

## Air Force Band Sounds Off For Inaugural Events

By Master Sgt. Bob Thurston

Since the earliest presidential inaugurations, U.S. military bands have played a significant role helping our nation recognize and celebrate its democratically elected chief executive. In January, the men and women of The United States Air Force Band were proud to once again take part in this time-honored tradition – something they have done since President Truman’s inauguration in 1949.

“Presidential support is an integral part of our mission,” said Band commander and music director Col. Dennis Layendecker. “We were privileged to represent the thousands of professional Airmen in our Air Force as we acknowledged the continued leadership of our Commander-in-Chief.”

Nearly every member of the Band – from its performing ensembles to its support shops – worked together to ensure smooth execution of each inaugural performance, which included the internationally-televised parade along Pennsylvania Avenue.

For Tech. Sgt. Bradley Bennett, his participation also marked an Air Force and inaugural first. Sergeant Bennett, a tenor vocalist with the Singing Sergeants, was chosen by the Presidential Inaugural Committee to sing the national anthem at the U.S. Capitol during the swearing-in ceremony as President Bush *(continued on pages 6 and 7)*



Members of The United States Air Force Band march up Pennsylvania Avenue honoring President George Bush during the 2005 Inaugural Parade.

## Prepare For “Impact”

### New Group Gives Younger Airmen Maximum Bang for the Buck

By Master Sgt. Bob Thurston

Brace yourself for impact – Max Impact, that is. The United States Air Force Band has activated a new six-piece band catering to the musical tastes of the youngest members of the Air Force.



The Air Force Band’s newest group, Max Impact, will primarily target the youngest Air Force generation serving across the nation and overseas.

Max Impact will serve primarily as a small, rapidly deployable unit ready to boost troop morale abroad by bringing world-class entertainment and a taste of home to Airmen stationed around the world. The group will also perform around the nation for military functions and the general public.

Max Impact joins a slate of small ensembles that now covers the full spectrum of music from contemporary pop and top-40 to jazz to country to rock.

“Max Impact has been put together to reach the youngest Air Force generation,” said the group’s drummer and leader, Master Sgt. Vince Anderson. “Expect music from Alicia Keys, Ashlee Simpson, Simple Plan, Hoobastank, Usher and Gavin de Graw, just to name a few.”

“With this new group, we’ve greatly boosted our operational

*(continued on page 5)*

## Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Greetings from Washington, D.C.!

We hope your New Year is off to a great start. With the turn into 2005 we've stood up a new six member musical group called "Max Impact," a name we've resurrected from past missions. We've moved some folks around in order to stand up the group as most of the members have come from the Air Force's premiere show band, High Flight. As High Flight had been organized, we've asked two different missions from this group; first, to perform troop entertainment ... which they've successfully done on previous missions to the Balkans and the desert; and second, to perform as one of our primary protocol show groups in the nation's capital. Our folks have done a wonderful job serving these two missions. However, the nature of these missions has often proven as different as apples and oranges. As the war on terrorism continues we've needed another small group to send into the Air Expeditionary Force rotations to entertain our fellow airmen stationed around the world.

"Max Impact" is specifically designed to cater directly to the tastes of our youngest generation of Airmen. With this ready-to-deploy group, we've greatly boosted our operational capability to meet the Air Force Chief of Staff's number one mission for Air Force bands: troop morale and welfare. We expect to deliver senior leadership messages to our troops around the world through original music and lyrics in the Top40/pop/rock/R&B styles in which Max Impact will excel.

As to High Flight, that group will continue as a deployable group with a slightly smaller format - a High Flight "light" - to include, as its rhythm section, our current Diplomats trio augmented by a guitar player and two of the singers from our the previous High Flight group. They will specialize in an elegant "Top Hat and Gown" show-classics repertoire to meet the protocol needs of our Nation's capital. Furthermore, our Diplomats trio will continue providing the wonderful jazz format they've offered to the enjoyment of our listeners for years. Finally, we always have the option of combining Max Impact and High Flight as a larger group for special occasions and plan to do so. If this all seems a bit complex, it is ... but it underlines yet once again that flexibility remains the key to air power in all of its forms! I'm very proud of our folks for making it happen.

I also wish to commit a few words of congratulations to two young civilian musicians whose work we were very proud to present to our Washington audience in February. Kristen Vanderschaff is a wonderfully talented flutist from Red Rock High School in Texas and this year's winner of our annual Young Artist Competition. She performed with us at DAR Constitution Hall on February 27. Michael Mogensen is a young composer of highly promising talent. His composition *Sierra Dawn*, which we performed on our February 20 concert at DAR, was the winner of our biennial Col. Arnauld D. Gabriel Composition Contest. We are proud and honored to shine our spotlight on these talented young folks. We congratulate both of them and wish them the very best in their careers ahead.



