

Cadenza

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



October - December 2006

USAF Band Lights Up December With "That Holiday Sparkle!"

The United States Air Force Band proudly announces its 2006 Holiday Concert Series, "That Holiday Sparkle!" This year, along with the Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, the production will feature Max Impact and the Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Band Commander and Music Director Col. Dennis M. Layendecker.

The Band's arranging staff has been hard at work on a program that is sure to get you into the holiday spirit. Songs will include old favorites such as *Caroling, Caroling* and future classics like *Run, Run Rudolph!* Of course, there will also be a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus as well as the traditional audience sing-along.

This year, the Band will present a Friday morning matinee for young people. The 10 a.m. performance, which is open to school groups and to parents with young children, will feature Max Impact, the Singing Sergeants and the Symphony

Orchestra. E-mail bandpublicaffairs@bolling.af.mil or call 202-767-4310 for information and reservations. The concerts will take place at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.


Performance times and dates are:

Friday, Dec. 1 at 10 a.m. (young people's matinee)

Saturday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 3 at 3 p.m.

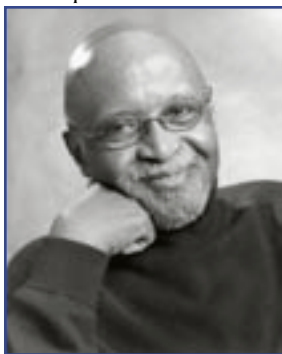
Free tickets are required for admission to the Saturday and Sunday performances. Tickets will be available at the D.A.R. Constitution Hall box office at C and 18th Streets NW from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 4, 9, 14 and 18.

Get your holiday season off to a joyous start by joining The United States Air Force Band for "That Holiday Sparkle!" For more information call the Band's 24-hour concert line at 202-767-5658 or visit USAFBand.com. 

Phil Woods and Junior Mance Headline Jazz Heritage Series

It's fall, and as always, the greatest artists in jazz are coming to Washington, D.C., to play with the U.S. Air Force Airmen of Note. The Air Force Band's 2006 Jazz Heritage Series opened Sept. 1 with an amazing performance by the great trombonist and arranger Slide Hampton.

The series continues Oct. 6 with a concert featuring pianist and composer Junior Mance. In the 1950s Mance was the pianist for Dinah Washington, Julian "Cannonball" Adderley and Dizzy Gillespie. He also has played with Charlie Parker, Coleman Hawkins, Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, Sonny Stitt, Clifford Brown, Max Roach,



The Oct. 6 concert features pianist Junior Mance.

Clark Terry, Maynard Ferguson, Keter Betts and Joe Williams.

The Jazz Heritage Series concludes Nov. 3 with the great Phil Woods.

A Grammy Award-winning saxophonist and composer, he has one of the most recognizable instrumental voices in jazz. His technique is spellbinding, with a big tone

and an energy that, in the words of Billy Taylor, "breathe fire" into the music.

Since 1990, the Jazz Heritage Series has featured internationally acclaimed musicians in performance with the Airmen of Note. The guest artists donate their time and talent to bring top-quality music to audiences in the nation's capital. The series' alumni list is a "Who's Who" of jazz, ranging from such legendary performers as Dizzy Gillespie, Joe Williams, Clark Terry and Ron Carter to modern stars such as Arturo Sandoval, Eric Marienthal and Michael and Randy Brecker.




Sax master Phil Woods performs with the Airmen of Note Friday, Nov. 3.

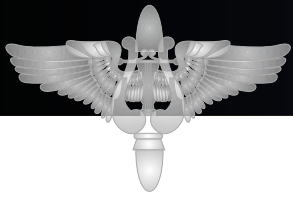
Lisner Auditorium is located at 21st and H Streets NW, just three blocks from the Foggy Bottom/GWU Metro station on the blue and orange lines. Parking is available at the University

Garage, located on I Street at 22nd.

Jazz Heritage Series concerts begin at 8 p.m. Admission is free, and no tickets are needed.

For more information and the latest updates, please visit USAFBand.com. 

