

# WRIGHT NOTES



Maj. R. Michael Mench - Commander

## News from the Band of Flight

April-June 2012

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### Commander's Message

Welcome to another issue of Wright Notes. What a roller coaster start to 2012! We've had some amazing highs and thrilling zero-G moments these first few months. Our Night Flight Jazz Ensemble performed for the 70th anniversary reunion of the Doolittle Raiders. 70th!!! The Concert Band's performance on our Guest Artist concert was nothing short of thrilling, and you can see why if you check out our YouTube links in this newsletter. But those were just two of the many performances we did and will continue to do... for as long as we can.

Which brings me to the hard left turn that roller coaster took in early March. It was announced in early March that the Band of Flight would be downsizing from 45 members to 15 members by the end of summer 2013. This will be disappointing to many of you who enjoyed the excellence and professionalism our large ensemble musical products brought to your local community. Of course this downsizing is driven as a cost savings initiative, but will actually strengthen our Air Force Bands program. With the combined restructure of two bands to 15 and the elimination of 3 others we were able to strengthen the remaining 5 stateside regional bands back up to 60 members. This will give these bands better flexibility, better musical products and a better approach to covering our Nation with the musical excellence that represents everyone who is now serving or has served in the United States Air Force.

We hope to have all of our Band of Flight groups continuing to operate through May of 2013 at which time we'll start moving our musicians to other bands and draw down to our 15-piece model. The Band of Flight's long tradition lives with the people we've touched and we will continue to spark patriotism in the hearts and minds of everyone who hears us in the future.



### Guest Artist, Musica!

The Band of Flight recently partnered with an excellent local choral group. Musica! is a professional choral ensemble that has brought vocal excellence to Dayton and the Miami Valley since its inception in 1990. Their goal is to offer audiences musical diversity through an exciting variety of musical styles - from Baroque to Broadway, from Classics to Spirituals, and from Madrigals to Vocal Jazz.

The first half of the concert featured the Concert Band performing hefty band transcriptions of two orchestral works: Hector Berlioz's "Roman Carnival Overture" and Dmitri Shostakovich's "Finale" from Symphony No. 5. Musica! performed six stunning pieces on their own, and then combined with the Concert Band for a medley of popular George M. Cohan songs to close out the first half.

The second half highlighted soloists from Musica! with selections by Aaron Copland and Gilbert & Sullivan with the Concert Band. Not a single person remained in their seats as the two groups combined for the definitive patriotic closer, Battle Hymn of the Republic. This concert was indeed a treat and showcased the artistic talent in the Miami Valley!



The Band of Flight joined forces with Musica! for its recent guest artist feature. (U.S. Air Force photo/SSgt Leo Smith Download High-Res)



Musica! a Dayton based Choral Ensemble was the featured guest artist with the Air Force Band of Flight. (Photo by Christy Fetterman of TreasrdPhotos) Download High-Res

## *Click for Audition Information*

### Night Flight Jazz Ensemble

Our fast burning group, the Night Flight Jazz Ensemble, just returned from a wonderful trip through Northeast Ohio and Pennsylvania, and they'll be on the road again! Some notable gigs on their recent successful tour were performances at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Pittsburgh, and the Cleveland Masonic Center.

Led by Technical Sgt. David Diamond, Night Flight will travel through Northwest Ohio and Michigan in May. The concert tour theme is "Big Bands Then and Now." They feature classic works from jazz legends Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, and Frank Sinatra alongside more modern big band composers like Bill Holman, who got his start writing for Stan Kenton. This tour is particularly special, as the band will perform on beautiful Mackinac Island.

Additionally, we can't forget one of our most popular performances of the year, the Glenn Miller tribute. On May 19, Night Flight will celebrate the fantastic works of Major Glenn Miller at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Tickets are not required, and the show begins at 6:00 p.m. Don't forget your lawn chairs and blankets!



Alfred Savia, conductor of the Evansville Philharmonic is featured on a clarinet solo in a Glenn Miller tune with the Night Flight Jazz Ensemble. (U.S. Air Force photo/TSgt Felita Rowe) Download High Res

### Tattoo Preview

The Band of Flight will once again take the stage in the fields outside the National Museum of the United States Air Force on Friday evening, June 29 for the eighth annual AFMC Freedom's Call Tattoo. The theme for this year's show is "Service, Honor and Sacrifice" and will pay special tribute to the men and women who served their country during the Vietnam War.

The band will present an hour-long musical narration of the show's theme in a performance entitled "A Vietnam War Commemoration." It is always a genuine treat to see such a large gathering of patriotic Americans. As always, the show will include flyovers by various Air Force aircraft and the evening will be topped off by a giant fireworks display.