On a final sad note, we all lost a legend to our nation and our music industry this past December with the passing of Dr. Frederick Fennell and this is my first opportunity to express a few thoughts publicly to his memory. One of the most wonderful times in my academic career was the eight weeks in Autumn 1980 when Dr. Fennell taught master classes in conducting at Northwestern University. I was one of approximately fifteen conducting students in the master's degree program at the time, and we were privileged to attend his lectures, rehearsals and programs. His energy, dedication, commitment and passionate musical work both in the classroom and on the podium was a revelation and inspiration to me. In my experience, he more than lived up to the terrific reputation he had as a great musician, respectfully demanding and energetic conductor, and profoundly important music educator. I also found him to be a wonderful man both at Northwestern and during the too few occasions I was privileged to meet him again at various conferences, and to watch him work as a guest conductor over the past 25 years. As so many of us were to witness over decades, Fred Fennell's focus on and off the podium was the service of music and musicians. Many of us at The United States Air Force Band were touched by his important influence at one point or another during our careers. We remember Fred Fennell both fondly and with great respect. He left our music industry, our nation and our world a magnificent musical legacy developed from his leadership, his consistent example, his dedication to music and musicians, and his commitment to education. We are all better because he lived and led. Words cannot sufficiently express our sadness, our indebtedness and our gratitude.

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."*

# Guest Artist Series Wraps Up

The U.S. Air Force Band concluded its 39th annual Guest Artist Series on February 27 with one of its most delightfully unusual acts ever – the Motown-flavored puppetry of the Crowtations. The longest-running act from New York-based puppeteers The Brewery Troupe, the Crowtations are four high-flying, smooth-sounding, soul-singing birds. Blending African-American history with contemporary culture, these feathery crooners enthralled kids of all ages at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

This year's Guest Artist Series also featured the multitalented Ben Vereen, internationally renowned concert pianist Leon Bates, and jazz saxophonist Eric Marienthal. In addition, The Air Force Band shone its spotlight on the winners of two important contests. The February 20 concert program featured the winning entry in the Col. Arnald D. Gabriel Composition Contest: *Sierra Dawn*, by Maryland resident Michael Mogensen. And the February 27 concert featured a performance by the winner of the Col. George S. Howard Young Artist Competition, flutist Kristen Vanderschaaf, a senior at Red Rock High School in Texas.

Another highlight of the series came on the February 6 concert, when renowned bassist Barry Green performed as soloist for Jon Deak's *Jack and the Beanstalk*, a musical telling of the timeless fairy tale. Green, the author of two popular books on musicianship and the father of Air Force Concert Band percussionist Tech. Sgt. Adam Green, also spent a few days with the Band giving master classes and coaching ensembles.

The Air Force Band's popular Guest Artist Series is a time-honored tradition in the nation's capital. It was established in 1966 by the Band's conductor emeritus Col. Arnald D. Gabriel to highlight professional as well as amateur talent from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. It has evolved over the years to feature entertainers of national and international renown. More than 200 prominent artists have donated their time and talent to appear with The Air Force Band offering these free concerts to the community. 🎻



Popular entertainer Ben Vereen brings the audience to its feet during the first of four Guest Artist Series concerts.

## Air Force Band Competition Winners Shine During Guest Artist Series

by Tech. Sgt. Rochelle Oedemann and Master Sgt. Bob Thurston

The U.S. Air Force Band turned its spotlight in February on the winners of two important contests: the Col. George S. Howard Young Artist Competition and the Col. Arnald D. Gabriel Composition Contest.

The winner of the Young Artist Competition was flutist Kristen Vanderschaaf, a senior at Round Rock High School in Texas. She joined the Concert Band for its February 27 Guest Artist Series concert, performing a transcription of the finale of Carl Reinecke's *Concerto for Flute and Orchestra, Op. 283*.

When Kristen's band director told her about The Air Force Band's annual Young Artist Competition, she decided "to try out for fun and see how I would do." Her decision paid off: Kristen was chosen from about 40 first-round entrants and five finalists.

Kristen has always excelled as a flutist, consistently scoring top ratings in solo contests, winning first chair in regional bands and orchestras, and holding the Austin Youth Orchestra's principal seat for five years. She plans to major in music at Indiana University, hoping to further her dream of performing in studio orchestras for movie soundtracks.

Asked if she would ever consider a career in a military band, Kristen said she had never really thought about that, but was sure she "would have just as much fun doing that as well!"

The Band provided four days' travel and lodging in Washington, D.C. for Kristen and a chaperone. In addition to joining the Band for one rehearsal and the performance, Kristen planned to visit the Smithsonian Institution, monuments, and other area attractions.

