

Cadenza

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND ★ WASHINGTON, D.C.



U.S. AIR FORCE

Pipers and Singers, Ivories and Brass Air Force Band Announces 2007 Guest Artist Series

January 2007

The United States Air Force Band is proud to announce the 2007 Guest Artist Series, featuring an exciting lineup of top entertainers performing with The Air Force Band every Sunday from Feb. 11 through March 4.

The series opens Feb. 11 with a double feature: '50s pop star **Joni James** and the Texas-based Scottish band **The Rogues**. Joni James followed her million-selling debut, "Why Don't You Believe Me?", with a string of Top 40 hits in the 1950s. She has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and was also popular in Asia and the Philippines. Ms. James is the widow of Air Force General Bernard Schriever, who passed away in 2005.



The Guest Artist Series opens with The Rogues Sunday, Feb. 11. Singer Joni James will also be featured.

The Grammy Award-winning Rogues formed in Houston, Texas, in 1994, and have performed throughout North America and in Scotland, recording several CDs along the way. Grounded in traditional Scottish bagpipes and Celtic percussion, they also incorporate American Top 40 and funk sounds into a blend as distinctive as a plate of haggis!

On February 18, concert pianist **Abbey Simon** and Air Force Band Conductor Emeritus **Col. (Ret.) Arnard D. Gabriel** will join the Band at DAR Constitution Hall. The New York Times has called Abbey



Pianist Abbey Simon performs Feb. 18.

Simon "one of the most important, exciting and musically satisfying pianists of his generation." **Col. Gabriel**, who led The Air Force Band from 1964 to 1985 and founded the Guest Artist Series, will conduct the Concert Band for the first half of the concert.

The **Empire Brass**—heralded by The New Yorker as an ensemble of "astounding virtuosity, amazing agility [and] wonderful purity of tone"—will appear with the Band Feb. 25. Renowned for a diverse repertoire that ranges from Bach and Handel to jazz and Broadway, the quintet performs more than 100 concerts annually, drawing "standing room only" crowds around the world.



The Empire Brass are featured Feb. 25.

The series closes March 4 with **New York Voices**—the Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble known for its excellence in jazz and the art of group singing. The Boston Herald has said, "New York Voices lives up to its reputation as the most exciting vocal ensemble in current jazz." In addition to jazz, the ensemble incorporates Brazilian, rhythm-and-blues, classical and popular music into their extensive repertoire.

The first half of the March 4 concert will also feature the winner of the Colonel Arnard D. Gabriel Young Artist Competition, held every January at Bolling Air Force Base.

Guest Artist Series Concerts take place at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall, 18th and D Streets, NW, Washington, D.C.

Performances begin at 3 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Doors open at 2 p.m. For details about these and other U.S. Air Force Band performances, please call our 24-hour concert line at (202) 767-5658 or visit us at www.USAFBand.com.



The Guest Artist Series closes with The New York Voices Sunday, Mar. 4.

★ AMERICA'S INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL AMBASSADORS ★
COLONEL DENNIS M. LAYENDECKER, COMMANDER AND MUSIC DIRECTOR

For MSgt Alan Baylock, “Military Musician” Was an Easy Career Choice

By Master Sgt. Robert Thurston

How does a person grow up to be a music arranger?

Like many musicians, Master Sgt. Alan Baylock, principal arranger for The United States Air Force Airmen of Note, was immersed in music from early childhood. The youngest of six kids, he grew up listening to his brother and four sisters playing the piano. Two sisters also played flute, his brother played trumpet, and Dad played guitar and harmonica.

So perhaps it wasn't surprising that the baby of the family would get into the act. But unlike the others, Alan decided to make a career of it.

“Music became the focus of my life very early on,” he says. “As long as I can remember, all I ever wanted to be was a musician.” His brother introduced him to jazz with some old Miles Davis albums, and the die was cast. Alan took up trumpet and piano, but soon gravitated toward writing.

The Airmen of Note's newest compact disc recording, “Out In Front”—to be released in January—features 13 arrangements by Sgt. Baylock, each one spotlighting different members of the ensemble.

What makes it more appealing to work with music that someone else has written, instead of writing his own music? In Sgt. Baylock's view, an arrangement can be as much the arranger's “own music” as the tune on which it's based: “I really view arranging as ‘re-composition.’” He likens both crafts to molding clay, but with arranging, “the basic lump of clay is there from the start,” he says. “This way I'm able to mold it the way I want to, and I don't have to worry about making the clay also.”

Which isn't to say he doesn't like to start from scratch now and then: “Sometimes I make my own lumps of clay, and that's fun too!”


The idea of being a military musician took shape while he was earning a bachelor's degree in music education at Shenandoah Conservatory. The faculty included Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Joe Eckert, a saxophonist in the Airmen of Note at the time. Through Chief Eckert, Sgt. Baylock got a glimpse into the life of a military musician. He was also a regular in the audience at the Note's performances. After getting a master's degree in jazz studies from the University of North Texas, Sgt. Baylock joined The Air Force Band in 1996.

“The best thing about being a musician in the Air Force is that I get paid to do the things I love to do the most,” says Sgt. Baylock. “Where else can you get a salary for writing music and serving your country?”

