



Major Frank Grzych Retires

By Master Sgt. Bob Thurston



Major Grzych during the 2005 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Major Frank Grzych, Squadron Section Commander of the United States Air Force Band since 1995, has announced his decision to retire after 23 years of distinguished service.

Maj. Grzych spent nine years teaching in Illinois public schools before being commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force in 1982. His first assignment was as deputy commander and assistant conductor of the Air Force Band of Flight at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

In subsequent assignments, he served as commander and conductor of four Air Force regional bands: the Band of the Golden Gate, Travis AFB, Calif.; the Band of the Golden West, March AFB, Calif.; the Band of the Gulf Coast, Keesler AFB, Miss.; and the Band of Mid-America, Scott AFB, Ill. He also served as deputy commander and associate conductor for the Band of the United States Air Forces in Europe, Einsiedlerhof Air Station, Germany.

To Maj. Grzych, travel has been a highlight of his career. "I've had a chance to live across the United States and in Europe," he said. "I've seen things that I never thought I'd see – [Moscow's] Red Square, the Pyramids of Giza, Stonehenge. I've cruised down the Danube and eaten baklava in Athens."

Maj. Grzych says he has no immediate plans, other than spending time with his family. "I have been very

(See *Frank Grzych* on page 6)

Fireworks and Mistletoe

Summer concerts celebrate Fourth of July and "Christmas in August"

By Master Sgt. Bob Thurston

It's summertime, and for The United States Air Force Band, that means not only the Fourth of July, but also "Christmas in August."

The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants will be at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum for the Fourth of July. The concert starts at 6 p.m. David Ginder, on-air personality from WETA 90.9 FM, will act as emcee. Music will range from popular band classics to traditional patriotic fare in a program that will also incorporate readings from the words of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

The Airmen of Note will also perform a July Fourth noontime concert at the Air and Space Museum's companion facility, the Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia.

Aug. 26 will mark The Air Force Band's 30th annual "Christmas in August." For the first time in four years, this free concert returns to the Sylvan Theatre on the grounds of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. The show begins at 8 p.m.

This year's program is "A Holiday Tapestry," featuring the Concert Band and Singing Sergeants in a colorful and varied celebration of the season. In addition to traditional Christmas carols and holiday favorites like *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, the program includes a setting of the immortal *'Twas the Night Before*



Members of The Air Force Band's trumpet section perform during 2004 Fourth of July concert at the Air and Space Museum.

(See *Fireworks* on page 6)

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

An era in The United States Air Force Band is coming to a close this summer. It is with pride, encouragement and no small amount of regret that I announce the retirement of Maj. Frank J. Grzych II, squadron section commander of the United States Air Force Band.

Frank has reached the Band in almost every way possible. From his tremendous musical abilities to his financial savvy, he leaves an indelible positive legacy with the men and women of this organization that will be felt for a very long time to come. His brilliant career has spanned our country and the globe. He has participated in presidential inaugurations, state funerals, memorial dedications and international events galore. He has proudly portrayed the absolute dedication and professionalism of an Air Force Bandsman since 1982, inspiring countless men and women who have followed him.

As Frank, Suzanne and Jonathan embark on a new chapter in their life together, we wish them the very best and godspeed. Frank, you and your family will always have a place in our hearts, our minds and our hallways! I could think of no more fitting tribute to Frank than the words of those who have served under him throughout his distinguished career:

“Major Grzych is one of the easiest leaders to work for – and with, because he takes each challenge in stride. He has contributed clear thoughts and historical perspective to every budget, leadership and facility issue. The Air Force Band is richer for his considerable efforts. He’s a pleasure to perform with because he approaches each opportunity on the podium with anticipation and sheer joy. I will miss his smiles, golf stories and genuine caring for each and every one of us.”

“Major Grzych, on the coldest days of winter and rainiest of days of spring, your presence has always parted the clouds and brought sunshine to the ceremonial mission. You will be sorely missed.”

“Major Grzych is one of the most caring and well-respected leaders I know.”

“To know his golf game is to know the major: down the middle of the fairway every time.”

“We will miss you as one of the most generous, heartwarming, kind and loving musicians we have ever known. Your unwavering support of our music, our mission, and most especially the people in our group, is a shining model for us to aspire to. Parallel to this is our thanks and admiration for your lifesaving skills in the administration of our squadron. Your ability to make common sense decisions and keep issues moving has helped us fly a little smoother during the past nine years. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family—always.”