This was the twelfth year for the Young Artist Competition, whose candidates are selected from across the country. First-round audition tapes are reviewed by a panel of judges who are members of the Concert Band. Qualified finalists are then invited to Washington D.C. to audition in person. The winner performs as a soloist with The Air Force Concert Band during the annual Guest Artist Series.

The winning entry in the biennial Col. Arnald D. Gabriel composition contest was Maryland native Michael Mogensen's *Sierra Dawn*. The piece was chosen from sixteen entries submitted by composers from around the country, and was performed February 20 at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. as part of the Band's Guest Artist Series.

Commissioned by the Washington County Board of Education in

(continued on page 5)



Flutist Kristen Vanderschaaf, winner of the Col. George S. Howard Young Artist Competition, performed Reinecke's *Concerto for Flute and Orchestra* during the February 27 Guest Artist Series concert.

# Ensemble News

## Max Impact

**M**ax Impact is the newest ensemble of the U.S. Air Force Band – a six-piece band on a musical mission geared toward the Air Force’s youngest members. We’ll specialize in pop, rock, top 40, R&B and dance tunes as we focus on troop morale of our deployed comrades. If you like Alicia Keys, Ashlee Simpson, Simple Plan, Hoobastank, Usher and Gavin de Graw, to name a few, you’ll enjoy our shows. We’re still building our repertoire, so prepare for “impact” when this powerhouse hits the streets!

Our leader and drummer is Master Sgt. Vince Anderson, a veteran of two Air Force regional bands. Vince is returning to the band career field after serving as a military training instructor at Lackland Air Force Base in sunny San Antonio, Texas, where he taught basic trainees in the Drum and Bugle Corps.

You will recognize the other members of Max Impact – they come from the Air Force’s premiere show band High Flight: Senior Master Sgt. Rob Henley on keyboards, Master Sgt. Ryan Carson and Tech. Sgt. Regina Coonrod on vocals, Tech. Sgt. Steve Wilson on guitar, and Tech. Sgt. Dave Foster on bass.

Max Impact made its debut in February at the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy graduation at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. We were joined on stage by the commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Gen. Robert “Doc” Foglesong.

Look for great things to come from this group of talented musicians!

## Silver Wings

**S**ilver Wings is flying high once again! With all members on board, we kicked off our first performance in December at the Bolling Officers’ Club for the Airmen’s holiday party. Following that, four of our members were involved in



SMSgt Angela Williams, the lead vocalist and NCOIC of Silver Wings.

inauguration events. All took pride in serving their country and representing the Air Force. With several performances on the horizon, Silver Wings continues to build its pop and country-western repertoire. In January and February we performed for the 11th Wing Annual awards banquets, honoring Bolling’s finest.

The group also auditioned several candidates for a male vocalist position in January. We’ll be making an announcement very soon! Our unit is finding it invigorating to

put together shows and grow musically with one another’s help. Silver Wings is working on creating its own unique “country” style and we are excited about sharing it with you this summer in our nation’s capital. Angela, Blake, Mitch, Matt and Robert promise our listeners a good ol’ time!

## High Flight

**W**ith the addition of Max Impact to the roster of Air Force Band ensembles, High Flight has made some changes to its lineup. We congratulate our band mates who have moved down the hall to start up Max Impact. Rob, Ryan, Regina, Steve, Dave – we wish you all the best!

We’ll still bring our listeners the best in pop and jazz standards, featuring veteran High Flight members Chief Master Sgt. Paul Eschliman and Tech. Sgt. Christin Foley on vocals, with Senior Master Sgt. Mike Pausic on guitar and vocals.

The new High Flight rhythm section should look familiar: It’s the Diplomats combo, consisting of bassist/group leader Master Sgt. Chris Kosky, Tech. Sgt. Dennis Hoffman on drums and Tech. Sgt. Jonathan McPherson on piano. The trio will continue to perform as the Diplomats, providing musical support for military protocol and social functions throughout the national capital region.

February found the members of High Flight augmenting the Concert Band in support of the Guest Artist Series concerts at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Master Sgt. Chris Kosky joined the Concert Band double-bass section to perform Jon Deak’s *Jack and the Beanstalk*, which featured guest double-bass soloist Barry Green. It was a special treat for Sgt. Kosky, who studied with Green at the University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music.

Chief Eschliman and Sgt. Foley also contributed to the Guest Artist Series as back-up vocalists for saxophonist Eric Marienthal.

## Concert Band

**T**he Concert Band is preparing for an exciting 18-day tour in April, taking us to Illinois, Kansas, Colorado, Nevada and California (check our calendar elsewhere in this issue for dates and locations or look for updates at [www.usafband.com](http://www.usafband.com)). In March, three chamber groups from the Concert Band will be touring the country to perform recitals, give clinics to high school and college music students, and hopefully inspire and recruit some future Air Force musicians.

