

Band's Summer Performance Schedule Takes Shape

By Master Sgt. Bob Thurston

The United States Air Force Band will be performing around the country and around the corner in the coming months.

In May, the Airmen of Note will tour the Pacific Northwest, performing concerts, clinics and master classes in Oregon and Washington. The tour will last from May 7 through 15; performance dates and locations are available in the Calendar feature of this issue of Cadenza, and on the Band's website.

In June, The Air Force Band will kick off its traditional Summer Concert Series with Wednesday noontime concerts at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

Silver Wings will open the series on June 1. The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants will perform at the museum on June 8, 22 and 29, and the Airmen of Note will perform on June 15. The concerts are free and open to the public. The Air and Space Museum is located at 7th and Independence Avenue SW. The nearest Metro stations are L'Enfant Plaza and Smithsonian.

A slate of concerts at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia (that's the Air and Space Museum annex near Dulles Airport), is still in the works. The Band is working with Air and Space Museum officials to schedule concerts for Fridays at noon at the Center, according to Chief Master Sgt. Richard Pearson,

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Units of The Air Force Band will return to the National Air And Space Museum for this year's Summer Concert Series

Wednesday's Child is Full of Music

By Master Sgt. Bob Thurston

The U.S. Air Force Band has hosted world-class musicians and military leaders from many countries at Bolling Air Force Base's Historic Hangar II. But few visitors have touched the Band's heart quite like Damian, an aspiring young tuba player, who stopped by on March 16.



NBC4 anchorwoman Barbara Harrison with Major Frank Grzych and the Band's special guest Damian following the taping of "Wednesday's Child."

Eleven-year-old Damian has lived in foster homes for the past five years, according to Washington, D.C.'s, Department of Children and Family Services. Damian came to the Band's attention through WRC-TV (NBC4), NBC's television affiliate in Washington. The station was featuring Damian during its weekly series titled "Wednesday's Child" and asked the Band to participate in the broadcast. The Wednesday's Child program helps children in foster care find permanent, loving, adoptive families.

Accompanied by NBC4 reporter Barbara Harrison, Damian sat in on a rehearsal and played *Ticonderoga March* with the Concert Band, conducted by deputy commander Maj. Frank Grzych.

"This was a very special time for this young boy," said Chief Master Sgt. Jan Duga, a member of the Concert Band tuba section. "I'm sure that having cameras right in his face during the taping was a bit overwhelming, but he did a super job."

After the rehearsal, Maj. Grzych gave Damian a Band coin and declared him an honorary member of The Air Force Band. Damian also received a short tuba lesson from Chief Duga, who worked with him on taking bigger breaths in order to produce a fuller-sounding note on the largest of the brass instruments. They used a homemade breathing tube made of taped-together drinking straws to experiment with different volumes of inhaled air.

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Greetings from Washington, D.C.!

It was an ideal spring day, a light blue sky, flecked with little fleecy white clouds drifting across from West to East. The sun was shining very brightly, and yet there was an exhilarating nip in the air, which set an edge to a man's energy.

– Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Adventure of Copper Beeches*

Spring is here, folks. Shake off the winter cold and enjoy the new growth at The United States Air Force Band. In an unprecedented era of change, I have several exciting projects which I would like to share with you.

Last issue I told you about our redesign of a few units here in the Band that will help us to reach our youngest Airmen and cover more high-visibility protocol events. In continuing with this idea of target-audience outreach, we are ramping up the newly energized broadcast focus – returning in force to a mission the Band held near and dear 40 years ago.

The airwaves represent a powerful ability for the Band to reach audiences that typically have been closed to us, or simply too vast for us to reach in a meaningful way. The idea to re-energize this important mission was born of discussions I had with Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper in January 2003. We decided we needed a tactical and flexible method to reach larger audiences, and one that would allow us to deliver Air Force messages around the globe. A broadcast capability meets those operational intentions and has more flexibility for long-term musical planning and program development.

For example, with broadcasting we can plan and organize a series of music programs eight months to a year in advance. Our upgraded in-house capabilities remove the logistics of finding outside venues to perform and record. In short, we have control over the studio, the time and the resources.

Three series we are currently developing are National Holiday Calendar Programs, a program we call Classics in Blue, and The Great American Songbook.