Additionally, special guest performer, singer-songwriter and double-platinum recording artist Eddie Money will take the stage after the Band of Flight.



The WPAFB Honor Guard proudly displays our colors as part of the 2011 Freedom's Call Tattoo festivities. (U.S. Air Force photo/Niki Jahns) Download High Res

*We are on Facebook!*

*We're on Youtube!*

## Huffman Prairie Winds Quintet Tour

One of the unique capabilities of the small groups from the Air Force Band of Flight is the chance to get into the community and reach out to young people with the Air Force message. In May, the Huffman Prairie Winds Quintet has this distinct opportunity. They will perform a wide variety of music, ranging from the traditional classical repertoire to show tunes and ragtime. Their versatility enables them to please audiences in many different settings, including social functions for military and civilian dignitaries, high school and college performance clinics, and formal evening recitals.

The Huffman Prairie Winds Quintet will travel through Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland on a 5-day tour. The Band of Flight's educational outreach tours provide an excellent opportunity for our Airman musicians to work with young people!



Airmen First Class Jennifer Nelson prepares a difficult musical passage with the Huffman Prairie Winds. (U.S. Air Force photo/SSgt John Hardisky)  
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## *Farewell to Departing Members*

Senior Master Sergeant  
Jonathan Levy  
Bass

*Hometown:* Columbus, Ohio

*Education:*  
Bachelor of Music - Jazz Studies  
Capital University, Ohio

*Band of Flight Service:* 6 years

*Prior Assignments:*

-United States Air Forces in Europe Band,  
Sembach AB, Germany

### *Retirements*



Technical Sergeant  
Larwence Wiley  
Trumpet

*Hometown:* Catlettsburg, Kentucky

*Education:*  
Bachelor of Music  
Morehead State University, Kentucky  
Master of Music  
Morehead State University, Kentucky

*Band of Flight Service:* 18 years

*Prior Assignments:*

-Band of the Pacific-Asia, Yokota AB, Japan

### *Permanent Change of Station*

Technical Sergeant  
Jeremy Nee  
Saxophone

*Hometown:* Middletown, Maryland

*Education:*  
Bachelor of Music-Music Education  
Towson University, Maryland

*Band of Flight Service:* 4 years

*Future Assignment:*

-United States Air Forces in Europe Band,  
Sembach AB, Germany



*Check out our website!*

# *USAF Band of Flight*

## *Upcoming Appearances*



*Click to request the band!*

May 19	Night Flight Jazz Ensemble- Glen Miller Tribute, NMUSAF, Dayton, OH, 6:00 p.m.
May 20	Concert Band - "Celebration of Freedom", Hobart Arena, Troy, OH, 3:00 p.m.
May 21	Night Flight Jazz Ensemble - Sandusky State Theater, Sandusky, OH, 7:00 p.m.
May 22	Night Flight Jazz Ensemble - Mona Shores High School, Norton Shores, MI, 7:30 p.m.
May 23	Night Flight Jazz Ensemble - Rotary Performing Arts Pavillion, Cadillac, MI, 7:00 p.m.
May 24	Huffman Prairie Winds Quintet - Succop Theater, Butler, PA, 7:00 p.m.
May 24	Night Flight Jazz Ensemble - Ludington HS Auditorium, Ludington, MI, 7:30 p.m.
May 25	Night Flight Jazz Ensemble - Rogers City Lakeside Park, Rogers City, MI, 7:00 p.m.
May 26	Huffman Prairie Winds Quintet - First Congregational Church, Lodi, OH, 3:00 p.m.
May 26	Night Flight Jazz Ensemble - Mission Point Theatre, Mackinac Island, MI, 8:00 p.m.
June 2	Night Flight Jazz Ensemble - Appelman Park, Augusta, KY, 5:00 p.m.
June 29	Concert Band - Freedom's Call Tattoo - NMUSAF, Dayton, OH, 7:30 p.m.
July 4	Concert Band - "Kettering Go 4th!" Celebration, Delco Park, Kettering, OH, 6:00 p.m.
July 5	Concert Band - 175th St. Henry Celebration, St. Henry, OH, 7:00 p.m.
July 6	Concert Band - Veteran's Park Ampitheater, Springfield, OH, 8:00 p.m.
July 7	Concert Band - Community Park Pavilion, Milford, OH, 7:00 p.m.
July 8	Concert Band - Columbus Commons Park, Columbus, OH, 2:00 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.