The Concert Band was pulled in many different directions in January. The biggest event, of course, was the inaugural parade. The Concert Band augmented the Ceremonial Brass for this event, and although temperatures were a bit frigid, there was no rain or snow in sight, and the day went off without a hitch. Also, clarinet quartets from the



Colonel Layendecker and the Concert Band during the 2005 Artist Series at DAR Constitution Hall.

*Continued on page 8)*

**Competition Winners**, continued from page 3)

Mogensen's hometown of Hagerstown, Maryland, *Sierra Dawn* received its world-premiere performance at the historic Maryland Theatre in February 2003. The Sierra Nevada mountain range served as an inspiration for the piece, Mogensen says: "(It) aims to evoke emotions one might experience during a beautiful and elegant mountain sunrise."

Mogensen earned music degrees from James Madison University in Virginia and Ithaca College in New York. He has studied with renowned composers Robert W. Smith and Dana Wilson. He has a compact-disc recording of contemporary Christian and instrumental music to his credit, and he is frequently commissioned to compose original works for large ensembles and chamber groups. His compositions have been programmed throughout the United States and Canada.

The Col. Arnald Gabriel Composition Contest, named for the conductor emeritus of The United States Air Force Band, was established in 1993 to encourage new works for symphonic band by younger composers. The winning composer receives a professional-quality recording by the Concert Band, plus a \$5,000 follow-on commission for an additional work. 🎧



Michael Mogensen and Col. Layendecker work together during a rehearsal of the work *Sierra Dawn*, which was performed during the Feb. 20 Guest Artist Series at D.A.R. Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

**Max Impact**, continued from cover)

capabilities," according to Col. Dennis Layendecker, the Band's commander and music director. "We expect to deliver senior leadership messages to our troops around the world through original music and lyrics in the Top40/pop/rock/R&B styles in which Max Impact will excel."

It's all part of a restructuring of smaller ensembles, Col. Layendecker said. Max Impact is comprised mostly of former members of the Air Force's premiere show band, High Flight. That group will continue with a slightly smaller lineup that includes as its rhythm section the Diplomats trio – which will also continue performing its repertoire of jazz standards.

All of the smaller groups – including the country/pop quintet Silver Wings – exist to provide musical support for military protocol and social functions throughout the national capital region.

Max Impact debuted in February at the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy graduation ceremony at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. 🎧



TSgt Regina Coonrod, MSgt Vince Anderson (drums), MSgt David Foster and TSgt Steve Wilson rehearse for Max Impact's first performance. Members not shown include TSgt Ryan Carson, MSgt Rob Henley and MSgt Dave Graves.

## Are you moving?

If so, let us know. One of our big challenges is to keep our database current. You can help us! We will make sure your address is updated in our system, so Cadenza can follow you to your new home. Drop a line to:

The USAF Band/BAP, 201 McChord Street, Bolling AFB, DC  
20032-0202

You may also send e-mail to: [Dennis.Hoffmann@bolling.af.mil](mailto:Dennis.Hoffmann@bolling.af.mil)  
Please include both your old and new addresses. Thanks for your help!

## PERSONNEL MATTERS

### Arrivals

1LT Michaela Herring, Flight Commander

### Departures

SMSgt Bobbie McCleary Coonin,  
Superintendent of Scheduling Administration  
SMSgt Vickie Marshall, Tour Manager  
MSgt Jim Gaglione, Commander's Support Staff  
TSgt Ralph Sordyl, Tech Support



## *The United States Air Force Band in support of the 55th Presidential Inauguration*



took the oath of office.

In early January, after the Band received word of his selection, Bennett was invited to participate in a press conference with Senator Trent Lott, chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, as the day's events were first announced to the media.

"This will be the first time in history that the Air Force has had such a participating role at the inauguration," said Lott. "We're excited (he) will be participating. (This) has got to be one of the most memorable moments of the whole (event.)"

"It is a tremendous honor to be chosen for this," said Bennett. "I'm truly humbled to represent the Air Force in this way using the talent God gave me."

Earlier in the week, The Air Force Band's premier jazz ensemble, the Airmen of Note, helped kick off inaugural festivities by performing at "Saluting Those Who Serve," a star-studded gala honoring the military at MCI Center in downtown Washington, D.C.

"This was a thank you for active duty members," said Chief Master Sgt. Dudley Hinote, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Airmen of Note.

The "Note" was one of many performers including actor Kelsey Grammer and singers Darryl Worley and BeBe Winans who set the stage for the President's remarks thanking the troops.