“It has been a true blessing serving with Major Frank Grzych. He has always been a wonderful example of both fine musician and gentleman officer. Among the numerous things I know we will miss about Major Grzych is his genuine love and care for people. His great spirit of kindness and enthusiasm for life and all it has to offer has been inspiring. Major ‘G’ is a wonderfully generous and gentle man, who loves his wife Suzanne and son Jonathan very deeply, and yet he still had room in his big heart to share that love with us. We wish him fair weather, fond memories, great days of golf and much laughter. We salute you, Sir!”

And so do I salute you, Frank. You’ve been an extraordinary friend and great help to me over the past three years. So let me end, then, by adding my assurances of the high esteem and attachment with which I have had the distinct honor to be, Sir, your loyal friend and colleague.

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.”

Jazz Heritage Series Moves to Lisner

The Jazz Heritage Series, one of The Air Force Band's signature performance events, has a brand new permanent home. The series, with free concerts scheduled for Sept. 10, Oct. 8 and Nov. 12, will be held in the 1,500-seat Lisner Auditorium on the campus of George Washington University.

Located at 21st and H Streets, NW, Lisner is 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.

Since 1990, the Jazz Heritage Series has featured internationally acclaimed musicians in performance with The Air Force Band's premier jazz ensemble, 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' guest 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.

Guest performers for this year's Jazz Heritage Series will be announced in the next issue of Cadenza.



TSgt Paige Wroble with legendary bassist Ron Carter during the 2004 Jazz Heritage Series.

Clinician's Corner

In this issue, we are proud to introduce two new features: Clinician's Corner and Solo Chair. In Clinician's Corner, our members will share the expertise they've gained from years of experience as professional performers and teachers. In Solo Chair (page 5), you'll meet current members of The Air Force Band – you may be surprised at some of the things you learn about them! We hope you'll find these features enlightening and useful. School music directors are encouraged to share this page with their students, either by copying and distributing freely, or posting on the bulletin board.

Charting the Course for a Successful Marching Season

By Master Sgt. Kent Baker
Asst. Drum Major, Ceremonial Training Coordinator
The United States Air Force Ceremonial Brass

As marching band season approaches, it probably wouldn't hurt to remember a few simple things that will help to preserve the well-being and safety of everyone on the field. Success is not an accident; it is a planned event.

Rule number 1: Directors needn't do everything themselves. Many hands make light work. Consider hiring a percussion specialist to teach your drumline, or someone with color guard experience to teach your guard. You may even find these people in your building. Many teachers are former band students and might be willing to help. Maybe there are junior high or elementary educators with just the experience you're looking for. By having a staff, you care not only for your kids' well-being, but yours as well.

Rule number 2: Students have to take responsibility for making the show a success. This means practice, memorize and develop your skills, whether you march, spin, drum or conduct.

Rule number 3: It's all about attitude. The best marching bands understand our nation's motto, "E Pluribus Unum" – *from many, one*. We give up our singularity to become one of the many. The attitude you bring to the field is the single most important item to take to camp. If you meet a new student, show them a positive attitude and help them feel welcome. Pretty soon everyone will be working together, helping each other through the tough times.

Here are some other simple hints for surviving band season:

Stretch before rehearsal. If the band does not do this as a group, get your section together a few minutes before each rehearsal.

**Stay hydrated. Drink water, not soda.
Wear a hat for protection from the sun.**

Stay a step ahead of the schedule. Always know what is next and be aware of your responsibilities.



The United States Air Force Ceremonial Brass Percussion Section.

Remember that success is determined not by the numerical value or placement in a competition, but by your personal growth and your relationships with your fellow band members. And remember: **Have fun!**

Ensemble News

Air Force Strings

In May the Air Force Strings joined with members from the **Concert Band** to perform as **The Air Force Chamber Orchestra** under the direction of **Maj. Frank Gryzch**. It was the Squadron Section Commander's final performance with the Strings. We will miss you, Major, and we wish you the best!

Our string quartets have been busy this summer. Highlights include a performance for the Supreme Court Historical Society; a concert presented to a NATO medical conference in Bethesda, Maryland; and a performance for the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board in Irvine, California.