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



From the Commander

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

In musical circles, there's a famous old yarn about a conductor who learned a valuable lesson from the Orchestra of the Swiss Radio. Apparently, the "Maestro" had an ego the size of the Alps, and a temper to match the dramatic thunderstorms one often encounters at higher elevations. In short, he was an unbearable tyrant on the podium and his reputation preceded him. Prior to this conductor's first encounter with the orchestra, the concertmaster hatched a plan. At the first rehearsal, the maestro gestured an energetic downbeat. Silence. Thinking that he hadn't been clear, he gruffly announced "We begin!" and repeated his gesture even more emphatically. More silence. Puzzled and irritated, he spun toward the concertmaster and queried angrily, "What's going on?!"

The concertmaster responded quietly, "Maestro, we just wanted to remind you who makes the sound."

I've been privileged to conduct musical groups for more than 30 years, 17 of those for the Air Force. If there's one thing I've learned, it is that leading well "makes the sound." The same principle applies on and off the podium. In light of that, I have some thoughts on leadership I'd like to share with you.

I find that the toughest challenge we face as leaders is to know when folks actually need us engaged in their tasks, and when they really need us to get out of the way. The sticky part is that everyone's needs change from task to task. I've learned over time to coach musicians about what I expect to hear from the music, and then trust they'll embrace the vision and work as a team toward that end. My role shifts moment by moment from inspiring to influencing and facilitating their musical endeavor. And when things don't quite work, I ask them what they need from me. I've learned more about conducting and leadership by respectfully soliciting and listening to the feedback of our musicians than I've ever learned from a mentor, teacher or book.

Delegating to people means the task will never—read NEVER—get done exactly as you might have done it yourself. This is emphatically true as a conductor, and it can be enormously frustrating. Over the years, I've gotten accustomed to it, even embraced it. "Letting go" of exclusive creative authority has led to consistently better results than anything I would have dreamed of! And there is true joy in sharing authority, as it offers surprises along the way.

My point here is that micro-managing the "how" of completing a task MAY get you exactly what you want ... but you'll get nothing more. My earliest "schooled" methods of conducting were not much help. I've learned that micro-management fosters fear, stifles creativity and hampers growth and initiative. Avoid it. If you coach your people about how you think and then get out of their way, more often than not the results will exceed your wildest imaginings.

Experience has taught me that the "all-knowing Maestro" doesn't exist. We just can't know or do it all. We must count on our people to help us. Furthermore, we will make mistakes; we must avoid being offended when our people respectfully need to correct us. Their loyalty and dedication to the mission dictates they must.

In summary, leaders can and should influence. We can and must facilitate success. Above all, we must trust our colleagues and subordinates to work together to make the music we've envisioned and coached them to play. Never forget who makes the sound.

Very Respectfully,



Air Force Bandstand Streams Into Cyberspace

By Master Sgt. Robert Thurston

Now you can listen to The Air Force Band online. Broadcasting 24 hours a day on the Internet, "Air Force Bandstand" is a streaming radio station featuring music by The United States Air Force Band and the latest news about the Air Force.


The Bandstand's multiple-format programming features music for every taste, including jazz, classical, rock, pop, country and—naturally!—patriotic fare. There are also news updates every half-hour, provided by the Air Force News Agency. The Bandstand is part of the Band's renewed broadcasting mission, which will soon include new programs developed for traditional radio and television.

"Air Force Band broadcast operations are a critical component of our unit's total mission as they help us create efficiencies in line with Air Force Smart Operations 21," said Band Commander Col. Dennis Layendecker. "By harnessing the potential of mass media, we can reach strategic audiences worldwide—audiences who might otherwise never enjoy

a positive opportunity to experience America's Air Force."

Air Force Bandstand is a partnership between The Air Force Band and Soldiers Radio. The Band provides programming, and Soldiers Radio provides streaming media service. Air Force Bandstand is a companion station to Soldiers Radio Live and Army Bandstand, which is also hosted by Soldiers Radio.

