

WRIGHT NOTES



Maj. R. Michael Mench - Commander

News from the Band of Flight

October - December 2011

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Commander's Message

Thank you again for joining us for our fall edition of Wright Notes, the electronic newsletter of the USAF Band of Flight. I hope this finds everyone happy and healthy as we head into the holiday season. Our focus in the band this season is remembering our Veterans, spreading a little holiday cheer, all while spreading the good word of the USAF. We look ahead with great joy to be on the road throughout Indiana and Ohio, and then to celebrate the holidays here at our home station in Dayton, Ohio. Warmest wishes for a great holiday season from your United States Air Force Band of Flight!



Maj. R. Michael Mench

Veterans Day Tributes

As Veterans Day approaches, the Band of Flight takes time to honor and remember heroes who are our Veterans. This year, the Band of Flight presented two special concerts at the National Museum of the United States Air Force featuring award winning composer, and Vietnam veteran, James "Kimo" Williams. The concerts were met with enthusiastic reception from the audiences who were treated to a wide range of music from a world premiere from our staff arranger, Staff Sergeant Scott Wise, to the music of Jimi Hendrix.

Further commemorating Veterans Day, the Air Force Band of Flight is on the road again! This time, we'll honor our veterans with a concert on November 11th titled, "Freedom's Call" at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Indiana. And this is just one stop on a tour through Indiana and Western Ohio! Please consider joining your Band of Flight for these special events to honor our nation's heroes. Check out our website for our upcoming events for ticketing information!



The concert band performs with the Dayton Philharmonic in the National Museum of the USAF on Patriot Day. (U.S. Air Force photo/SSgt Dan Bentley) [Download High-Res](#)



Technical Sergeant Terra Mason captivates the audience with the Dayton Philharmonic and Band of Flight. (U.S. Air Force photo/SSgt Dan Bentley) [Download High-Res](#)

Click for Audition Information

Systems Go

Our rock band, Systems Go, is again very busy this fall and winter! A major component of the mission of Systems Go is recruiting and educational outreach. Working closely with local recruiters, the upbeat group just completed a tour of Kentucky, West Virginia, and Eastern Ohio. Always met with thunderous applause, Systems Go brought down the house, reaching over 3,000 young people with popular music while delivering the Air Force message.

Also remembering our hero Veterans, Systems Go will pay special tribute with concerts in Rockford, Ohio, and Monaca, Pennsylvania on November 11th and 12th. Additional information, including ticketing information can be obtained on our website.



Senior Airman Rogan Allen "shreds" a guitar solo as Systems Go performs at the 15th annual Air Force Marathon. (U.S. Air Force photo/TSgt Dan Bentley) [Download High-Res](#)

Holiday Preview

The holiday season is right around the corner, and the Band of Flight is always excited to celebrate with a diverse selection of everyone's favorite festive music! This year, the Band of Flight will present six concerts in the Greater Dayton Area; two at the National Museum of the United States Air Force and four at the Dayton Masonic Center.

Free tickets for the concerts at the Dayton Masonic Center can be obtained by filling out the voucher that will be in the November 18th Dayton Daily News.

Free tickets for the Holiday Concerts at the National Museum of the United States Air Force can be obtained from the Museum and distribution will begin on November 7th, starting at 9 am. Please call the National Museum of the United States Air Force at (937) 255-5924 for more information.



The Band of Flight performs holiday selections in the Dayton Masonic Center. (U.S. Air Force photo/TSgt Felita Rowe) [Download High Res](#)

We are on Facebook!

We're on Youtube!

Farewell to Departing Members

Senior Master Sgt. Todd Nicholls
Clarinet/Saxophone

Hometown: Great Falls, Montana

Education:
Bachelor of Music Performance
University of Montana, Mont.

Band of Flight Service: 8 years

Prior Assignments:
-USAF Band of Liberty, Hanscom AFB, Mass.
-724 Air Force Band, McChord AFB, Wash.



Retirements

Master Sgt. Jay Halpin
Trumpet

Hometown: Massillon, Ohio

Education:
Bowling Green State University, Ohio

Band of Flight Service: 19 years

Prior Assignments:
-United States Air Forces in Europe Band,
Sembach AB, Germany
-661st Air Force Band, WPAFB, Ohio

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Technical Sgt. Michael Richter
Trumpet

Hometown: Lake Ronkonkoma, New York

Education:
Bachelor of Music-Music Performance
Duquesne University, Pa.

Prior Assignments:
-United States Air Forces in Europe Band,
Sembach Kaserne, Germany
-Band of the Air Force Reserve, Robins AFB,
Ga.



Technical Sgt. Josh Fedele
Saxophone

Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky

Education:
Bachelor of Music-Music Education and
Performance
University of Kentucky, Ky.

Prior Assignments:
-Air Force Band of the Pacific, Joint Base,
Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii
-USAF Band of Mid-America, Scott AFB, Ill.
-1st Marine Division Band, Camp Pendleton,
Calif.

Senior Airman Carlos Serrano
Saxophone

Hometown: Humacao, Puerto Rico

Education:
Bachelor of Music-Music Performance
Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico, Puerto
Rico

Prior Assignments:
-Navy Band Northeast, Naval Station New-
port, Providence, R.I.
-U. S. Naval Forces Europe Band, Naples,
Italy.



Airman 1st Class Luis Rosa
Saxophone

Hometown: San Juan, Puerto Rico

Education:
Bachelor of Arts-Professional Music
Berklee College of Music, Mass.

Master's of Arts-Jazz Performance
New England Conservatory of Music, Mass.

Check out our website!

USAF Band of Flight

Upcoming Appearances



Click to request the band!

- November 4 Concert Band - National Museum of the USAF, Dayton, OH, 7:30 p.m.
- November 5 Concert Band - National Museum of the USAF, Dayton, OH, 7:30 p.m.
- November 8 Concert Band - Terre Haute South Vigo High School, Terre Haute, IN, 7:00 p.m.
- November 9 Concert Band - Long Center For the Performing Arts, Lafayette, IN, 7:00 p.m.
- November 10 Concert Band - Honeywell Center, Wabash, IN, 7:00 p.m.
- November 11 Concert Band - Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, IN, 7:00 p.m.
- November 11 Systems Go - Parkway High School, Rockford, OH, 1:00 p.m.
- November 12 Concert Band - Lerner Theatre, Elkhart, IN, 7:00 p.m.
- November 12 Systems Go - Community College of Beaver County, Monaca, PA, 7:00 p.m.
- November 13 Concert Band - Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, OH, 3:00 p.m.
- November 14 Concert Band - Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN, 7:30 p.m.
- December 3 Concert Band - National Museum of the USAF, Dayton, OH, 7:30 p.m.
- December 4 Concert Band - National Museum of the USAF, Dayton, OH, 7:30 p.m.
- December 9 Concert Band - Dayton Masonic Center, Dayton, OH, 7:30 p.m.
- December 10 Concert Band - Dayton Masonic Center, Dayton, OH, 3:00 p.m.
- December 10 Concert Band - Dayton Masonic Center, Dayton, OH, 7:30 p.m.
- December 11 Concert Band - Dayton Masonic Center, Dayton, OH, 3:00 p.m.

For more information about upcoming appearances, check out our events page!

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.