Ceremonial Brass

The Ceremonial Brass is well into a busy summer of engagements throughout the National Capital Region. One of our most important duties

is to represent the excellence of the American military to world leaders. In this capacity, we participated in the welcoming ceremony for Afghan president Hamid Karzai on his arrival to Washington in May. We also had the honor of supporting Secretary of Defense

Donald Rumsfeld at the Joint Forces Open House at Andrews Air Force Base. Here at Bolling AFB, the Brass took part in the 11th Operations Group change-of-command ceremony on the Ceremonial Lawn in May. The Air Force Band said farewell to **Col. Doug Lengenfelder** and his family and welcomed the new commander, **Col. Richard Perry**, to Bolling.



The Ceremonial Brass' **MSgt Jari Villanueva** performs Taps at Arlington National Cemetery.

Concert Band

The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants are excited to be part of the Air Force Band's major summer musical events – the Fourth of July celebration and "Christmas in August." See the front page of this issue of Cadenza for details.

The Concert Band has been out and about lately in many different capacities. In May, the Band provided music for the Memorial Day service at Arlington National Cemetery. The Saxophone Quartet played at the farewell banquet for **Col. Doug Lengenfelder**, the outgoing commander of the 11th Operations Group. Also, a clarinet quartet played for National Public Service Recognition Week on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

Cellist **Tech. Sgt. Ron Gardiner** will separate from the Air Force this month, after four years of dedicated service. Best wishes to you and your family.

Our June 24 concert marked Squadron Section Commander **Maj. Frank Gryzch's** last performance with the Concert Band. Congratulations, Major! We wish you the best in your retirement.

Airmen of Note

It's going to be a busy summer for the Airmen of Note. We'll be at the Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va., on the Fourth of July, and will have additional performances at the Air and Space

Museum in Washington, D.C. If you're in the New York or Connecticut area, look for us on tour as we are scheduled to headline at the prestigious Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz.

In May we had the opportunity to entertain our fellow Airmen at McChord AFB, Wash., during a tour of the Pacific Northwest. We also performed several concerts and clinics at high schools and universities in Washington and Oregon.

We are proud to announce the return of tenor saxophonist **Senior Master Sgt. Saul Miller** to the Note's saxophone section after an extended leave. Sgt. Miller rejoined us in May, fueling the band and our audiences once again with his dynamic energy and solo artistry. We give sincere thanks to **Master Sgt. David Stump**, who returns to the Concert Band after serving during Sgt. Miller's absence. Sgt. Stump's prowess on tenor sax and clarinet, along with his work ethic, have been vital to the continuing success of the Note.



MSgt David Stump on tour with the Airmen of Note.

High Flight

With summer in full swing, High Flight is performing throughout the National Capital Region, bringing the sounds of George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Duke Ellington to our fans. Look for us in July in Maryland, at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, and in Washington, D.C., at the Sylvan Theatre and the Air and Space Museum.

In June our bassist/leader, **Master Sgt. Chris Kosky**, was a featured speaker at the International Society of Bassists convention in Kalamazoo, Mich. In her lecture, "Spice Up Your Practice Time," she offered techniques, tips and musical exercises for increasing facility and stimulating creativity. About 900 bass players from 28 countries attended this convention.

Max Impact

Max Impact is living up to its name and making an impact on the National Capital Region. In June we performed at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum on the National Mall and at Montgomery Village in Maryland.

Vocalist **Tech. Sgt. Regina Coonrod** performed on national television on Memorial Day, singing for the Nationals vs. Atlanta Braves game at RFK Stadium. She sang the national anthem before the game and *God Bless America* during the seventh-inning stretch.

Max Impact bids a warm farewell to our music director and guitarist, **Tech. Sgt. Steve Wilson**, who is returning to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Steve also performed with the Concert Band and High Flight while he was here. Steve, we will miss you and your marvelous talents. Best wishes to you and your family in sunny San Antonio!

Silver Wings

Silver Wings has taken flight! We've been all over the National Capital Region these past two months, and we've got a busy summer in the works.



Silver Wings pianist MSgt Mitch Morton with drummer TSgt Robert Smith.

We were honored to perform twice in May for Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. John Jumper. At the first show, Gen. Jumper was hosting several diplomats visiting from Israel. The second occasion was for some 100 visiting North Carolina delegates. We opened with *Carolina on my Mind* and closed with *Heads Carolina, Tails California*.

Hundreds of fans had a great time June 1 as we opened The Air Force Band's Summer Concert Series. We'll be back at the Air and Space Museum on July 6, and at the Sylvan Theatre July 8. We hope to see y'all around!

