

Cadenza

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



U.S. AIR FORCE

January/February 2006

Guest Artist Series to Celebrate 40 Years!

The United States Air Force Band is proud to announce the 40th annual Guest Artist Series, featuring an amazing lineup with something for just about every age and musical taste.

The series opens Feb. 5 with Irish tenor Ronan Tynan, whose remarkable and inspirational career spans the fields of athletics, medicine and music. A member of the famed trio The Irish Tenors, Tynan began formal music study at age 33, having already earned a degree in medicine – and all that after an athletic career in which he earned gold medals and shattered world records in the Paralympics.



On Feb. 12, the venerable concert pianist Abbey Simon will perform Chopin's *Concerto No. 2 in F minor* with the Air Force Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Col. Dennis Layendecker. On that same date, Col. (ret.) Arnald Gabriel, Conductor Emeritus of The U.S. Air Force Band, will take the podium to lead a program of classic band literature.




The Feb. 19 concert will feature the angelic voices of the San Juan Children's Chorus. The SJCC has distinguished itself in Puerto Rico through its performances in the Casals Festi-

vals and in various operas and concerts for Pro Arte Musical. They have traveled throughout Puerto Rico, presenting "Christmas Caroling" and "Springtime Serenades" concerts, as well as performances throughout the year at homes for the elderly and hospitals.



The Feb. 26 concert features jazz group Spyro Gyra. Founded in 1974 by alto saxophonist Jay Beckenstein, the group established its signature combination of jazz, R&B, pop and Caribbean influences with such early hits as *Morning Dance*, *Shaker Song* and *Carnaval*.

The Guest Artist Series concludes March 5 with country balladeer Mark Wills, whose hits include *Wish You Were Here*, *Permanently* and *19 Somethin'*.

All Guest Artist Series concerts take place at 3 p.m. at the historic 3,700-seat Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall, 311 18th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Performances are free and open to the public. For detailed information about performances, please call the Band's 24-hour concert line at (202) 767-5658, or visit our Web site, www.USAFBand.com. 



Band Members March in Japanese Festival

Six members of The U.S. Air Force Band traveled to Tokyo in November to take part in Japan's biggest military community-relations event. The Japan Self Defense Force International Marching Festival featured Japan's three premier military bands, three American military bands, a Japanese precision rifle drill team and a thunderous troupe of Japanese taiko drummers in six spectacular performances over two days at the Nippon Budokan arena.

The annual festival commemorates the establishment of the Japan Self-Defense Force and fosters U.S.-Japanese military relations. The premier band members joined about 35 other Air Force musicians from eight regional bands to augment the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Asia, which takes part in the festival every three years. According to band commander Capt. Daniel Price, "It's a vital part of Pacific Air Forces outreach."



TSgts Josh Lies, Nate Clark and David Sisk, MSgt Bob Thurston, TSgts Mike Ramos and Randy Gorman

With its ranks filled to 61 members, the Band of the Pacific-
(Budokan on page 6)

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

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to 2006 everyone! I hope that you had a safe and happy holiday season, filled with friends, family and some much needed relaxation!

Before we bid adieu to 2005 I want to revisit a few of the milestones reached by this organization in the last twelve months. The men and women of our unit have poured their hearts and souls into the excellence that is their trademark. Their top-notch dedication was witnessed by more than 469,000 audience members ... and we cannot even begin to enumerate the broadcast and television numbers! We performed 1,409 events, with mission success at every one – a mind-boggling feat when you think about it.

We participated in the 55th Presidential Inauguration, where for the first time in history an Airman sang the National Anthem on the Capitol steps for the presidential swearing-in ceremony. We participated in the retirements of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF). We flawlessly executed a major CSAF-directed Tattoo for the NATO Air Chiefs.

Our Airmen of Note were active this year with jazz festivals and major tours. They knocked the socks off the crowds at the greater Hartford Jazz Festival in Connecticut. On the 4th of July, the Ceremonial Brass made its eighth appearance on NBC's "Today" show.