"As I prepare to take the oath of office, I want you to know how grateful I am for your service and sacrifice, and how proud I am to be your Commander-in-Chief," said the President.

Perhaps for many American's the most anticipated event of the inauguration week was the traditional inaugural parade from the Capitol to the White House.

According to Chief Master Sgt. David Nokes, the Band's director of public affairs, "This year marks the fourteenth inaugural parade we have marched in since our formation in September 1941." (There was no parade in 1945, and the 1985 parade was cancelled due to cold weather.)



Long-time Band member and current band manager Chief Master Sgt. Jeanne Gartner marched this year in her eighth inaugural parade. This time though, she had the honor of marching as part of the Band's command staff at the front of the formation.

"It was especially meaningful for me to march with the Band during the parade this year," said Chief Gartner. "This was probably the last chance I will have to participate in a presidential inauguration and I was honored to help lead such a talented group of Airmen."

Joining Chief Gartner in the command staff, which was led by Col. Layendecker, were three Band officers, the first sergeant and drum major Chief Master Sgt. Ed Teleky.

"It was very exciting," said Teleky, who has now served twice as drum major in the inaugural parade. "We have such incredible musicians in this band, and it's always an honor to lead them, especially for something as important as the inauguration."

In total, the Band formation numbered 104 Airmen that were part of division four – the Air Force division.

No presidential inauguration would be complete without inaugural balls, and The Air Force Band played a role there as well with Ceremonial Brass performances at the Constitution Ball, held at the Washington Hilton, and the Democracy Ball at the Washington Convention Center.

Col. Layendecker led the ensemble performing four "Ruffles and Flourishes" and "Hail to the Chief," honoring the newly-sworn-in President, and "Hail Columbia" for the Vice President as they and their families made their entrance into the ballrooms.

"One of the primary tenets of our democracy is civilian control of the armed forces," Layendecker said. "Through our musical performances during the inaugural season we represented the thousands of dedicated men and women of the Air Force who are serving around the world with tremendous pride and commitment to this democratic heritage."

## Ensemble News, Continued from page 4)

Concert Band performed for the annual prayer breakfasts at Bolling Air Force Base and at the Pentagon. Earlier in the month, Capt. Matthew Reese conducted the Band in a performance at the National Air and Space Museum in downtown Washington, D.C.

Another January highlight was the premiere performance of *Dream*, written for euphonium and string quartet and featuring Concert Band euphoniumist Tech. Sgt. Danny Helseth. The piece was written by Master Sgt. Joseph Spaniola, composer/arranger for the U.S. Air Force Academy Band in Colorado, on a commission from Sgt. Helseth. The string quartet was comprised of Senior Master Sgt. Deborah Volker and Tech. Sgts. Mark Dorosheff and Bryce Bunner of the Air Force Strings, and Concert Band cellist Senior Master Sgt. Chris Moehlenkamp.

The *Dream* premiere was among the featured performances at the U.S. Army Band's annual Tuba/Euphonium Conference at Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia, in which several other Concert Band members took part. Master Sgt. Will Jones was the concert master of the Armed Forces Tuba Euphonium Ensemble, and Tech. Sgt. Brian Sands performed as a tuba soloist and also as a member of a tuba quartet.

February was filled with Guest Artist Series concerts featuring Ben Vereen, Leon Bates, Eric Marienthal and The Crowtations. Also, the Concert Band was visited by renowned author, clinician and bassist Barry Green. During his visit, he gave clinics to the Band and coached several of the band's chamber ensembles. He also performed with the Concert Band during the Guest Artist Series as bass soloist on Jon Deak's *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Individual Concert Band members also kept busy this month with recitals as part of the Band's Chamber Players Series. Recitals were performed by Senior Master Sgt. Chris Matten; Master Sgts. Curt Christensen, Erica Montgomery, Brian McCurdy and John Romano; Tech. Sgts. Danny Helseth, Kevin Darrow and Sandy Johnson; and one of the Band's brass quintets.

## Airmen of Note

In addition to performing in the Air Force Band's 2005 Guest Artist Series, the Airmen of Note spent the early spring traveling to Washington, D.C., area high schools and colleges, presenting Jazz Outreach Program clinics and master classes. Jazz Outreach, now in its eleventh year, gives the band an opportunity to invest in our nation's youth through mentoring and coaching school students in America's native art form, jazz music.

The Airmen of Note welcomes our newest addition, lead alto player Tech. Sgt. Lucas Munce. Lucas comes to us from the U.S. Air Force Academy Band in Colorado, where he played lead alto in the Falconaires. He is a graduate of Kansas State University where he earned, of all things, a geography degree. In addition to playing some great saxophone for us, we look forward to Lucas' geographic knowledge coming in handy when we get lost on our community relations tours.