"We're proud to be launching The United States Air Force Band's rich broadcasting heritage into the new horizon of cyberspace," said Col. Layendecker. "Thus far, we've enjoyed considerable success with the popularity of mp3 audio files available at USAFBand.com, so we're particularly excited to add Air Force Bandstand to our overall cyberspace outreach mission."

To listen to the Bandstand, visit the Band's Web site, www.USAFBand.com. From the Main Menu, select "Broadcast Schedule." To listen, you need a broadband Internet connection. Air Force Bandstand works with all major media player plug-in software. 

Solo Chair

A Few Minutes With... MASTER SGT. JANICE CARL

Alto Section Leader and Vocalist,
The U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants

Hometown: Parsippany, N.J.

Joined the Air Force: July 1996

Education: Bachelor of Music, Vocal Performance, Oral Roberts University; University of Paris – La Sorbonne

Q: When did you start singing?

A: I started singing in church when I was ten years old. It was a duet with a 9-year-old that didn't turn out to be a duet. She was terrified and stopped singing altogether. My solo career was born!

Q: Do you play a musical instrument?

A: I started out on the clarinet in grade 5 and continued with that until my sophomore year of high school. That's when I joined the chorus. I also play the piano, but with absolutely NO finesse. My teacher was a "boogie-woogie" player who jammed with Tommy Dorsey way back when.

Q: What did you do before joining the military?

A: I was a choral director and a professional choral singer, and I did some dinner theater work. I also had a brief stint as a Cher impersonator!



MSgt Janice Carl in concert.

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

A: I enjoy being able to travel and perform for the American public, but especially the family members of those who served or are now serving. Somehow our music provides a connection or a memory that is indefinable, yet intensely powerful and healing. I also enjoy working with the finest musicians one could ask for. It's a dream come true.

Q: What do you most enjoy about the military?

A: I have truly enjoyed embracing all the age-old traditions of military life, something very foreign to me before I joined. On a lighter note, the Air Force has taught me how to BE ON TIME!

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

A: Participating in former president Ronald Reagan's funeral. To be a part of history like that was a profound and special experience. I will never forget it.


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

A: I imagine I will continue singing, as that is in my blood, but I would also like to teach high school music.

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: I've recently taken up bike riding, which is relaxing and fun at the same time. My husband promised me he'd finally teach me to play golf. Watch out!

Q: What's in your CD collection?

A: I enjoy singers who can really bring the listener in, regardless of their genre. Legends like Ray Charles, Dolly Parton, Diane Schuur, Sarah Vaughn, Rosemary Clooney and Nina Simone never grow old to me. 

For biographical information about any member of The U.S. Air Force Band, please visit our Web site, www.USAFBand.com. From the Main Menu, select "Band Members."

Ensemble News

In August **The Air Force Concert Band** performed at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, Va. The concert was conducted jointly by **Col. Dennis Layendecker** and **Conductor Emeritus Col. (Ret.) Arnald Gabriel**. The program featured music by retired **Chief Master Sgts. Lawrence Odom, Michael Davis and Floyd Werle**. The concert was attended by many of the Band's alumni.

The **Singing Sergeants** celebrated Armed Forces Day at RFK Stadium July 2 by performing the National Anthem at the Washington Nationals game. Also in July, the Singers helped send off the retiring Air Force Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Dr. George Peach Taylor. The program included **Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Pagnard's** inimitable rendition of Cole Porter's delightfully comedic song "The Physician." At another farewell event, the Singers honored outgoing Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Michael Dominguez.

In August and September the **Ceremonial Brass** honored visiting Air Chiefs from India and Bulgaria, performing for their arrivals at Bolling Air Force Base and for wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery.

Several units of The Air Force Band celebrated America's 230th birthday July 4. For the ninth time, the

Ceremonial Brass was featured on NBC's "Today" show at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City. Later in the day, **Silver Wings** went to the White House to entertain a crowd of over 2,000, including President Bush and Vice President Cheney. Meanwhile, the **Airmen of Note** played at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum for an audience of 7,000 patrons. That concert was also broadcast live on WETA 90.9 FM. **The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants** played briefly at the Jefferson Memorial—but unfortunately their performance was cut short by inclement weather.