The unit as a whole produced three recordings, heavily focused on troop support and morale. The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants completed two major tours, while our small ensembles reached new heights of professionalism and creativity. And to top it all off, we successfully navigated a 225-percent increase in Wing-wide exercises, with excellent on-time results and mission success!

We observed one sad milestone on Oct. 31: the death of Skitch Henderson, who was a great friend not only of The Air Force Band, but of the entire Air Force. A pilot in the Army Air Forces during WWII, Skitch was always willing to lend his musical talents and his fame to the Band through his many guest appearances over the years for radio broadcasts and live performances – ten appearances between 1947 and 1980. He was a man who never forgot his musical friends – there was always a warm spot in his heart for The Air Force Band and Singing Sergeants.

We have much to look forward to in 2006. We are again blessed to come to work each day and have the opportunity to make the music we love at the service of our Air Force and our great nation. Our best wishes to you and yours for the coming year. I can speak on behalf of all of our folks that we're very grateful to our Air Force for the opportunities we so enjoy.

Good luck throughout this year!

Very Respectfully,



Cadenza

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Bandsmen Return to Yale for Veterans Day Concert

By Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Kirkland and Tech. Sgt. Brian Stiles

The world-class musical reputations of the U.S. military and one of the country's oldest colleges came together on Veteran's Day at Yale University.

Tech. Sgt. Brian Stiles, a trumpeter with the Air Force Band Ceremonial Brass, joined four premier-band colleagues and fellow Yale alumni for a joint service brass quintet to help celebrate Veteran's Day at the Yale School of Music in New Haven, Conn., on Nov. 11.

Joining Tech. Sgt. Stiles to fill out the quintet were Musician First Class Erika Schafer of The United States Navy Band, Washington, D.C.; and Staff Sgts. Sam Woodhead, Mike Eberly and Rick Lee of The United States Army Band, "Pershing's Own," based at Ft. Myer, Va. During their time as graduate students at Yale, all five played together in the university symphony orchestra.


Tech. Sgt. Stiles, originally from Eagle River, Alaska, graduated from Yale in 2000 with a master's degree in music. He auditioned for The Air Force Band in 2003 while working on a doctoral degree at Indiana University.

For the Veterans Day festivities, the brass quintet conducted a master class in which the musicians highlighted their experiences as members of premier bands. They talked about the benefits of serving as military musicians and explained how students can become members of service bands.



Front row, left to right: MUI Erika Schafer (trumpet), TSgt Brian Stiles (trumpet); back row, left to right: SSG Sam Woodhead (trombone), SSG Mike Eberly (tuba), SSG Rick Lee (French horn)

At the opening ceremonies for the day-long celebration, the quintet performed the National Anthem and a medley of armed forces songs. That evening, they ended the festivities with a brass quintet concert.

"It was a privilege and an honor for us to represent the military at such a prestigious academic and world-renowned music school," Sgt. Stiles said. 

Clinician's Corner

Preparing for Solo and Ensemble Festival

By Master Sgt. Jill C. Westeyn

Principal English Horn, The U.S. Air Force Band

Are you going to solo-and-ensemble festival this year? It's a great experience that builds musical confidence and independence. Whether you're playing a solo or in a chamber group, these tips will help you get the most out of your performance.

Start by choosing a piece that challenges you, yet is not out of your musical and technical reach. Your teacher or accompanist can be very helpful in selecting a work.


Once you've chosen your piece, begin practicing it correctly, accurately, and musically. Use a metronome and a tuner. Practice slowly with correct notes, rhythm, articulation and dynamics, and with a good sound and intonation. Also, if you played a piece last year, take a look at that judge's sheet. If, for example, intonation was a weakness then, is it still a weakness now? Addressing these issues early on gives you more time later to "make music."

When you are confident with your individual part, make a schedule of regular rehearsals with your accompanist or other members of your ensemble. Do this at least a month before your performance date. Don't wait until the week before festival! Use that week to play for a "practice" audience – a good way to overcome performance jitters.