Singing Sergeants

The Singing Sergeants will perform with the Concert Band as part of the Summer Concert Series in July and August at the Air and Space Museum and at the Sylvan Theatre. We hope to see you there!

Our own Master Sgt. Ryan Dolan was featured in the May issue of *Classical Singer* magazine in an article on military choruses. We were well represented by his thoughtful eloquence. Thank you, Ryan!

The Singing Sergeants recently had the opportunity to sing for President and Mrs. Bush during a special performance at Ford's Theatre June 12. The concert, "An American Celebration," featured international celebrities Jeff Foxworthy, Josh Gracin, Denyce Graves

and Hillary Duff, to name just a few. Additionally, the Singers were augmented by vocalists from High Flight, Silver Wings and Max Impact; there were even a couple of former Singing Sergeants in the ranks for this special presentation. The performance will air on ABC-TV July Fourth; it will also be broadcast to approximately 850,000 troops.

Around the Squadron

The Air Force Band bids farewell to Senior Master Sgt. Bobbie L. McCleary Coonin, who is retiring after 27 years of devoted service.

Bobbie was a featured vocalist for 15 years, first with the Airmen of Note, then with the Diplomats combo. She may be best remembered for her renditions of big band favorites from the Glenn Miller songbook. She was a soloist for the recreated Glenn Miller Army Air Force Orchestra that originated in 1995 and toured throughout the United States and Europe. Bobbie closed out her career with The Air Force Band as a beloved member of the Operations staff. We salute Senior Master Sgt. Bobbie Coonin as she begins her new life as a retired Air Force Band legend!



We bid farewell to SMSgt Bobbie Coonin McCleary

Thanks to our Ensemble News contributors: Chief Master Sgt. Richard Pearson, Senior Master Sgt. Angela Burns, Master Sgt. Chris Kosky and Tech. Sgts. Julianna Arnold, Jeff Castle, Regina Coonrod, Doug Morgan, Eric Sullivan and Luke Wedge.

Solo Chair

A Few Minutes With ...

Master Sgt. Eric Sabatino, Principal Harpist, U.S. Air Force Concert Band

Hometown: New York City

Education: Manhattan School of Music

Joined the Air Force: August 18, 1994

What did you do before you joined the Air Force?

I went to college, freelanced as a harpist, taught harp at the Manhattan School of Music prep division. I also worked for a rush-courier business in New York City – I delivered packages by truck, within 90 minutes, all over the city. I dealt with people from every corner of the world and every walk of life.

What do you enjoy most about being in the military?

I like the medical benefits, especially the level of care for me and for my family. Nothing else can hold a candle to it.

What do you enjoy most about being in The Air Force Band?

I get to work in a variety of musical situations – whatever they throw at me, I can handle it. I'm not stuck in a musical rut. I work every day with musicians who dedicate their personal skills and abilities, come together, and become a powerful musical force of influence. We have no boundaries – we can meet any musical challenge.

What do you do in your free time? I teach harp; work on cars; take care of my dogs, horses, chickens and ducks; ride motorcycles; go horseback riding with my wife; go target shooting. I'm also learning how to farm and am working toward a master's degree in music.

What do you plan to do after leaving the military? I'd like to teach harp full-time at a college or university and freelance.

What's in your CD collection? Everything – Stravinsky, Prince, Billie Holliday, Maceo Parker, Howlin' Wolf and all kinds of world music.

What's in your DVD collection? Lots of old movies, especially film noir. The classics have the greatest soundtracks.



MSgt Eric Sabatino has been a harpist with The Air Force Band since 1994.

July

- 3 High Flight, 7 p.m. Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, Md.
- 4 Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, Time TBA. Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence S.W., Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro stations: L'Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian.
- 4 Airmen of Note, 12: 00 p.m. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Highway, Chantilly, Va.
- 6 Silver Wings, Noon. Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence S.W., Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro stations: L'Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian.
- 8 High Flight, 7:30 p.m. Mason Park, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Va. 22308 (703) 799-6100.
- 8 Silver Wings, 8 p.m. Sylvan Theatre, Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C.
- 13 Airmen of Note on Tour, 6:30 p.m. Dobbs Ferry Concert Pavilion, P.O. Box 172, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.
- 13 High Flight, Noon. Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence S.W., Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro stations: L'Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian.
- 14 Airmen of Note on Tour, 7:30 p.m. Newtown High School, 12 Berkshire Road, Sandy Hook, Conn.
- 15 Airmen of Note on Tour, 7:30 p.m. Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz Main Stage, Bushnell Park, Hartford, Conn.
- 16 Airmen of Note on Tour, 8 p.m. Warner Theatre, 68 Main Street, Torrington, Conn.
- 20 Air Force Strings, Noon. Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence S.W., Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro stations: L'Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian.
- 22 Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, 8 p.m. Sylvan Theatre, Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C.
- 27 Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, Noon. Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence S.W., Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro stations: L'Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian.
- 29 Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, 8 p.m. Sylvan Theatre, Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C.