The **Airmen of Note** kicked off the month of September and the 2006 Jazz Heritage Series with a thrilling performance featuring the legendary trombonist and arranger Slide Hampton at Lisner Auditorium on the campus of George Washington University. The day before the concert, Mr. Hampton joined the Note for a radio broadcast taping in front of a studio audience at the Air Force Band's own studio at Bolling Air Force Base.

On Sept. 10 the **Diplomats** were featured at the "Salute to America" concert in Bowie, Md., honoring members of the U.S. military. The **Diplomats** and **Silver Wings** both feature new vocalists these days. In July, the Diplomats welcomed **Master Sgt. Shani Prewitt** to the group. And

(see ENSEMBLE NEWS on next page)



Trombonist Slide Hampton (left) chats with radio personality John Tegler and Airmen of Note musical director SMSgt. Joe Jackson.



(above and right) Col. Dennis Layendecker greets the *Today* show's Natalie Morales. Ms. Morales was in historic Hangar II to record narration for *Holiday Timekeepers*, a selection from the Band's upcoming holiday CD.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

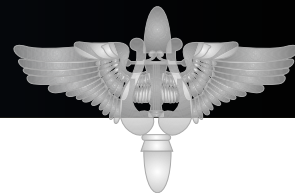
Departures

Capt. Matthew Reese, Flight Officer, transfer
Tech. Sgt. Charlene Rioz, Ceremonial Brass, separation
Tech. Sgt. Scott Pollard, Concert Band, separation

Arrivals

Maj. Keith Bland, Operations Officer
1 Lt. Michael Murray, Flight Officer
Tech. Sgt. Joshua Kowalsky, Concert Band, cello
Tech. Sgt. Jenny Santiago, Air Force Strings, violin





Clinician's Corner

Mastering the Art of the Jazz Solo

By Tech. Sgt. Ben Patterson
Trombonist, The Airmen of Note

Say you're listening to a great jazz tune, and when the soloist takes off you think, "I'd love to play a solo like that."

Well, you can.

Jazz is a language you can learn like any other language. You must immerse yourself in hearing it, speaking it and studying it. To fully understand it, you need a teacher and translator. The more you are around people who speak the jazz language well, the better you will come to speak it yourself.




To learn to play a new kind of music, you must listen to it a lot. In the process, you can develop your ears to hear more than they do now. The more you listen to the music, the better you understand it; the more you understand it, the better you can listen. A great jazz musician hears everything that is happening within the tune, within the

ensemble and within the framework the soloist is creating.

One great tool for learning how a solo "works" is transcription: writing down the music you hear. Pick a solo you like—maybe a fairly simple tune at first, such as a blues. Listen to it a few notes at a time and write down the pitches and rhythms on music paper. Then compare what you have written to the recording. Keep your instrument handy to figure out what notes you are hearing. Once you have finished your transcription, practice it until you can play it. Put on the recording and play along—and for a few minutes become Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie or John Coltrane.

You also need to become fluent in theory, especially chords and scales. Every chord has a corresponding scale that fits it perfectly. When you hear a major chord, for instance, you can improvise using the notes in that major scale without hitting any "bad" notes. So in the key of C major you would use the notes C D E F G A B, in whatever order you like. As the chords of the song go by, you won't have time to think about what notes are in the scale you plan to use, so practice scales until you can play them in your sleep!

By studying what the great musicians in the history of jazz have played, you can step into a whole new world. You can learn a new way of communicating ideas and expressing yourself. You can compose new melodies in an instant that are uniquely yours. So listen, transcribe, practice—and most of all, play! 


(ENSEMBLE NEWS, continued from page 4)

in Silver Wings, Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Dashnaw has come down the hall from the Concert Band, where she was a clarinetist. Now both are wowing audiences with their vocal talents.