On performance day, ensure that you have all of your music (including copies for the judge and accompanist), instruments, reeds, bows, sticks, mouthpieces, etc., and a bottle of water. Dress comfortably, yet respectfully. Do not over-practice the day before or the day of the festival. Also, don't warm up too much, as you don't want to play all of your good notes in the warm-up room!



As you enter the performance room, acknowledge the judge. Take a moment to tune, and relax before you begin. If you make a mistake during your performance, keep going. The judge may have missed it, but if you stop, it's guaranteed to be heard! Be attentive if the judge has any comments when you're done, and be sure to thank the judge as you leave.

By choosing the right music, preparing it carefully and tending to the details, you can make this year's solo-and-ensemble performance a valued and memorable experience. Good luck! 

Military musical organizations play a vital role in the field of music education. Each year, bands from all branches of the service perform for music students and teachers, as well as fellow professional musicians, at music education conventions throughout the country. It's a chance to show off American military excellence in a way you don't often see on the evening news.

In December the **Airmen of Note** performed at the biggest music education gathering of all, the Midwest Clinic in Chicago. A delighted crowd of music students and teachers from around the world was treated to a fiery program of the Note's contemporary literature, as well as a special guest appearance by legendary big band leader and saxophonist Bob Mintzer.

The Air Force Band will also be represented at two state music conventions in January. **The Singing Sergeants** will be featured at this year's West Virginia American Choral Directors Association convention in Charleston, West Va., and the **Air Force Woodwind Quintet** will perform a recital and clinic at the Florida Music Educators Association annual conference in Tampa, Fla. Band members always look forward to performing for our fellow musicians and showing off the great careers the United States military offers.

In November the **Concert Band** played at the Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery for Vice President Richard Cheney and hundreds of the nation's veterans. In December the **Concert Band and Singing Sergeants** celebrated the holiday season with their annual holiday concerts at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Also, several chamber groups performed for holiday balls and parties.

The 2006 **Chamber Players Series** begins Jan. 20. In February, the Series will feature members of the **Singing Sergeants** in an all-Mozart

program, honoring the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth. Also, a full slate of chamber concerts is scheduled through January and February at the Washington Masonic Temple in Alexandria, Va., featuring the **Clarinet Quartet**, the **Saxophone Quartet**, the **Brass Quintet** and

the **Woodwind Quintet**. Check the Calendar page in this issue for details, and visit our website www.USAFBand.com frequently for updates.

The Ceremonial Brass was well represented in Veterans Day ceremonies. Three buglers performed at separate remembrance ceremonies in Washington, D.C. **Master Sgt. Bill Adcock** gave a stirring performance of *Taps* at the Vietnam Memorial in front of several thousand people and a national television audience. Members of the official party included Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Peter Pace and Army Gen. (ret.) Barry McCaffrey. Also, **Master Sgt. Bob Connolly** played at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, and **Tech. Sgt. Pat McDermott** played at the Japanese American Veterans Association Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Silver Wings played back-to-back holiday shows and dances in December for the Surgeon General of the Air Force and for the Band's umbrella organization, the 11th Wing. Everyone stepped out on the dance floor and had a good old time! Silver Wings also performed recently for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and about 100 VA employees who work to ensure that our veterans are taken care of around the world. That same day they played alongside Mr. Bob Kingsley, announcer for the nationally broadcast radio show "America's Country Countdown." Later that day, in an interview on country station WMZQ, Mr. Kingsley told listeners that the Air Force had been hiding a very talented group – Silver Wings! He said he'd like them to perform on his show. As it turns out Mr. Kingsley will be joining The Band during the upcoming Guest Artist Series.



The Singing Sergeants will present an "All Mozart" Chamber Players Series concert at 8 p.m., Feb. 9 in Ft. Washington, Md.






Max Impact kept busy during the holiday season. They performed many protocol functions, including the 11th Wing Holiday party and the National Capital Region's Chiefs Ball. The Air Force's highest ranking enlisted member, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray, was a part of the event. They also represented The Air Force Band by recording a commercial for Armed Forces Radio and Television Service Network. A live performance and interview was filmed at Historic Hangar II to be aired on Armed Forces Television stations worldwide.

