

# WRIGHT NOTES



Maj. R. Michael Mench - Commander

News from the Band of Flight

April - June 2011

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## Chief's Message

It is the Band of Flight's honor to represent our United States Air Force's Airmen - the finest Airmen in the world. Through the world class music we perform, we hope to reflect at least a small part of the technical capability and emotional strength and commitment of your Airmen in service to our country. As we move through the spring to summer we hope you have an opportunity to catch one of our many performances which culminate in the annual Air Force Materiel Command Tattoo to be held this year on June 24, 2011. Thank you for your support and please enjoy our latest edition of the "Wright Notes"!



Chief Master Sgt. Eric M. Strohecker

## Spring and Summer Shows

The Band of Flight will be travelling this spring and summer season. In May, the concert band will head to Michigan to be a part of the Association of Concert Bands National Convention. They will be performing a work composed by the convention's featured clinician, James Curnow. Please take a look at the "Upcoming Appearances" page for details on the May tours.

Next, the concert band will be headlining the 7th annual Air Force Materiel Command's Freedom's Call Tattoo on June 24, 2011. Under the direction of Major Mench, the band will present "A Nation Comes Together," a musical narration of the show's theme "Defending Liberty . . . Home and Abroad." The Band of Flight will be joined by members from the Air National Guard Band of the Great Lakes, stationed at Toledo, Ohio.

And finally, throughout the months of June and July, Prism Brass (the Band of Flight's newest ensemble) and Systems Go popular music group will be covering other regions of the band's area of responsibility.



The concert band performs a typical summer show in July, 2009. (U.S. Air Force photo/SSgt Dan Bentley) [Download High-Res](#)



Maj. R. Michael Mench conducts the Band of Flight at the 2010 Tattoo on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Ben Strasser) [Download High-Res](#)

## *Click for Audition Information*

### Night Flight Jazz

After several sensational concerts (including performances with world-renowned trumpeters Bobby Shew and Vince DiMartino) given around Ohio last month, the Air Force Band of Flight's jazz ensemble, Night Flight, returns to the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The group will be giving their annual Glenn Miller concert on the grounds of the museum on May 21, 2011, at 6pm.

Night Flight will celebrate the heritage of the great American band leader, Maj. Glenn Miller. Mr. Tom Daugherty, Dayton's own Miller style expert, will be leading Night Flight for a second year in a row. The performance will take place outside the museum's Modern Flight Gallery, and visitors are asked to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. The event is free and open to the public.



Tom Daugherty leads the Band of Flight's Night Flight at the annual Glenn Miller concert on the grounds of the National Museum of the United States Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Wendy Harvey)  
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### Wright Brass with Dayton Opera

Last month, members of Wright Brass had the privilege of joining the Dayton Opera for three performances of Donizetti's "La Fille du Régiment," or "The Daughter of the Regiment." This light comedic opera, infused with a military theme, was billed as a salute to the members of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Unlike most operas or musicals which seat the musicians in the orchestra pit, these productions featured the quintet on stage beside the rest of the cast. Also appearing on stage were Wright-Patterson's own Lt. Gen. Thomas Owen, Commander, Aeronautical Systems Center, and his wife Mary Beth. This fantastic Air Force presence truly added a unique touch to the entire event.



Wright Brass performs with the Dayton Opera Company. (Courtesy Photo)  
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*We are on Facebook!*

## Farewell to Departing Members

Master Sgt. Tyler Selden  
Clarinet/Saxophone

*Hometown:* Williamsville, N.Y.

*Education:* Associate of Applied Sciences  
Degree in Architectural Technology  
Alfred State College and Erie Community  
College, N.Y.  
Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music Performance  
Master of Arts Degree in Music Performance  
State University of New York at Buffalo, N.Y.

*Band of Flight Service:* 12 years

*New Assignment:*

USAF Heritage of America Band, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

### Permanent Change of Station



Staff Sgt. Kristin Younkin  
Clarinet

*Hometown:* Oak Ridge, Tenn.

*Education:* Bachelor of Music  
University of Tennessee, Tenn.  
Master of Music Performance  
Ohio State University, Ohio

*Band of Flight Service:* 11 years

*New Assignment:*

US Air Forces in Europe Band,  
Sembach Kaserne, Germany

## Retirements



*Hometown:* Miramar, Fla.