Max Impact and the rest of The U.S. Air Force Band congratulate Master Sgt. Vince Anderson, leader and drummer, on his retirement after 21 years of distinguished service to the Air Force.



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

Originally from Gary, Ind., Sgt. Anderson began his Air Force career in 1985 as a heavy equipment operator. He performed with the Air Force's "Tops In Blue" in 1987 and 1989, and he has served in the Heartland of America Band, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., and the United States Air Forces Europe Band, Sembach Air Base, Germany. He also served as a Military Training Instructor for the Drum and Bugle Corps at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. 

Thanks to our Ensemble News contributors: Master Sgts. Julianna Arnold, Regina Coonrod, Ryan Dolan, Dennis Hoffman and Blake Waters; and Tech. Sgts. Doug Morgan, Brian Stiles and Luke Wedge.

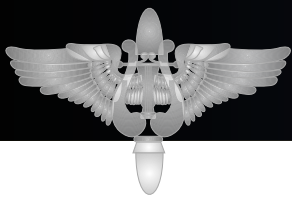


In Memoriam

Retired Master Sgt. Edward Joseph Zeman, 88, a trombonist with the U.S. Air Force Band during its earliest days, died Sept. 4 in San Diego.

A professional musician in his native Baltimore during the 1930s, Sgt. Zeman served in the Army Air Forces during World War II. He joined the Army Air Forces Band immediately after the war and stayed in the band when the Air Force was formed in 1947. He retired in 1964 and became a junior high school band director in Maryland. He also taught privately and continued to perform.

The Air Force Band extends its condolences to Sgt. Zeman's family.



Coming Up

When and Where to Hear The Air Force Band

Air Force Memorial Events

The new Air Force Memorial will be dedicated **Oct. 14**. An Open House begins at 9 a.m. and continues throughout the day; the Dedication Ceremony begins at 1:30 p.m. The Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, the Ceremonial Brass, Max Impact and the Diplomats will be on hand for several of the events. The Air Force Memorial is located directly across from the Pentagon in Arlington, Va. For information about specific events, as well as parking and seating information, please visit www.airforcememorial.org.

The Concert Band & Singing Sergeants at Strathmore

Celebrating the Air Force's 60th Anniversary
Monday, Nov. 6, 8 p.m., with guest emcee Paul Berry. The program will include "Aerial Fantasy," written for The Air Force Band by local composer Michael Mogensen. The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, Md. For ticket and parking information visit www.strathmore.org or call the Strathmore ticket office, 301-581-5100.

Chamber Players Series

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 3 p.m. Music for chamber orchestra, featuring members of the Ceremonial Brass and Concert Band, conducted by Tech. Sgt. Joseph Bello. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, Va.

Thursday, Oct. 5, 8 p.m. An evening of music for woodwind quintet, featuring members of the Concert Band. Harmony Hall Regional Center, John Addison Concert Hall, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Md.

Saturday, Oct. 7, 1:30 p.m. The Air Force Brass Quintet. Anderson House Museum, 2118 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.

Thursday, Oct. 12, 8 p.m. Music for violin and clarinet quintet, featuring members of the Strings with Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Dashnaw. Harmony Hall Regional Center, John Addison Concert Hall, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Md.

Friday, Oct. 20, 8 p.m. The Air Force Tuba-Euphonium Quartet. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Va.

Friday, Oct. 27, 8 p.m. Music for string quartet, featuring members of The Air Force Strings. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Va.

Sunday, Oct. 29, 4 p.m. Music for strings, featuring Master Sgt. Bill Hones and Tech. Sgts. Will Hurd, Luke Wedge, and Nathan Wisniewski. The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St, Alexandria, Va.

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 4 p.m. Air Force Band at Your Library Series, featuring members of the Air Force Strings. Washington Highlands Neighborhood Library, 115 Atlantic Street, S.W. at South Capitol Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.

Friday, Nov. 3, 8 p.m. Music for brass quintet, featuring members of the Ceremonial Brass. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Va.