The first program will be one tied to those holidays, recognitions and celebrations that are important pieces of our national identity. For example, we'll use Veteran's Day and Memorial Day to link patriotic music to the ideals of commitment to freedom and democracy. We might highlight African American History Month by using selected pieces by known, and unknown, African American musicians tied to messages of diversity and equality. You get the picture.

The second series, Classics in Blue, will musically package some of the seminal writings of our founding fathers. We'll also focus on programming that highlights American literature and classic repertoire for The United States Air Force Orchestra, Concert Band, Singing Sergeants and small specialized groups.

Our third series, The Great American Songbook, is a look back – and forward – at our national heritage and musical trends. This adult contemporary series will feature music from Irving Berlin to Celine Dion.

To help further our broadcasting goal, we've upgraded our physical plant infrastructure. We are thrilled to have a new top-of-the-line recording console, bringing the industry standard into Hangar II. It will provide us one of the most advanced recording capabilities on the East Coast.

In addition, we are entering the final stages of phase one of our new Virtual Acoustic Environment studio. In cooperation with the Wenger corporation, we have given our large studio an acoustic "face-lift." We've installed new technology that simulates various environments, allowing us to hear ourselves as though we were playing in a small chamber hall or a multi-thousand-seat concert hall with just the push of a button. It is a lithe workspace where imagination is the only limiting factor. We are working closely with industry specialists in maximizing this facility, and bring a flexibility and adaptability into the building not available previously.

Finally, I'm proud to introduce the newest member of our officer corps and Band family: my executive officer, 1st Lt. Michaela Herring. The idea of bringing in a person from outside the band career field to serve as the executive officer has been many years in the making. I'm happy to announce that Lt. Herring arrived on station early this month and hit the ground running. She is a public-affairs officer by trade who comes to us from a several-month stint on the Joint Task Force-Armed Forces Inaugural Committee. Prior to that, she served as the deputy chief of public affairs at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado. She is a great asset to the team, and we're happy to have her join us. She's already making a significant positive difference. Michaela, welcome aboard!

To all of our friends and colleagues, thank you all for your continued support. Enjoy your spring planting, and I hope you can take some time to smell the roses.

Very Respectfully,




The United States Air Force Band is wholeheartedly committed to reflecting the diversity of our great nation. We actively encourage individuals from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds to learn about our organization and seek positions with "America's International Musical Ambassadors."

Air Force Band Hosts New Jersey High School Students

Four busloads of high school students rumbled onto Bolling Air Force Base the morning of April 15. The students were members of the music program at Montgomery High School, located near Trenton, New Jersey, and were visiting Hangar II as part of a whirlwind weekend that also included stops in Baltimore and Annapolis, Maryland.

The Montgomery music program has a total enrollment of about 160 musicians and includes three concert bands, a string orchestra, a jazz band and a chorus, according to Adam Warshafsky, who is in his second year as band director at the school.

During their three-hour visit to Bolling, the high school ensembles got to hear performances by their military counterparts and ask questions of the members. Afterwards, Air Force Band members sat in with the students and worked with them on music from the students' music folders.

The morning began with an overview of The Air Force Band by deputy commander Maj. Frank Grzych. The students then broke into their various ensembles for clinics with Air Force Band members.

Maj. Grzych spent time on the podium with each of the three concert bands, working on pieces they'd recently performed at their local winter concert festival.

"The kids really clicked with Maj. Grzych," Warshafsky said.

Next door at the base Community Center, the Air Force Strings wowed the orchestral students with a short but wide-ranging

program that included everything from the Pachelbel *Canon* to the fiddler's tour de force, *Orange Blossom Special*. Later in the morning, Airmen of Note music director Senior Master Sgt. Joe Jackson worked with the Montgomery jazz band on two tunes, including *Wind Machine*, written by famed jazz composer and distinguished "Note" alumnus Sammy Nestico.

Montgomery senior Alf Hadinger, who plays tuba in the Wind Ensemble and bass trombone in the jazz band, marveled at the musicianship and experience of Air Force Band members. "They sight-read better than we've practiced for two months!" he said.

Perhaps he understated his group's abilities, though.

"That was a talented band!" said Airmen of Note leader Chief Master Sgt. Dudley Hinote. "We enjoyed the opportunity to work with them and to hear them swing. It's always a treat to work with students who are hungry to learn. I think they learned some things today."