If he hadn't joined the Air Force, what would he be doing? “Exactly what I'm doing now,” he says, “except I wouldn't be getting paid as much for it, and it would be a lot harder to raise a family.”

And is that family as musically inclined as the household in which he grew up? Naturally!

“My wife is also a musician, so our three kids are reaping the benefits of living in a musical household,” he says. “Music is truly a part of my life 24 hours a day, and I'd have it no other way! I can't imagine doing anything else.”

In time, we'll see whether family history repeats itself. 




MSgt Baylock conducts the Airmen of Note during the recent Jazz Heritage Series.

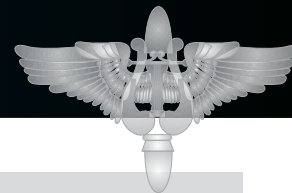


CMSgt Edward J. Teleky led the Ceremonial Brass during the Oct. 14 dedication of the Air Force Memorial near Arlington Cemetery. Several other performing groups from The USAF Band were involved including the Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, Max Impact and the Airmen of Note.



Faithful subscribers to Cadenza no doubt wondered why the October-December issue never showed up in their mailboxes. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we were unable to get the issue in the mail. However, you can still read that issue at our Web site. To find it, go to the main menu, click “Cadenza Newsletter,” then “Read Archived Issues.” You'll find older issues there as well.

For other news articles regarding the USAF Band, be sure to visit the “Press Room” section of www.USAFBand.com. 



Clinician's Corner

Preparing for Honor Band Auditions

By Tech. Sgt. Rochelle Oedemann
Clarinetist, Concert Band

It's that time of year again: marching season is over and students are quickly realizing they need to get back in shape for district honor band auditions. It seems to sneak up on you every year, but don't panic!

Here are some ways to prepare efficiently for the best possible results:


Sing the rhythms. When approaching a new piece, turn on your metronome to the goal tempo and sing through the music first. Do not skip this important step! Since each individual instrument adds its own challenges concerning tone production, tonguing and technique, you must first understand how the music goes before you attempt to play it on your instrument.

Practice the music slowly! This cannot be stressed enough. You cannot play the music AT tempo until you can



play it UNDER tempo. Once you have sung the music enough to know how the rhythms go, turn your metronome off and play through the music very slowly, trying not to miss any notes. If you are missing too many notes, you are playing too fast. When you "practice" too many wrong notes over and over, you are actually learning it wrong, and the wrong notes are very hard to go back and unlearn. This goes for scales, too. It is better to play them accurately and with a good sound, even if it means taking them a little slower than you might like. Remember to also practice the correct dynamics and articulations at the slow tempo. This will help you gain an understanding of how to make the piece more musical, since it is not just the notes and rhythms that need attention.

Once you feel you have mastered the rhythms, notes, dynamics, and articulations, practice performing the piece in front of people. This essential last step will help you learn how to manage your nerves, since nervousness is a natural part of performing. Practicing this way will also help to show any weaknesses you may have while performing under pressure, giving you an idea of areas you may need to address.

Lastly, be yourself! You could be exactly what the judges are looking for, so walk in the room and play with confidence, knowing you prepared wisely and to the best of your ability. Good luck! 

Solo Chair

A Few Minutes With... MASTER SGT. JENNIFER DASHNAW

Vocalist, Silver Wings

Hometown: Peekskill, NY

Joined the Air Force: 1995

Q: You were a clarinetist in the Concert Band before your recent move to Silver Wings as a vocalist. What has that change been like?

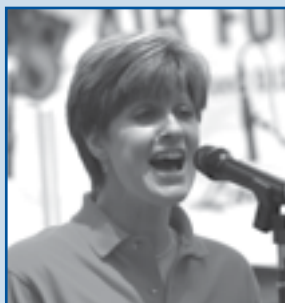
A: *It's been very exciting and a real learning experience. Memorizing all the music has been a challenge, but getting to perform different kinds of music has been a real treat.*

Q: Tell us about your musical background and education.

A: *My mother was a pianist and attended the Juilliard School of Music, so there was always music in the house. I began playing clarinet when I was 9. I was formally trained on clarinet, but I've always loved to sing.*

Q: What did you do before joining the military?

A: *I worked in a record store selling CDs—that way I could keep up on all the latest recordings.*



TSgt. Jennifer Dashnaw sings during a Silver Wings performance at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being a member of the U.S. Air Force Band?

A: *I enjoy bringing music to the troops and to the public. I think it's crucial that we portray a professional and positive image to everyone, and I enjoy being a part of that wonderful experience.*

Q: What is the best thing you've gotten out of being in the military in general?

A: *The steady pay and medical benefits are priceless.*

Q: What is the highlight of your Air Force career so far?

A: *Being clarinet soloist at the Leipzig Gewandhaus, as well as at the Brussels Conservatory and the Piazza in Trieste, Italy.*

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: *I enjoy motorcycle riding, swimming, and my cats!*

Q: What's on your iPod?

A: *Literally everything! Opera, early music, classical, rock, country, jazz, new age—you name it, it's there!*

For biographical information about members of The U.S. Air Force Band, please visit "Band Members" section at www.USAFBand.com. 