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 4 p.m. Air Force Band at Your Library Series, featuring members of the Concert Band. Juanita Thornton/Shepherd Park Library, 7420 Georgia Avenue, NW at Geranium Street, Washington, D.C.

Thursday, Nov. 16, 8 p.m. An evening of violin music, featuring Master Sgt. Greg Pinney. Harmony Hall Regional Center, John Addison Concert Hall, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Md.

Friday, Nov. 17, 8 p.m. Music for trumpet and clarinet, featuring Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Wilson and Tech. Sgt. Darrin Thiriot. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Va.

Friday, Dec. 8, 8 p.m. The Air Force Woodwind Quintet. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Va.

Saturday, Dec. 9, 1:30 p.m. Vocal music of the Emyrean, featuring members of the Singing Sergeants. Anderson House Museum, 2118 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, D.C.

Jazz Heritage Series

Featuring the Airmen of Note & Special Guests
See story, page 1.

That Holiday Sparkle!

Featuring the Concert Band & Singing Sergeants, the Symphony Orchestra and Max Impact
See story, page 1.

Concert Band & Singing Sergeants

On Tour in Illinois and Iowa

Thursday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. Northwestern University/Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, Ill.

Friday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. Marengo Community High School, 110 Franks Rd, Marengo, Ill.

Saturday, Oct. 21, 1 p.m. College of DuPage/McAninch Arts Center, 425 Fawell Blvd, Glen Ellyn, Ill.

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2 p.m. Forestview Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebbert Rd, Arlington Heights, Ill.

Monday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m. Metamora High School, 101 West Madison, Metamora, Ill.

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 8 p.m. Augustana College/Centennial Hall, 639 38th Street, Rock Island, Ill.

Thursday, Oct. 26, 8 p.m. Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Saturday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. Ames Middle School Auditorium, 3915 Mortensen Road, Ames, Iowa.

Sunday, Oct. 29, 2 p.m. Johnston Middle School Auditorium, 6207 Northwest 62nd Ave, Johnson, Iowa.

Monday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. Linn-Mar High School, 3111 North Tenth Street, Marion, Iowa.

For ticket information at individual tour venues, please visit USAFband.com.

All concert information is subject to change. For the most up-to-date details, please visit our Web site or call our 24-hour Concert Line, 202-767-5658.

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."

Alumni Spotlight

By Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Harry Gleeson

Take a large dose of determination, mix it with great natural talent and ability, add one very influential and effective teacher along the way, plus the support and nurturing offered during 30 years in Air Force music, and you have the musical career of Ray Maddox all wrapped up.

"I feel truly blessed to have had a career in music in the Air Force Band program, especially having come from such humble beginnings," says Maddox, who now lives in Severn, Md. The schools he attended on Maryland's Eastern Shore had no band programs. Even piano lessons left something to be desired: "I simply learned to play the piano somewhat, but was never taught scales, arpeggios and theory."

Nonetheless, he enrolled in the music school at Howard University in 1956.

"I was in total shock when I heard the other kids taking their placement exams as I waited my turn," he says. "I don't remember what they put me through, but I'm sure it was brief."

All his classes that first semester were remedial, but Ray loved it: "I finally felt like I was really learning something."

While Maddox was at Howard, a few of his classmates played jazz, and he became "totally smitten by this unfamiliar art form." He had already bought a saxophone before entering Howard, and was teaching himself to play it. He recalls playing the sax in a practice room next door to where a piano lesson was in progress: "Ms. Nickerson came out of her room and wanted to know, 'What is this noise I hear?' And she forbade me to play it in the building again!"

Ray left Howard after two years because there was no jazz in the curriculum. He joined the Air Force in 1958 and was slated for a career in administration. But while he was in Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base, he and a few

fellow trainees successfully auditioned for band slots. He spent his first four years with the 573rd Air Force Band at Hamilton Air Force Base, California.

"The [band] career field must have really needed bodies during that time," Maddox says modestly. "Potential was the order of the day. Luck, hard work and a good attitude got me through that first hitch. I should add that fear played a big role also, because those were awfully intimidating times."