A competitive festival performance was on the band's itinerary for the following day, but Warshafsky said of the morning spent at Bolling Air Force Base: "This was our main event."

Clinics and performances like this one are an important part of The Air Force Band's Educational Outreach program. The Band's support for educational activities plays an important role in preserving our national heritage and inspiring patriotism in the next generation of American leaders.

"We enjoyed the opportunity to work with such talented high school musicians," Chief Hinote said. "They one day may have the privilege, as we now do, of being a part of this premier musical organization that has the honor of representing the world's best Air Force." 🐦

Summer Schedule (Continued from page 1)

the Band's director of operations.

Starting July 8th, Friday evening performances will resume at another traditional Summer venue, the Sylvan Theatre on the grounds of the Washington Monument. According to Pearson, "Even though the monument itself was recently reopened after extensive security renovations, construction at the theatre continues through the end of June."

Silver Wings is scheduled to perform June 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Mason District Park located at 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale, Virginia. You can get there by taking Capital Beltway Exit 52B (Route 236). Go east two miles, turn left on John Marr Drive, then right on Columbia Pike. The park entrance is on the right, just before Sleepy Hollow Road.

The Band's newest unit, Max Impact, will perform in Montgomery Village, Maryland, on June 26.

For more information on the upcoming summer concert schedule visit the Band's website, www.usafband.com, or call the 24-hour concert line at (202) 767-5658. All concerts are free and open to the public, no tickets are required. 🐦

Wednesday's Child (Continued from page 1)

Damian, who has 10 siblings, told NBC4's Harrison that playing the tuba was one of several things he was considering for his future. He said he was also thinking about being a police officer, a football player, a basketball player or a soccer player. When Harrison asked him where "tuba player" fit in, Damian answered with a smile, "I guess that should be the first one."

Maureen McFadden of the D.C. Department of Children and Family Services credited the Band and NBC4 for a high number of inquiries about Damian.

"[The calls] continued to come in well after the segment aired," McFadden said. "It was likely due to the piece you guys did." 🐦



Major Grzych shares his knowledge and enthusiasm for music with students of Montgomery High School during their recent visit to Hangar II.

Ensemble News

Concert Band

As the long-awaited spring arrives, the Concert Band blooms into a season of chamber recitals, recordings and the much anticipated Summer Series, which begins in June.

The Band will be performing at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and the Sylvan Theater in Washington, D.C.; the Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia; and Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Many chamber groups from the Concert Band will be performing around the metropolitan area as well. (See the calendar in this issue of *Cadenza* for concert details, and log on at www.usafband.com for updates.) Also in June, we'll be working on a new compact-disc recording of masterworks for band.

March roared in like a lion for the Concert Band. We performed a well-received afternoon concert at the Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, under the direction of our deputy commander, Major Frank Grzych. We also played at the annual Easter Sunrise Service at Arlington National Cemetery. Three chamber groups from within the Band visited colleges across the country to educate young musicians about musical military careers.

Tech. Sgt. Danny Helseth, euphonium, performed recitals and gave master classes. In March, he performed as a guest artist at the Northeast Regional Tuba-Euphonium Conference. In April he presented a recital and clinic at the University of Oregon College of Music.

In April, the Concert Band and Singing Sergeants embarked on an 18-day tour through Illinois, Kansas, Colorado, Nevada and California. Each concert boasted a bevy of beloved patriotic songs as well as contemporary and traditional works. The tour soloists – Master Sgts. Ardyth Scott, piccolo, and Will Jones, euphonium – entertained audiences with their virtuoso displays of artistry.

Singing Sergeants

After a successful spring tour with the Concert Band out west, the Singing Sergeants enjoyed a short break before gearing up for spring and summer. The Singers are honored to again be the featured entertainment for the annual Senior Statesman Dinner here at Bolling. We always have a great time performing for our retired and current senior leadership!

Later in the month the Singing Sergeants will be featured during the Memorial Day services at Arlington National Cemetery. Join us there as we commemorate the lives and honor the service of all those who have gone before us in protecting and defending the Constitution of the United States of America.

June heralds the beginning of summer, and the start of our yearly Summer Concert Series. The Singers are scheduled to appear with the Concert Band at the National Air and Space



TSgt Steven Smith was a featured soloist during the recent Concert Band and Singing Sergeants 2005 Spring tour.

