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News, Feature Stories, & Commentary

National Band Association Mentor Project

by Master Sgt. Brooke Emery

6/1/2017 - **Washington, D.C.** -- The United States Air Force Band is proud to announce it will serve as host and ensemble-in-residence for the National Band Association's (NBA) 2017 Young Composer/Conductor Mentor Project. Held at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling on June 13, 14 and 15, the project is the only competition of its kind that allows artists aged 29 and under to collaborate with a world-class musical ensemble and work with renowned mentors in their field free of charge.

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Star Spangled Spectacular

by Chief Master Sgt. Bob Kamholz

6/1/2017 - **Washington, D.C.** --With Independence Day fast approaching, the U.S. Air Force Band is hard at work preparing several musical presentations celebrating our nation's 241st birthday. All six performing flights are busy planning and rehearsing for concerts both big and small as they represent the U.S. Air Force in front millions this 4th of July.



The Ceremonial Brass kicks off the celebration with their 18th appearance on NBC's TODAY show, broadcast to millions live from Rockefeller Plaza. The program begins at 7 a.m. EST. Please check your local listings for complete broadcast information.

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Piece by Master Sgt. Tara Islas to be Featured at International Convention

by Chief Master Sgt. Bob Kamholz

6/1/2017 - **Washington, D.C.** -- The nationally recognized, all-women brass ensemble Monarch Brass, will be performing an original composition by Master Sgt. Tara Islas of the U.S. Air Force Band's Ceremonial Brass. The performance is part of the 2017 International Women's Brass Conference, which is being held at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ from June 7-10.

According to Islas, the piece, titled "Ascent to the Summit," won the 2016 Dallas Winds Fanfare Competition. The work was up against 128 other entrants in the competition, which included seven winners in various categories. When asked about her accomplishment, Islas replied, "I'm proud to be recognized as a nationally renowned composer, who serves her country with The United States Air Force Band."

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Heritage to Horizons celebrates 70 years of AF dominance

by Master Sgt. Bryan Franks,
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

5/18/2017 - **WASHINGTON (AFNS)** -- As the sun set across the Arlington, Virginia, skyline May 18, 2017, the Air Force kicked off its Heritage to Horizons summer concert series at the Air Force Memorial in honor of the service's 70th anniversary.



The event took the crowd through a musical tour of the Air Forces' history, featuring the United States Air Force Band, with performances by Airmen of Note, Max Impact, Celtic Aire, and Strolling Strings, as well as an aerial flyover and special appearance by the U. S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team.

"Tonight, we honor the millions of Airmen who have served this nation," said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson. "This concert has been about our heritage and the price we have [paid]."

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