TSgt Lucas Munce takes over as lead alto saxophone with The Airmen of Note.

## Air Force Strings

With another busy holiday season behind them, including two appearances at the vice-presidential mansion and one at the White House, the Strings began work in January preparing for performances in the traditional orchestral setting. Rehearsals began for the next performance of the Air Force Chamber Orchestra. The Strings' work in this fledgling group has been met with critical acclaim, and we look forward with great enthusiasm to the ensemble's development.

Four Strings members were privileged in January to perform in a memorial service for California Congressman



Members of The Strolling Strings performed at The White House for President and Mrs. Bush on December 6.

Robert Matsui, who died January 2. The service was held in Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol, and was broadcast on C-Span. Master Sgts. Sharon Bingham-Wolfolk and Vivian Podgajny and Tech. Sgts. Mari Uehara and Mark Helm represented the Air Force with pride and dignity.

## Ceremonial Brass



**A**fter marching in the inaugural parade, many members of the Ceremonial Brass continued performing into the late evening for two inaugural balls. Two smaller bands were bussed directly to the Washington Convention Center and the Washington Hilton Hotel to provide entertainment and to render honors for appearances by both President Bush and Vice-President Cheney. An estimated 20,000 people attended these celebrations.

With March comes another St. Patrick's Day Parade, and the Ceremonial Brass will once again be marching in this Washington tradition. As in years past, the Brass will lead the parade down Constitution Avenue. In April the Brass will entertain guests at the semi-annual White House Garden Tour. The Brass will perform marches and patriotic music as visitors are given tours of the White House grounds.

## Singing Sergeants



TSgt Brad Bennett is the first Air Force member to sing the national anthem at a presidential swearing-in ceremony.

**J**anuary was a fantastic month for the Singing Sergeants. Tech. Sgt. Bradley Bennett, our tenor section leader, made the entire group proud with his performance of the national anthem at the presidential inauguration ceremony. In addition, the group gave an outstanding and well-received a cappella performance at the White House for the President, Vice President, Secretary of Defense, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as other distinguished senior leaders. It was an exciting and unique opportunity for us to sing for

the President and Vice President together at the White House. Also, we performed at the annual prayer breakfast here at Bolling Air Force Base.

In February, we took part in all four Guest Artist Series concerts at DAR Constitution Hall. Many thanks to those who came out for these concerts – we hope you enjoyed the shows! Also, several members of the group gave a stellar chamber recital at Harmony Hall. The concert featured American music and gave many of our members the chance to show off their solo voices.

In March, the group



CMSgt Patricia Wolfe and MSgt Rob Harrelson were featured during the February 13, 2005 Guest Artist Series concert.

will be working hard in preparation for an extensive spring tour in April. This tour will take us all the way from St. Louis to Los Angeles, and many places in between. In addition, there will be another chamber recital March 10, again in Harmony Hall. Also, the Singing Sergeants will take part in the Easter sunrise service at Arlington National Cemetery for the first time in four years.

## Around the Squadron

**T**echnical Support bids a fond farewell to Tech. Sgt. Ralph Sordyl after five years of service to The Air Force Band. Ralph's no-compromise, can-do attitude went a long way toward keeping the Tech Support team on the cutting edge of the audio industry. He volunteered for three overseas deployments with the Band in support of Operation Desert Greetings and Operation Enduring Freedom, and provided top-notch support to Silver Wings and the Guest Artist Series. His energy, attention to detail, and joi de vivre will be sorely missed as he moves on to a sales position with Shure Microphones. Ralph, from the BAT team, best wishes!

*Contributors: Senior Master Sgts. Joe Jackson, Deb Volker & Angela Williams; Master Sgts. Vince Anderson, Michael Bosch, Rob Holtorff, Chris Kosky and Melinda Burts; Tech. Sgts. Matt Smith & Luke Wedge.*



We bid a fond farewell to the Technical support Team's Chief Audio Engineer.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.) Henry R. Uhland, who served as officer-in-charge of The Air Force Band Drum & Bugle Corps in the early 1960s, died Feb. 1 in Tacoma, Washington. He was 91. A native of Raymond, Washington, he enlisted in the Army in 1942 after attending the University of Washington and playing trumpet in concert and dance bands in Seattle, San Jose and Phoenix.**

**He became a warrant officer bandleader in 1955. Before coming to The Air Force Band, he was the commander and conductor of the 535th Air Force Band at Ernest Harmon Air Force Base, Newfoundland. He also served with the Air Force Academy Band, the 3rd Air Force Band (England) and various field bands in the United States. He retired from the Air Force in 1971.**