Museum and at the Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia. Come out and enjoy the show, and the wonderful presentation of the history of flight at these two wonderful museums.

Airmen of Note

The Airmen of Note continues to be visible in the local community through the Jazz Outreach program, conducting clinics and master classes at high schools in Maryland, Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia. These recent visits have reminded us of the tremendous young talent in our local area, as student musicians got the chance to sit in with the "Note." We thank the jazz educators in these schools for their dedication and hard work in sharing America's art form, jazz, with today's youth.

In addition, the Note performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as part of a tribute to the 1940s, performing such classic hits as *Jump for Joy*, *Swanee River* and *A Tisket, A Tasket*, as well as some

more contemporary selections. This tribute to the '40s continued with a performance for XM Satellite Radio of selections by such big-band legends as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman. The session can be heard on XM channel 4, "The '40s" channel. This is the Note's second performance on XM, following a New Year's Eve performance in December. The band also appeared at Carmichael Auditorium in the Smithsonian American History Museum as part of Jazz Appreciation Month in April.

Currently the Airmen of Note is preparing to visit Oregon and Washington in May as part of a community relations tour, performing evening concerts and offering clinics at area high schools. See the Calendar elsewhere in this issue for performance information, and visit our website, www.USAFBand.com, for updates.

Air Force Strings

The Air Force Strings got an unexpected call for help this spring from their colleagues in the U.S. Army Band. Due to a shortage of Army violinists, Chief Master Sgt. Jane Bockenek, Senior Master Sgt. Bill Tortolano, Master Sgt. Cleveland Chandler and Tech. Sgts. Emily Barnes and Luke Wedge were asked to perform with the Army Band in their annual Eastern Trombone Workshop held at Ft. Myer, Virginia. Their contribution was warmly received, and we were glad to lend a hand to our fellow military musicians here in Washington.

The Strings welcome back and congratulate Tech. Sgt. Bryce Bunner upon his graduation from the Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Academy at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey. For his dedication and good work, Sgt. Bunner was named a distinguished graduate. We are proud of Bryce and glad to have him back playing in the viola section.



MSgt Tim Leahey is jazz trumpeter and public affairs representative for the Airmen of Note.

Ceremonial Brass

The Ceremonial Brass had the honor March 2 of playing for President Bush and members of Congress at the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to the family of baseball legend Jackie Robinson. Capt. Matthew Reese conducted the performance.

Also in March, a brass quintet traveled to Texas to perform several community relations concerts. It's not often that Ceremonial Brass leaves the National Capital Region, so these concerts were a treat for us. Closer to home, Tech. Sgt. Pat McDermott performed a wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean War Memorial.



TSgt Randy Gorman, Ceremonial Brass bass drummer, during the 2005 St. Patrick's Day parade.

Newly-formed brass quintets in the Ceremonial Brass will allow us to provide support for more ceremonies than ever. Under the leadership of Master Sgts. Todd Hansen, and Michael Bosch, the Ceremonial Brass increased the quintets from one to four groups.

Silver Wings

Music, music, music: that's what Silver Wings is all about these days. From "Country Roads" to "A Hunka Hunka Burnin' Love," we are having a great time working together and representing the Air Force in our own special "country" way.

Join us this summer at the Air and Space Museum and the Sylvan Theatre beginning June 1. We look forward to providing each of you an opportunity to put your hands together, tap your toes and feel proud to be an American!

Recently Silver Wings had the chance to play for The Air Force Band's technical-support auditions. It was an exciting and humbling experience to witness firsthand how much expertise these candidates must have to win a position with our tech-support team.

Silver Wings was proud to provide a musical farewell to the 11th Operations Group commander Col. Douglas Lengenfelder on April 22. As commander of the Band's parent organization, Col. Lengenfelder was instrumental in supporting The Air Force Band on many fronts. Thank you for all of your support, sir! We wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Also, we welcome Senior Master Sgt. Joe McDonough as he steps up to the plate as our new sound engineer.

Max Impact

Max Impact is off to a great start as the newest unit of The Air Force Band. At our debut performance at the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, a special twist was added when General Fogle song, commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe, shared the

stage with us while singing "Gimme Three Steps." And as if that weren't enough, the general requested our attendance at the West Virginia University Military Ball, where he was a guest speaker.

