar year. Our focus in the band this year will be to continue entertaining the troops and the public, while spreading the good word of the USAF. The band performed over 525 times last year from Colombia, South America, to Columbus, Ohio, and this next year looks just as exciting. Happy New Year!

Maj. R. Michael Mench

New Harmony Returns

New Harmony, the Band of Flight's recently deployed ensemble, returned home after traveling to eight different countries in Central and South America in support of the U.S. Navy's Continuing Promise 2010. The mission provided disaster relief training for military doctors, dentists and engineers, as well as localized humanitarian assistance to people usually in remote locations.

New Harmony's contributions to Continuing Promise included musical support on and off the ship with 126 performances for a total audience of 48,500 people. The group performed acoustic and electric rock shows, as well as brass quintet and trio protocol events. Additionally, New Harmony heavily supported ship activities, such as chapel services, departure ceremonies and the Marine Corps' Birthday Ball.

Welcome home, New Harmony!



Maj. R. Michael Mench, New Harmony officer in charge and commander of the Band of Flight, hugs his son Zachary upon returning from deployment. (U.S. Air Force photo/Ron Fry)
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Families welcome home deployed members of New Harmony. (U.S. Air Force photo/Ron Fry)
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Click for Audition Information

Hearts, Heroes & Heritage Concerts

On February 12, 2011, at 7:30pm, the Air Force Band of Flight will present its annual "Hearts, Heroes and Heritage" concert, featuring the Concert Band, at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. This free concert will simultaneously pay tribute to our country's heroes, while also celebrating African-American History Month and Valentine's Day. This year there will be two additional opportunities to hear this program: February 9, 2011, at 7pm in Brookville, Indiana, at Franklin County High School and February 10, 2011, at 7:30pm in Marysville, Ohio, at Marysville High School. We hope to see you there!



The Band of Flight concert band performs at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo)
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President George W. Bush Visit

On Veteran's Day, 2010, the Air Force Band of Flight had the distinct honor of playing for former President George W. Bush, who was speaking at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. His visit honored veterans and their families, and was tied to the recent release of his memoir, "Decision Points." Prior to Mr. Bush's speech, the band performed for an audience of 1,500 in a 30-minute concert that included vocalists and a patriotic sing-a-long. Also, Systems Go combo played background music for a reception that evening, and was able to meet Mr. Bush.



Former President George W. Bush speaks at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Daniel Bentley)
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Educational Outreach

In March, 2011, four of the Band of Flight's small groups will be touring for the purposes of educational outreach and recruiting. The Systems Go rock group will be performing in the local area, focusing on recruiting in the schools. The Huffman Prairie Winds woodwind quintet will reach the states of Indiana and Kentucky, while the Night Hawk jazz ensemble will be utilized for recruiting purposes for the first time ever, visiting schools in Ohio. Wright Brass, who played for the Kentucky Music Educators Association earlier this month, will present clinics and perform at three universities and a high school in Indiana.



Huffman Prairie Winds woodwind quintet performs at the Preble County Fine Arts Center in Eaton, Ohio. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jeremy Nee)
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We are on Facebook!

Farewell to Departing Members

Permanent Change of Station

Master Sgt. Shelley Steepe
Clarinet

Hometown: Buchanan, Mich.

Education: Bachelor of Music
Bachelor of Music Education
Western Michigan University, Mich.

Band of Flight Service: 15 years

New Assignment:
USAF Heartland of America Band, Offutt AFB, Neb.



Staff Sgt. Megan Russell
Flute

Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pa.

Education: Bachelor of Music Education
Youngstown State University, Ohio
Master of Music Performance
Wright State University, Ohio

Band of Flight Service: 6 years

New Assignment:
The USAF Band, Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C.

Retirements



Hometown: Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Computer
and Information Science
University of Maryland, University College, Md.

Air Force Service: 25 years

Prior Assignments:
Air University Band, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
Band of the Pacific-Asia,
Yokota AB, Japan
USAF Band of the Golden West,
Travis AFB, Calif.