August

- 3 Summer Concert Series, Noon. Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence S.W., Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro stations: L'Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian.
- 5 Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, 8 p.m. Sylvan Theatre, Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C.
- 10 Summer Concert Series, Noon. Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence S.W., Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro stations: L'Enfant Plaza, Smithsonian.
- 12 Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, 8 p.m. Sylvan Theatre, Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C.
- 17 High Flight, noon. Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence S.W., Washington, D.C.
- 19 Silver Wings, 8 p.m. Sylvan Theatre, Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C.
- 24 Silver Wings, noon. Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence S.W., Washington, D.C.
- 26 Christmas in August, 8 p.m. Sylvan Theatre, Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C.
- 27 Airmen of Note, 6 p.m. Hart's Amphitheater, 3203 Turkey Point Rd, North East, Md. In case of inclement weather, concert will be held at nearby Nilburn Stone Theater, located at Cecil Community College.
- 31 Airmen of Note, noon. Air and Space Museum, 7th and Independence S.W., Washington, D.C.

All performances are free and open to the public. Performance times and locations are subject to change. 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

Frank Grzych to Retire (Continued from page 1)

blessed," he said. "The biggest blessing has been the many, many fantastic people I've met and had the pleasure of making music with."

The United States Air Force Band proudly salutes Maj. Grzych for his exemplary leadership and wishes him and his family well as he moves on to civilian life. 🇺🇸

Fireworks (Continued from page 1)

Christmas. You'll also hear *Holiday Timekeepers*, an assortment of seasonal musical celebrations from other cultures.

And of course, there will be an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus and the traditional audience sing-along. The Band's commander and music director, Col. Dennis M. Layendecker, will conduct the performance.

Bring the family! For the latest information on this and other concerts by The United States Air Force Band, please call the 24-hour concert line at (202) 767-5658 or visit our homepage at www.usafband.com. 🇺🇸

Alumni Spotlight

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

Since the Airmen of Note's founding in 1950, the group's members have stood with the finest jazz musicians in America. Standing tall among those members is guitarist **Rick Whitehead**.

Although he retired from the Note in 1991, he certainly hasn't retired from playing. His schedule finds him gigging, either as a soloist or with his trio, throughout the National Capital Region.

A native of Florida, Rick joined the Note in 1969. During his 22-year career, the band toured virtually every state in the union and performed in the Far East and South America. They also played on TV's *The Tonight Show*, *Nashville Now* and *The Mike Douglas Show*. Rick also got to play with artists like Joe Williams, Sarah Vaughan, Sue Rainey, Johnny Smith, Roy Clark, Dianne Schurr, Billy Taylor, Frank Sinatra, Jr. and Charlie Byrd.

And what did he get from those two decades with America's leading jazz ensemble?

"I think I probably got everything out of it," says Rick. "It was the best, the worst, the funniest – it was everything. Sometimes it's hard to explain (to other musicians) what it's like being in a military band. The challenges are great, but the rewards are even greater."

Rick's career has continued to flourish in civilian mode. In February he performed at the East Coast Jazz Festival, and in July he's scheduled to appear at The Greater Hartford (Conn.) Festival of Jazz (whose playbill also includes the current Airmen of Note, as well as fellow Note alumnus Vaughn Nark).

During the summer of 2004, Rick and his trio – with drummer Barry Hart and John Previti on bass – performed in concert at the Washington National Cathedral and at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va. In the Washington area, they have performed at Blues Alley, Bohemian Caverns, IOTA Club, the Smithsonian Institution's IMAX Jazz Café and on the John F. Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. The trio also performs regularly in the Basin Street Lounge at the 219 Restaurant in Alexandria, Va.

Rick doesn't confine his work to performing, however. He teaches guitar at both the Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester and at his home studio in Gainesville, Va.