**The U.S. Air Force Band extends its condolences to CWO Uhland's family.**



Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Uhland

## MARCH

- 4 Chamber Players Series, 8 p.m. "Music for Brass Choir," featuring members of The U.S. Air Force Ceremonial Brass, conducted by Capt. Matthew Reese. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 10 Chamber Players Series, 8 p.m. "Music for Voice," featuring The Singing Sergeants vocal chamber choir. John Addison Concert Hall, Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland.
- 11 Chamber Players Series, 8 p.m. "Music for Trombone and Horn," featuring Master Sgt. Robert Mesite and Tech. Sgt. Michael Hampf. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 13 Chamber Players Series, 1:30 p.m. "Music for String Quartet," featuring members of The U.S. Air Force Strings. White House Visitor Center, 1450 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.
- 18 Chamber Players Series, 8 p.m. "Music for Tuba and Trumpet," featuring Chief Master Sgt. William Porter and Senior Master Sgt. Clarence Mitchell. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.

## APRIL

- 1 Chamber Player Series, 8 p.m. "Music for Trumpet and Tuba," featuring Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Wilson and Tech. Sgt. Brian Sands. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 6 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants Spring Tour, Time TBA. Prairie Capital Convention Center, Springfield, Illinois.
- 7 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants Spring Tour, 7:30 p.m. Quincy Junior High School-Morrison Theater, Quincy, Illinois.
- 8 Chamber Players Series, 8 p.m. "Music for Tuba," featuring Master Sgt. Christopher Quade. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 8 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants Spring Tour, Time TBA. Midland Theater, Kansas City, Missouri.
- 9 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants Spring Tour, 7:30 p.m. Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium, Pittsburg, Kansas.
- 10 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants Spring Tour, 7 p.m. Wichita East High School Auditorium, Wichita, Kansas.
- 11 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants Spring Tour, 8 p.m. Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center, Hays, Kansas.
- 12 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants Spring Tour, 7:30 p.m. Colby Community Building, Colby, Kansas.
- 13 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants Spring Tour, 7 p.m. Northridge High School, Greeley, Colorado.
- 14 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants Spring Tour, 6:30 p.m. Vilar Center, Vail, Colorado.
- 15 Chamber Players Series, 8 p.m. "Music for Strings," featuring members of The U.S. Air Force Strings. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 16 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants Spring Tour, 7:30 p.m. Grand Junction High School, Grand Junction, Colorado.
- 21 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants Spring Tour, 7 p.m. Rancho Verde High School Auditorium, Moreno Valley, California.
- 22 Chamber Players Series, 8 p.m. "Music for Tuba," featuring Master Sgt. Gil Corella. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 29 Chamber Players Series, 8 p.m. "Music for Brass Quintet," featuring members of The U.S. Air Force Ceremonial Brass. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.

*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](http://www.USAFBand.com)*

## Alumni Spotlight

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

To be genuinely successful in the military supply field, an individual must, at times, be a “miracle worker,” and for over thirty years The Air Force Band was blessed with not only a man of miracles, but also one with probably the most appropriate last name of any supply sergeant in history, Sergeant H.C. (you guessed it) Miracle!

But “H,” as he is known to just about everyone, was a “miracle worker” in the best sense of the term.

“The romanticized image of the old ‘brown shoe’ (Army Air Forces) supply guy just doesn’t fit H,” according to former Air Force Band commander Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mike Bankhead, who was deputy commander during the seven years preceding H’s retirement in 1983. “He could, like that old ‘brown shoe’ supply guy, do magic within the system when you needed something. But he dressed impeccably, he was well-read and soft-spoken, and he was a master planner and negotiator.”

He was also a world-class amateur golfer – so good, in fact, that he aroused the suspicion of a base commander who figured such golf skills couldn’t have been honed on free time alone.

“(The base commander) sent his supply and accounting guys to go over the band’s supply books with a fine tooth comb,” said Col. Bankhead. “(He) did not believe that H could be a scratch golfer and still be doing the work he was supposed to be doing in the supply world.”

The supply and accounting people not only found nothing amiss, said Col. Bankhead, but “they also sent a letter of commendation to The Band because of the outstanding records being kept and the superior methods being used in ordering, tracking, logging, signing out and storing all of the equipment and supplies handled by H’s supply section!”

Added Col. (Ret.) Arnauld D. Gabriel, H’s commander for 19 years, “Chief Miracle served with exceptional distinction. He is one of those rare supervisors who can work without supervision in a completely independent and reliable manner. It has always been my view that the most desirable traits that a business associate should have are reliability, honesty and integrity. Chief Miracle is the very personification of those attributes.”

Being an expert in supply, however, was probably the farthest thing from his mind when H enlisted in the Air Force in 1950. Born in Kentucky, he attended the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music for one year with concentration in piano technology. H then moved to Montgomery, Alabama, where he earned a living as a piano tuner.