One of Max

Impact's primary missions is performing for our forward-deployed Airmen. We recently participated in a deployment exercise, receiving a great response from our audience as well as the leadership of the 11th Wing at Bolling Air Force Base.

In May, Max Impact will travel to Maxwell once again to perform for the the Air War College Graduation Ball. Also, look for us on the Summer Concert Series - see the Calendar or visit www.USAFBand.com for details.



TSgts Steve Wilson (right) and David Foster prepare for the upcoming Air War College Graduation Ball.

High Flight

High Flight is delighted to have pianist Tech. Sgt. Jonathan McPherson back after a six-week absence during which he attended the U.S. Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Academy at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey. We are very proud of his accomplishments. In addition to excelling in professional military education, he lent his musical expertise during the graduation ceremony, accompanying the national anthem vocalist and leading the 450 attendees in a rousing chorus of the Air Force Song. Way to go, Jonathan!

This summer High Flight will be performing a show highlighting the music that has come to be known as "The Great American Songbook." This revue, written by our bassist/group leader, Master Sgt. Chris Kosky, features many of the great songs from composers and lyricists such as George and Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, Jerome Kern, and Johnny Mercer, just to name a few. We hope to perform this show at a venue near you.

Chamber Orchestra

The Air Force Chamber Orchestra is happy to announce its second performance, May 19 and Carl Sandburg Middle School in Alexandria, Virginia. Admission is free. The program will feature works by Nicolai, Schubert, Vaughn-Williams, Haydn and Tchaikovsky. The *Washington Post* has praised the Chamber Orchestra an "ensemble that has exciting promise." We hope to see you May 19!

For information on upcoming public performances by all the ensembles of The U.S. Air Force Band, please call our concert line (202-767-5658), or visit our website, www.usafband.com.

Thanks to our Ensemble News contributors: Senior Master Sgts. Deb Volker and Angela Williams, and Tech. Sgts. Julianna Arnold, Jeff Castle, Regina Coonrod, Doug Morgan, Eric Sullivan and Luke Wedge.

MAY

- 5 Chamber Players Series, 8:00 p.m. The USAF Saxophone Quartet. John Addison Concert Hall, Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland.
- 6 Chamber Players Series, 8:00 p.m. The USAF Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble, conducted by Master Sergeant Gil Corella. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 7 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Music for Trumpet and Trombone" featuring TSgts Patrick McDermott & Aaron Moats," George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 7 Airmen of Note, 5:15 p.m. Northwest Jazz Festival, Mt. Hood Community College Physical Ed Center, Gresham, Oregon.
- 8 Airmen of Note, 3 p.m. Smith Auditorium, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon.
- 10 Airmen of Note, 7:30 p.m. Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Olympia, Washington.
- 12 Airmen of Note, 7:30 p.m. Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington.
- 12 Chamber Players Series, 8:00 p.m. "Music for Trumpet, Trombone, and Horn," featuring Technical Sergeants Valentine Lukashuk, David Sisk, and Joel Wealer. John Addison Concert Hall, Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland.
- 13 Chamber Players Series, 8:00 p.m. "Music for Euphonium & Clarinet," featuring SMSgt Ann Hinote & TSgt Darrin Thiriot. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 13 Airmen of Note, 7:30 p.m. Bellevue Community College, Bellevue, Washington.
- 15 Airmen of Note, 3 p.m. Bandstand at Pioneer Park, Steilacoom, Washington.
- 19 The U.S. Air Force Chamber Orchestra, 8 p.m. Carl Sandburg Middle School Auditorium, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 20 LIBRARY CONCERT SERIES, 4 p.m., "An Afternoon of Chamber Music".
- 20 Chamber Players Series, 8:00 p.m. "Music for Tuba," featuring Master Sergeant Gil Corella. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 21 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "Featuring The USAF Saxophone Quartet," George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 26 Chamber Players Series, 8:00 p.m. "Music for Woodwind Quintet," featuring members of The USAF Concert Band. John Addison Concert Hall, Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland.
- 27 Chamber Players Series, 8:00 p.m. The USAF Woodwind Quintet. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.