*Education:* Associate in Electronics Technology  
Metropolitan Community College, Neb.  
Associate in Applied Science - Music  
Community College of the Air Force

*Air Force Service:* 24 years

*Prior Assignments:*

Band of the USAF Reserve, Robins AFB, Ga.  
US Air Forces in Europe Band, Einsiedlerhof AS,  
Germany  
USAF Heartland of America Band, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Jay Messaros  
Audio Engineer

*Hometown:* Moline, Ill.

*Education:* Bachelor of Music Performance in Saxophone  
North Texas State University, Texas

*Air Force Service:* 23 years

*Prior Assignments:*

505th Air Force Band of the Midwest, Chanute AFB, Ill.  
Band of Liberty, Hanscom AFB, Mass.  
Band of the Pacific-Asia, Yokota AB, Japan

Technical Sgt. Michael Eakin  
Bassoon

*Hometown:* Anchorage, Alaska

*Education:* Bachelor of Music Degree  
North Carolina School of the Arts, N.C.  
Master of Music in Bassoon Performance  
Southern Methodist University, Texas

*Air Force Service:* 23 years

*Prior Assignments:*

USAF Band of the West, Lackland AFB, Texas  
USAF Band of Liberty, Hanscom AFB, Mass.



Technical Sgt. Grant Koeller  
Saxophone

## Welcome to Our Newest Members

Staff Sgt. Leo Smith  
Bass

*Hometown:* York, Penn.

*Air Force Service:* 15 years

*Prior Assignments:*

USAF Heritage of America Band, Langley AFB, Va.  
US Air Forces in Europe Band,  
Sembach AB, Germany  
USAF Band of the Golden West, Travis AFB, Calif.  
USAF Band of the Pacific, Joint Base Elmendorf-  
Richardson, Alaska



Airman 1st Class Jennifer Nelson  
Flute

*Hometown:* Wheaton, Ill.

*Education:* Bachelor of Music  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Ill.  
Master of Music  
DePaul University, Ill.





# *USAF Band of Flight*

## *Upcoming Appearances*



***Click to request the band!***

May 10	Concert Band - East Noble High School, Kendallville, Ind., 7:30 p.m.
May 11	Concert Band - Frauenthal Center for Performing Arts, Muskegon, Mich., 7:00 p.m.
May 12	Concert Band - Forest Hills Northern High School, Grand Rapids, Mich., 7:30 p.m.
May 19	Concert Band - Stambaugh Auditorium, Youngstown, Ohio, 7:30 p.m.
May 20	Concert Band w/Cleveland Pops - Severance Hall, Cleveland, Ohio, 8:00 p.m.
May 21	Night Flight - National Museum of the United States Air Force, 6:00 p.m.
June 3	Systems Go - June in Olde Williamsburgh Festival, Williamsburg, Ohio, 6:30 p.m.
June 9	Prism Brass - Hance Pavillion, Piqua, Ohio, 7:00 p.m.
June 10	Systems Go - Stagecoach Days Festival, New Lebanon, Ohio, 7:00 p.m.
June 11	Prism Brass - Greenwood Amphitheater, Greenwood, Ind., 7:00 p.m.
June 12	Prism Brass - Lake Shore Park, Celina, Ohio, 6:30 p.m.
June 24	Freedom's Call Tattoo - National Museum of the United States Air Force, 8:00 p.m.
June 30	Prism Brass - Overlander Bandshell, Portage, Mich., 7:30 p.m.
July 1	Systems Go - Blue Ash Towne Square, Blue Ash, Ohio, 8:00 p.m.
July 2	Systems Go - Humphrey's Park, Linton, Ind., 7:00 p.m.
July 3	Prism Brass - Hudson Bandstand, Hudson, Ohio, 7:00 p.m.
July 4	Systems Go - Butler County Courthouse, Hamilton, Ohio, 7:30 p.m.
July 4	Prism Brass w/Cincinnati Pops - Riverbend Music Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, 8:00 p.m.
July 6	Prism Brass - Frazee Pavilion, Kettering, Ohio, 7:00 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 by clicking here.