He also recorded three CDs in the past seven years – two with his trio and one solo outing. The first trio CD won the Washington Area Music Association WAMMIE Award in 1998 for best contemporary jazz album. His solo CD received

outstanding reviews from both the Washington Post and Just Jazz Guitar magazine. The trio received another WAMMIE nomination last year for best jazz ensemble.

Rick's exceptional musical range was captured by Eric Brace of the Washington Post when he wrote: "Whitehead's style encompasses the entire history of jazz guitar – the chordal solos of Joe Pass, the bop lines of Barney Kessel, the octaves of Wes Montgomery, the fluid melodicism of Tal Farlow, the rhythmic push of Django Reinhardt, even the controlled noise of more modern players. (He is) clearly comfortable working in any song form and style."

In 2004, Rick was a featured soloist with the Masterworks Jazz Orchestra at George Mason University, and also appeared as soloist with the Georgetown University Jazz Ensemble. And this past spring marked his second solo appearance as a part of the Corcoran Gallery's Armand Hammer Jazz Series, and he also appeared with the legendary Keter Betts at the Montpelier Jazz Series in Laurel, Md.

Rick Whitehead – a jazz artist who has everything, and who credits his 22-year career with the U.S. Air Force Airmen of Note with having given him "everything."



Rick Whitehead, former jazz guitarist, during his 22-year career with the Airmen of Note.

In Memoriam

Richard J. Alia-Bicoy, a member of The U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants from 1990 to 1994, died May 5 in Charlotte, N.C. He was 47.

He was born at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, but called Ewa Beach, Hawaii, home. He served briefly in the U.S. Army, leaving to pursue a career as a vocalist. He earned a performance degree in 1985 from Methodist College in Fayetteville, N.C., where he performed in many local productions. He then left for Honolulu, attending the University of Hawaii and singing with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra and the Hawaii Opera Theatre.

He joined the Singing Sergeants in 1990. After leaving the Air Force, he continued to work and perform in the Washington, D.C., area for several years. In 2000 he moved to Charlotte, where he and his sister Yolanda performed in a Polynesian-themed song-and-dance act, *Kanikapila*.

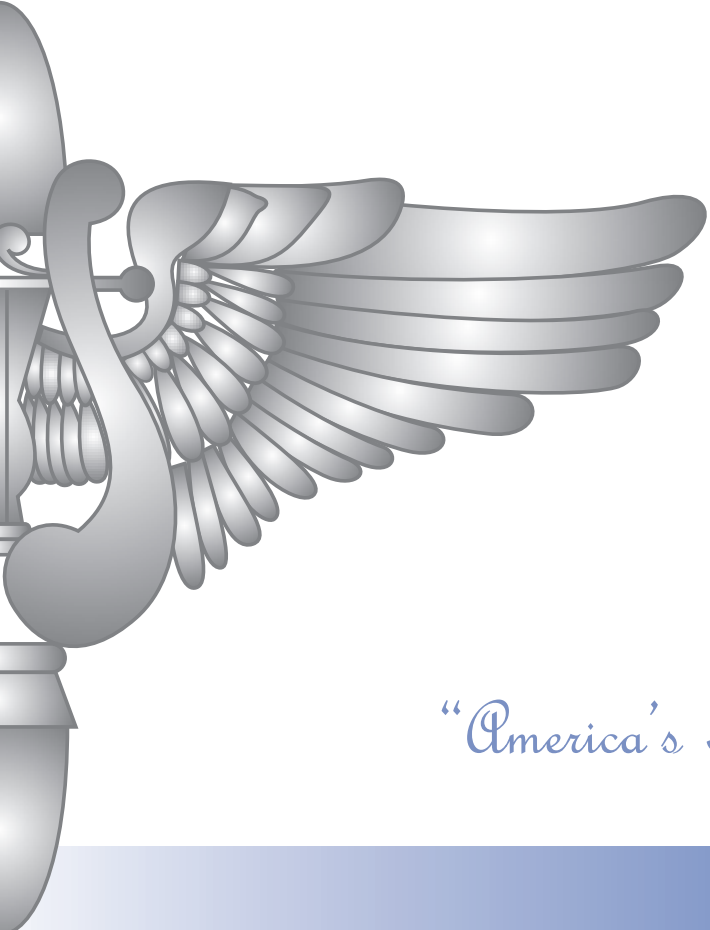
The United States Air Force Band offers its condolences to the family and friends of Sergeant Bicoy.

Cadenza

Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker ~ Commander and Music Director
Senior Master Sergeant Betsy Campeau ~ 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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