JUNE

- 1 Silver Wings, noon, National Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro stations: L'Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian.
- 8 Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, noon, National Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro stations: L'Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian.
- 12 Silver Wings, 7:30 p.m. Mason District Park, Annandale, VA
- 15 Airmen of Note, noon, National Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro stations: L'Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian.
- 18 Concert Band, 6 p.m. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, located at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers in the states of West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland, 65 miles northwest of Washington, D.C., and 20 miles southwest of Frederick, Maryland, via U.S. Route 340. The Visitor Center is located on Cavalier Heights about one mile West of the Shenandoah River Bridge just off U.S. Route 340. Park admission: vehicle pass, \$6 per single, private vehicle (excludes group tours and 7 + passenger vans); individual pass, \$4 per person arriving on foot, bicycle or motorcycle (or \$5 per immediate family). Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, P.O. Box 65, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.
- 19 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 1:30 p.m., " The USAF Brass Quintet," Society of Cincinnati's Anderson House Museum, 2118 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.
- 22 Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, noon, National Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro stations: L'Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian.
- 25 Chamber Players Series, 1:30 p.m. "Music for Strings" Quartet Society of the Cincinnati's Anderson House Museum, 2118 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.
- 26 Max Impact, June 26, 7:30 p.m., Montgomery Village, Maryland.
- 29 Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, noon, National Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro stations: L'Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian.

All performances are free and open to the public. Performance times and locations are subject to change. An asterisk () indicates a free, ticketed event. For ticketed events only, all unclaimed seats will be released to non-ticket holders fifteen minutes before the performance. Therefore, non-ticket holders are encouraged to attend! For detailed information about performances in the Washington, D.C., area, please call the Concert Line, (202) 767-5658. More detailed information regarding The United States Air Force Band is available on the Internet at: www.USAFBand.com*

Alumni Spotlight

By Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Harry H. Gleeson

Editor's Note: The Alumni Spotlight has been a feature of Cadenza since the November/December issue of 1999, and we thought our readers would like to know a little about the Series and the way it is researched and written, hence the following from our series writer.

“What Is Past Is Prologue.”

Those words, chiseled above the entrance to our National Archives Building in Washington, D.C., describe the thought behind the Cadenza's “Alumni Spotlight.” When this column began over five years ago, its main goal was to show how the present and future success of today's Air Force Band members is supported by a strong foundation created by Band members throughout the organization's history. Just a few examples:

- The deployments of today recall the tours of yesteryear. The goodwill tours of Canada, England, France and Belgium by the Concert Band during World War II – plus tours that carried the Airmen of Note, the Four Saints, the Jumping Jacks, the Crew Chiefs, the Singing Sergeants and The Air Force Strings through Europe and the Far East to entertain the troops in the 1950s and '60s – set the foundation for today's Air Expeditionary Force deployments in support of our Airmen throughout the world.

- The fully staged performances of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas in the early '50s paved the way for the staged and choreographed performances of medleys, operas and Broadway musicals of the '70s and '80s. They also laid the groundwork for the Band's original musical, *Born of a Dream*, which capped the Air Force's “Centennial of Flight” celebration in 2003.

- The radio broadcasts of the '40s, '50s and '60s – highlighted by the long-running “Serenade In Blue” series – inspired the “Serenade In Blue” concert production in 1988, combining The Air Force Strings, Airmen of Note and performers from the Singing Sergeants. Those shows provide the model for the new broadcast mission of The Air Force Band.

So, what is past really is prologue.

Chief Master Sgt. (retired) Daisy Jackson was the Band's director of public affairs in 1999. Daisy knew I had been gathering material to write the history of The Air Force Band and Singing Sergeants for around eight years, and she knew I would have the contacts, knowledge and interest to write about Band alumni accomplishments. I thought I would be writing just one article. Daisy was persuasive, however, and I soon realized I'd made a much bigger commitment.

At Daisy's request, the first Alumni Spotlight was on Lt. Col. Craig Jessop, former director of the Singing Sergeants, who had just become associate conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir (he is now the conductor). Since then, the door has been left open as to whom I could write about, a freedom that has allowed me to expand my knowledge of the Band and its history. I have worked to keep the personalities balanced among the performing elements of the Band. I have “found” folks I hardly knew existed in the Band's history – Lew Anderson, Henry Gass and Cass Bielski among them – people with wonderful stories to tell. We've tried to focus on people still living, which made Mac McGregor's story so meaningful, since we lost him not long after the article ran.