The Air Force Strings are always at their busiest in December. **The Strolling Strings** played for numerous holiday banquets and parties. Notably, they played several times at the Vice Presidential Mansion and at a dinner hosted by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. The event was held at the National Museum of American History.

The U.S. Air Force Chamber Orchestra will perform January 15 at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, Va. The program will include the music of Mendelssohn, Prokofiev and Sibelius, as well as Mozart's *Symphonie Concertante* for violin and viola, featuring **Chief Master**

Sgt. Jane Bockenek and **Senior Master Sgt. Paul Swantek**.

The Airmen of Note hit the road in November and December. They started with a tour through the Northeast, playing concerts for the public and holding clinics for high school students. The Note then headed south for a holiday concert in downtown Montgomery, Ala., performing selections from their newest CD, *A Holiday Note From Home*, and a number of favorites from the Major Glenn Miller library.

The Air Force Band bids a fond farewell to **Master Sgt. Sharon Haines**, who is retiring after 20 years of devoted service. Many may remember Sgt. Haines as a vocalist who entertained millions with the Air Force Band of the Rockies (now the Air Force Academy Band) in Colorado. Her talents didn't stop there, though. She began her Air Force career in 1985 as a computer information systems operator. She is retiring as a valued member of The U.S. Air Force Band, having worked in the public affairs office and as head of personnel for the Commander's Support Staff. 

Solo Chair

A Few Minutes With... Tech. Sgt. Tadd Russo

Staff Arranger-Composer, The U.S. Air Force Band

Hometown: Medina, OH

Joined the Air Force: Sept. 23, 2003

Education: Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor and Master of Music in composition, Ohio State University

Q: What got you interested in arranging music?

A: *Mr. Garnet Hicks, one of my high school marching band directors, arranged a new show for us each year. I was really impressed by what he did and convinced him to work with me during my senior year of high school. He encouraged me to start composing and I never looked back.*

Q: What instruments do you play?

A: *I sing and play guitar and bass. A long time ago, I played the trombone.*

Q: What did you do before joining the military?

A: *I taught guitar at a local music shop in Baltimore and took freelance work as a composer/arranger.*

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

A: *I enjoy being able to contribute to a group with such highly talented performers who sing and play in some of the country's most inspiring venues. I am also privileged to work with a staff of top-notch arrangers.*

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

A: *A sense of pride in serving my country while working in my chosen field.*

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

A: *Being involved with the dedication of the World War II memorial.*


Q: What do you plan to do after you leave the Air Force?

A: *At some point I would like to pursue a doctorate in composition.*

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: *When I get a little time, I like to read, cook, or play with our insane dog, Satia.*

Q: What's in your CD collection?

A: *There's something from just about every genre of music ever recorded, but I really enjoy listening to rock and avant-garde classical music (is that a weird pairing?). *

JANUARY

- 15 Chamber Orchestra Concert**, 3 p.m., Bishop Ireton HS, Whaley Auditorium, Alexandria, Va.
- 20 Chamber Players Series**, 8 p.m., Music for Brass Choir, George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Va.
- 26 Chamber Players Series**, 8 p.m., Music for Brass Quintet, Harmony Hall, Ft. Washington, Md.
- 27 Chamber Players Series**, 8 p.m., Music for Clarinet Quartet, George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Va.

FEBRUARY

- 2 Chamber Players Series**, 8 p.m., Music for Tuba and French Horn, George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Va.
- 3 Chamber Players Series**, 8 p.m., featuring The U.S. Air Force Saxophone Quartet. 8 p.m. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Va.
- 5 Guest Artist Series**, featuring Irish tenor Ronan Tynan. 3 p.m., DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D Street, Washington, D.C.
- 9 Chamber Players Series**, 8 p.m., The Singing Sergeants - All-Mozart vocal program, Harmony Hall, Ft. Washington, Md.
- 12 Guest Artist Series**, featuring pianist Abbey Simon and Col. (ret.) Arnald Gabriel, Conductor Emeritus, The U.S. Air Force Band. 3 p.m., DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D Street, Washington, D.C.
- 19 Guest Artist Series**, featuring The San Juan Children's Chorus. at 3 p.m., DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D Street, Washington, D.C.
- 26 Guest Artist Series**, featuring Spyro Gyra. 3 p.m., DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D Street, Washington, D.C.