In his second enlistment Ray attended the Air Force Bandsman School at Bolling AFB in Washington, D.C. He credits the school with changing his life. More specifically, he credits Al Bader, who at the time was a senior master sergeant and taught reeds at the Bandsman School. Bader

retired in the mid-70s as a major, having served as assistant conductor of The Air Force Band.


At the Bandsman School, Bader gave Maddox his first lessons on saxophone and clarinet. Maddox also took classes in conducting, arranging and improvisation.

The Air Force's music school worked wonders for Ray: "When I left there, my confidence had sky-rocketed."

After graduating from the Bandsman School, Maddox served 20 years

in Air Force bands throughout the United States and in Europe. Along the way, in addition to performing as a musician Ray became known for his administrative abilities. In 1984 he returned to Bolling and wound up his 30-year career as director of personnel for The U.S. Air Force Band.

Ray now works for the U.S. Postal Service, and he still gigs on bass. In August his combo played for the opening night reception at the Air Force Musicians Association reunion in Rosslyn, Va.

He says his playing proves he is "still doing young men's stuff. Yes, I am truly blessed." 



Ray Maddox in Basic Training, 1958, and in 2006. He spent his entire 30-year career with Air Force bands.

MISSION

The mission of The United States Air Force Band is to deliver world-class musical products that inspire emotions, create positive impressions and communicate information congruent with Air Force objectives for the defense of the United States of America.

Cadenza

Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker,
Commander and Music Director

Chief Master Sergeant Elizabeth
Campeau, *Director of Marketing
and Outreach*

Master Sergeant Robert Thurston,
Editor in Chief

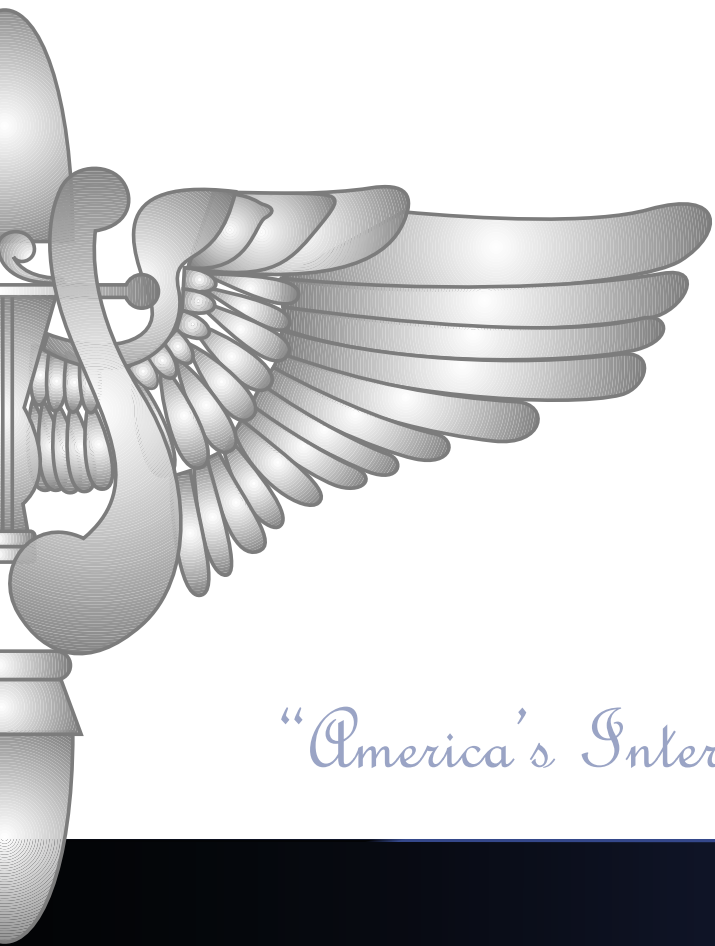
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“America’s International Musical Ambassadors”



AMERICA'S AIR FORCE
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