After completing basic military training, He was sent to Scott Air Force Base in St. Louis on an open assignment. While he was at Scott, the band commander noticed him tuning a piano in the service club, and quickly transferred him into the band there. He came to the Bolling Air Force Base in 1951 and spent the next two years as the piano tuner for The Air Force Band, as well as piano technology instructor for the Air Force Bandsman School, also at Bolling.

In 1953, H began working in supply under the tutelage of Franny Cox, a former trumpet player in the Band who handled the supply shop from World War II on.

He also continued to tune pianos, not just throughout military Washington, but also at places like the White House and the State Department. And when the Band’s Guest Artist Series began in 1966, his piano-tuning services were invaluable.

In January, 1972, he became chief of supply, where he not only supervised what was going on at Bolling, but contributed his expertise to projects such as the design and procurement of new parade dress uniforms adopted by the Air Force for wear by bandmen worldwide.

Musical “miracles,” however, were not his only claim to fame in the Air Force. As a golfer in the military, H had few peers. He was twice the Bolling Air Force Base golf champ, won the Andrews Championship twice, and won the Air Force Sergeants Association Tournament in 1968.

The highlight of his golfing career came in 1966 when he won the Air Force World Wide golf tournament, held that year at Maxwell Air

Force Base, Alabama. He played in nine of those tournaments. He also represented the Washington/Baltimore area at the National Public Links Championships in Dallas (1954), Honolulu (1960), Detroit (1961) and Tonawanda, New York (1962).

One of H’s most unusual assignments came in January, 1955, when he was sent for one month to the old Northeast Air Command (NEAC), which included Greenland, Newfoundland and Labrador. His orders stated the he was “to repair, replace parts and tune pianos at all NEAC bases designated by the Commander, NEAC.”

According to H, “This was at the same time when General (Curtis) LeMay was known to be sending people on TDY (temporary duty) orders to different bases to evaluate what was going on. Well, when the people in NEAC saw the name Miracle on orders about tuning pianos, they were sure that I was one of LeMay’s spies. I was always treated well, but I was never alone on any base for that entire month!”

H retired from the Air Force in 1983. He and his wife of 54 years, Louise, live in Wetumpka, Alabama, where he still tunes the occasional piano even though he considers himself fully retired.



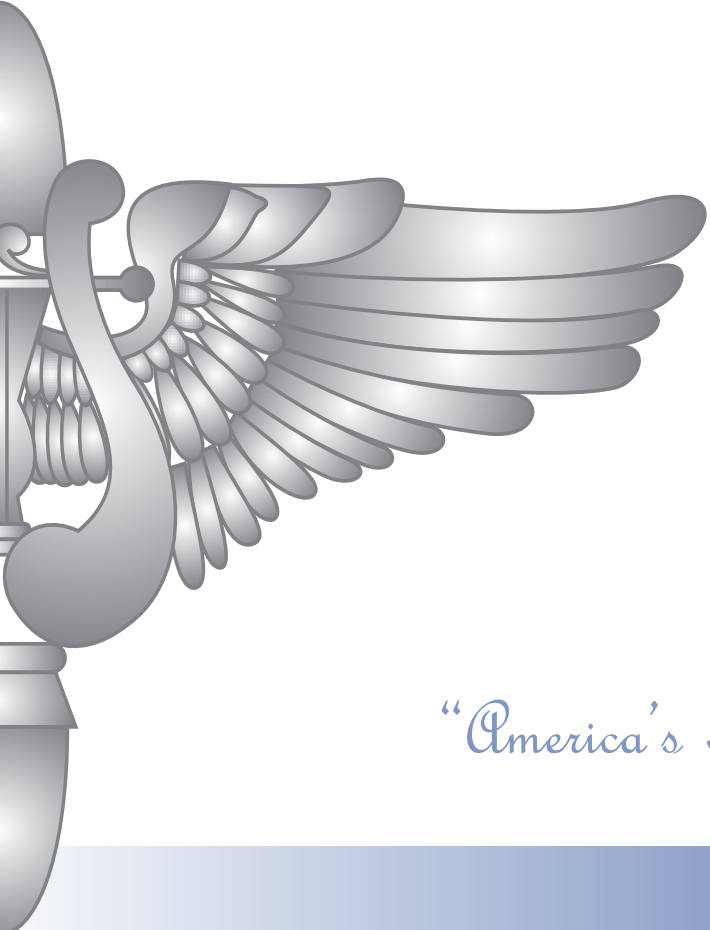
The Air Force Band’s H. C. Miracle (left) receives the Air Force Worldwide golf championship trophy from Lt. General John W. Carpenter III, Air University Commander, following the 1966 tournament, held on the East Course at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

# Cadenza

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