Budokan (continued from page 1)

Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines, Fly Me to the Moon and The Air Force Song. The members came together for a week of rehearsals before the performances.

The six Air Force Band members were staff arranger Master Sgt. Bob Thurston, who played percussion; Tech. Sgts. Nathan Clark (trumpet) and David Sisk (trombone) of the Concert Band; and Tech. Sgts. Randy Gorman (percussion), Joshua Lies (trumpet) and Michael Ramos (trumpet) of the Ceremonial Brass. Another member with ties to the Air Force's premier band was Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Castle, who recently returned to the Band of the West at Lackland AFB, Texas, after a three-year tour with the Ceremonial Brass.

A social highlight of the trip was a reception hosted by the Japan Air Self Defense Force Band to honor their American Air Force counterparts. "We had a great time meeting the Japanese band members," said Sgt. Ramos. "We found we have a lot in common."

The chance to meet other Air Force musicians was also a plus. "It was fun performing with our colleagues in the other bands," said Sgt. Clark. "I'd definitely like to do this again."

The other American bands at the festival were the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band, Okinawa, Japan; and the U.S. Army Japan Band, Tokyo. Among the 42,000 spectators who saw the event were Japan's Minister of State for Defense Yoshinori Ohno and Gen. Michael Hagee, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. Millions more watched on television. 



Personnel Matters

Arrivals

TSgt Ben Bowers,
Concert Band

Departures

MSgt Sharon Haines,
Commander Support
Staff, Retirement

TSgt Nydia Noriega,
Singing Sergeants,
Separation

Alumni Spotlight

By Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Harry Gleeson



U.S. AIR FORCE

For someone who spent his Air Force career insuring adherence to rules and regulations, it is ironic that former Air Force Band First Sergeant Laverne Sansing's career was itself an exception to the norm.

He and a friend went to an Army-Air Force recruiting office in Sansing's hometown of Columbus, Miss., on October 31, 1950. They both decided to enlist on the spot, and "we were sworn in and placed on a train that night for a trip to Lackland Air Force Base!"

In basic, Sansing learned about the military's need for musicians. He had played French horn in high school, so he raised his hand, thinking that playing in a band could be good duty – plus, "I knew that girls liked musicians."

Sansing auditioned for the band career field during basic training. "I now know the only reason I passed the audition was the shortage of French horn players," he said. "Maybe they thought I would improve. I never did."

In December, the band training flight became a glee club for part of each day. They sang Christmas carols at the service clubs and base chapels during the holidays. "Some of the men were real good at singing," Sansing said. "I was best at moving my lips so as not to mess up the real singers!"

After Basic Training, Sansing was assigned to the Bandsman School at Bolling, where Lt. Harold Copenhaver was the conductor and Bob Turner the brass instructor. It didn't work out. Following a long lesson near the end of the school assignment, Turner offered to help Sansing find work in another career field.

"That was not a disappointment, because I knew he was right," Sansing said. He turned in his horn and was assigned "temporarily" to the Band's Orderly Room – a move that marked the beginning of a highly successful Air Force career. Thanks to a typing course in high school and a natural curiosity, his career in music administration got off to a fast start. Initially assigned as the Band's file clerk, he did something that seemingly no one before him had bothered to do – he read the manual! He quickly cleaned up a tremendous filing backlog in the Band's office.

One of his mentors was the Band's first sergeant, Master Sgt. Ed Grace. "My first impression was one of some fear,"

Sansing said. "He was a big man, some years older than I, had six stripes more than I did, talked with much authority and seemed to have a knowledge of all things going on in the Orderly Room and with all Band units."