Master Sgt. JP Banks
Saxophone

Hometown: Barrington, N.H.

Education: Bachelor of Music Education
University of New Hampshire, N.H.

Air Force Service: 25 years

Prior Assignments:
USAF Band of the West, Lackland AFB, Texas
Band of New England/Band of Liberty, Hanscom AFB, Mass.
Band of the Pacific-Asia, Yokota AB, Japan
Band of the Pacific-Hawaii, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
SHAPE International Band, SHAPE, Belgium



Master Sgt. Shawn Stanley
Electric Bass/Vocalist

Hometown: Xenia, Ohio

Air Force Service: 25 years

Prior Assignments:
661st Air Force Band, Wright-Patterson AFB,
Ohio
The USAF Academy Band, Peterson AFB,
Colo.



Master Sgt. Christopher Jeffery
Trumpet

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Master Sgt. Nicole Shiningier
Clarinet

Hometown: East Meadow, N.Y.

Education: Bachelor of Music Education
Crane School of Music, The State
University of New York at Potsdam, N.Y.
Master of Music
Michigan State University, Mich.

Air Force Service: 14 years

Prior Assignments:
USAF Heartland of America Band, Offutt
AFB, Neb.



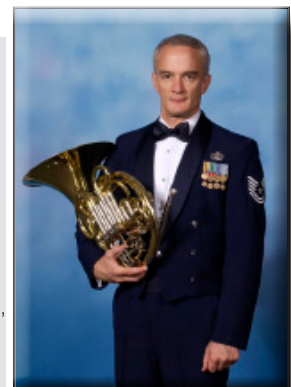
Master Sgt. Peter Hensel
Horn

Hometown: Mindoro, Wis.

Education: Bachelor of Fine Arts
Carnegie Mellon University, Pa.
Master Music
The Juilliard School, N.Y.

Air Force Service: 10 years

Prior Assignments:
US Army: 3rd & 1st I.D. Bands, Warner Barracks,
Bamberg, Germany
Ground Forces Band, Fort McPherson, Ga.
USAF Band of Mid-America, Scott AFB, Ill.



USAF Band of Flight

Upcoming Appearances



Click to request the band!

February 9	Concert Band - Franklin County High School, Brookville, Ind., 7:00 p.m.
February 10	Concert Band - Marysville High School, Marysville, Ohio, 7:30 p.m.
February 12	Concert Band - National Museum of the United States Air Force 7:30 p.m.
March 5	Night Flight + Wright Brass - National Museum of the United States Air Force 7:30 p.m.
March 21	Wright Brass - Ritz Theater, Rockville, Ind., 8:00 p.m.
March 21	Huffman Prairie Winds - Central Kentucky Art Series, Campbellsville, Ky., 3:00 p.m.
March 22	Huffman Prairie Winds - Puskarich Public Library, Cadiz, Ohio, 6:00 p.m.
March 23	Wright Brass - Mooresville High School, Mooresville, Ind., 7:30 p.m.
March 24	Huffman Prairie Winds - Mishawaka High School, Mishawaka, Ind., 7:00 p.m.
April 2	Concert Band - National Museum of the United States Air Force 7:30 p.m.
April 8	Night Flight - Capital University Conservatory of Music, Columbus, Ohio
April 9	Night Flight - Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio, 7:30 p.m.
April 10	Night Flight - Washington Middle School, Washington CH, Ohio, 3:00 p.m.
April 12	Night Flight - Xenia, Ohio, 7:00 p.m.
April 14	Huffman Prairie Winds - Bristol Village Retirement Community, Waverly, Ohio, 7:30 p.m.
April 16	Night Flight - Green High School, Green, Ohio, 4:30 p.m.

Mission Statement

The mission of the United States Air Force Band of Flight is to deliver world-class musical products that inspire emotions, create positive impressions and communicate information according to Air Force objectives for the defense of the United States of America.

We'd love your feedback!
Please contact our newsletter editor, Staff Sgt. Jennifer Kost, by clicking [here](#).