Spotlighting those who are still living, however, means we may miss a great one at times. For example, I learned about



Harry Gleeson and his wife, Lainie DeMore, pictured at the Larry Odom New Years Celebration, December 31, 2002

Dale Anderson only after his recent death, when his former colleagues from The Air Force Drum & Bugle Corps wrote to me about this alumnus who went on to a long and distinguished career in the music industry. Dale Anderson marched in the Corps for about two years in the early '50s, and then finished his Air Force enlistment as a percussion instructor at the Bandsman Training School. Once out of the military, he went home to Chicago, where he played for a TV studio orchestra. He then went on to Hollywood, where he was a studio musician for 40 years. He was principal for many years with the Pasadena Symphony and played with the Los

Angeles Opera. His movie and TV credits were continuous for 40 years, and even today his drumming may be heard on the NBC Nightly News theme.

How many other Dale Andersons are out there? We want to tell their stories too. We've written mostly about performers, but also on behind-the-scenes members. We have highlighted units no longer active, like the Drum and Bugle Corps and The Air Force Pipe Band. We're planning future articles on two former members of the Airmen of Note. And with reunions coming up this summer – in June in Carroll Valley, Pennsylvania, for The Air Force Drum & Bugle Corps and Pipe Band (www.usafdrumcorps.us) and in August for the Singing Sergeants in San Jose, California (www.singingsergeants.com) – you will probably be reading more about some of the fascinating folks from those units in coming issues, too.

If there are former members of The Air Force Band about whom you would like to read in future issues, don't hesitate to contact Cadenza and let us know.

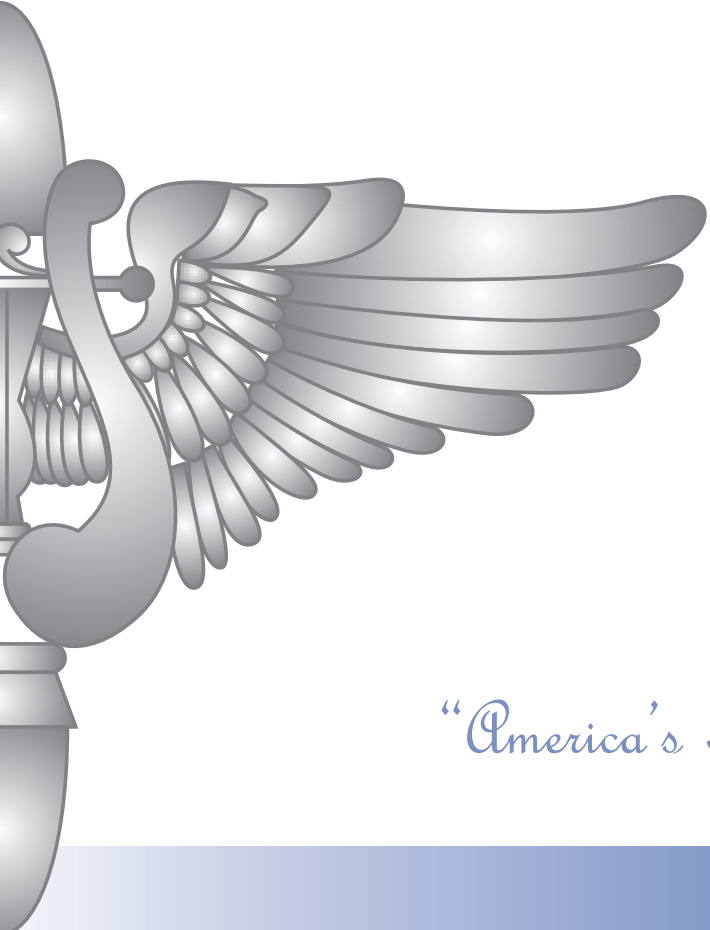
We'll be here, studying the past – and writing the prologue to the history of the United States Air Force Band.

Cadenza

Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker ~ Commander and Music Director
Chief Master Sergeant David Nokes ~ Director of Public Affairs
Master Sergeant Robert Thurston ~ Copy Editor
Technical Sergeants Andrew Cleaver & David Foster ~ Graphic Layout Editors
Bolling AFB Visual Information Support Center ~ Photography

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