For the next three years, Sansing kept his "temporary" assignment as a records clerk, earning regular promotions. In November of 1953 he was formally assigned to The Air Force Band and promoted to staff sergeant. He became chief clerk in 1954.

Sansing took over as first sergeant in 1957, working for both the Band and the band school. When Band commander Col. George S. Howard retired in 1963, an Air Force line officer was assigned as commander, and he made it clear that he wanted to eventually bring in his own man to be first sergeant. Sansing, by now a master sergeant, took the initiative and volunteered for a worldwide assignment.


"In a matter of days I received an assignment to Alaska," he said. There, he became first sergeant to the Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron on Fire Island, just off the coast of Anchorage. Thirteen months later it was off to Carswell AFB, Tex., and the 7th Combat Defense Squadron.

After that, Sansing decided to move into the management-engineering career field. In April 1967, he was promoted to senior master sergeant, and eventually headed the management-engineering team at Columbus AFB, Miss. – "back to my hometown, where my Air Force career began."

After Sansing's promotion to chief master sergeant in October 1970, his career took him to Hawaii and then to Maxwell AFB, Ala., where he stayed until retiring in 1979. He worked in a variety of civil-service positions in Alabama, Louisiana and Georgia after that, eventually working for the U.S. Army at Ft. McPherson, Ga.

"I found out one thing for sure working for the Army," he said. And what was that?

"For an enlisted man, the Air Force was a much better deal!"

Now fully retired, Vern Sansing celebrated his 74th birthday in November 2005: "If I had known I would live this long, I would have taken better care of myself!" 



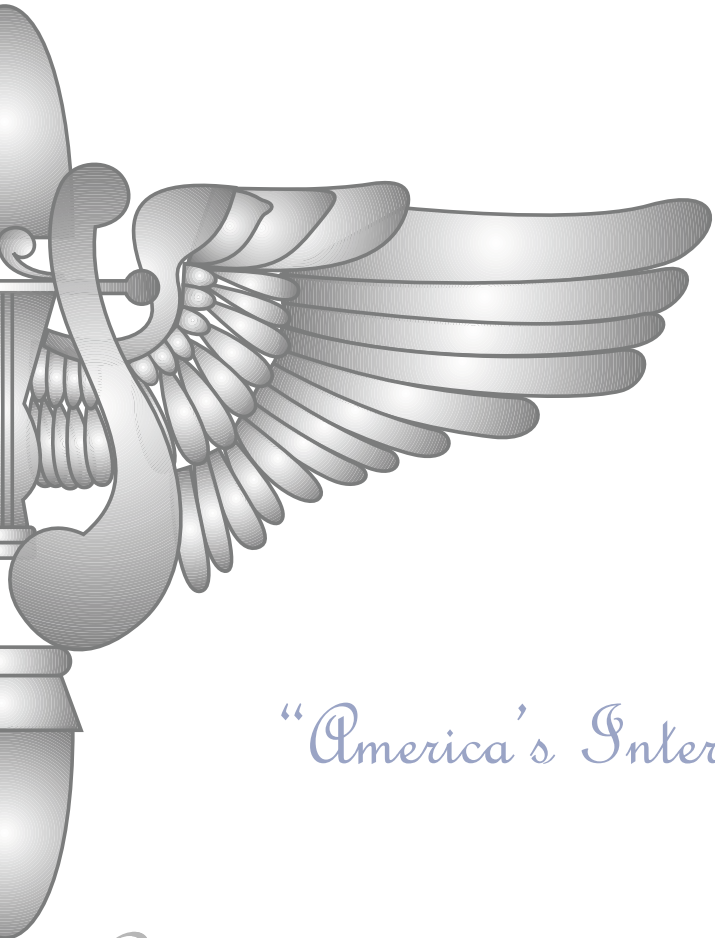
CMSgt (Ret.) Laverne Sansing during service as First Sergeant of The United States Air Force Band



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