

100 YEARS OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE



The Royal Air Force Squadronaires
The U.S. Air Force Airmen of Note

April 18, 2018

The Music Center at Strathmore
North Bethesda, Maryland



“FLYING HIGH”

featuring

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE SQUADRONAIRES & THE U.S. AIR FORCE AIRMEN OF NOTE



THE ROYAL AIR FORCE SQUADRONAIRES is one of the United Kingdom's finest big bands and has a worldwide reputation for musical excellence. The origins of the Squadronaires can be traced back to 1939 when many of London's professional musicians were recruited into the Central Band of the Royal Air Force. Amongst these iconic musicians were trombonist George Chisolm, vocalist Jimmy Miller and clarinetist Harry Lewis who later married Forces' Sweetheart, Dame Vera Lynn.

In their early years, the RAF Squadronaires gained a reputation for versatility and flair and soon developed a distinctive style that rivalled many American bands. The unmistakable sound of the RAF Squadronaires is still heard through frequent performances of their signature tunes, “There’s Something in the Air” and “South Rampart Street Parade,” which were made famous by the original group. In 2010, the Squadronaires reached the top ten in the UK’s album chart with “In the Mood,” recorded for Decca 69 years after first working with the esteemed record label. The Squadronaires continue to be the only military ensemble to have performed at the world famous Ronnie Scott’s Jazz Club in London as well as making regular television appearances at events such as the Royal British Legion’s annual Festival of Remembrance.



In 2014, the Band released the album “All Present and Correct” which features solos by every member of the group. More recently, they collaborated with Decca to feature on the “Vera Lynn 100” album, accompanying the original recording of Dame Vera’s voice on the timeless song “Yours.” Dame Vera Lynn’s 100th birthday celebrations also featured the RAF Squadronaires as the stage band for a tribute concert at the London Palladium where a plethora of stars from stage and screen joined them to pay homage to the great artist.

Alongside performances at jazz festivals and fundraising concerts, the Squadronaires provide musical support at Military Tattoos around the world as well as State Events and Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace.



COMMEMORATE | CELEBRATE | INSPIRE

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND began in 1941 when the newly-formed U.S. Army Air Corps activated 59 bands into operation. It was initially called The Bolling Field “Band” and consisted of five men—a saxophone quartet and a bandleader. Over the next 76 years, the Band has expanded its size and mission to include six primary performing ensembles and a global mission. The U.S. Air Force Band consists of six separate performing ensembles: Air Force Strings, Airmen of Note, Ceremonial Brass, Concert Band, Max Impact and Singing Sergeants. Each group supports several small ensembles as well. Collectively, these groups perform more than 1,600 events annually. The Band’s Airmen musicians also entertain service members deployed overseas and present concerts coast-to-coast through local performances and national concert tours.

Through world-class musical presentations and ceremonies, The U.S. Air Force Band helps create bonds between the United States and the worldwide community. Using music to bridge language, cultural, societal and socio-economic differences, the Band’s performances honor those who have served, inspire American citizens to heightened patriotism and service, and advance international relationships for positive and long-lasting impressions of the U.S. Air Force and the United States of America. The excellence demonstrated by our Airmen musicians is a reflection of the excellence carried out 24 hours a day by Airmen stationed around the globe. These professionals are proud to represent all Airmen, whose selfless service and sacrifices ensure the freedoms we enjoy as American citizens.



The **AIRMEN OF NOTE** is the premier jazz ensemble of the United States Air Force. Created in 1950 to continue the tradition of Major Glenn Miller’s Army Air Corps dance band, the current band consists of 18 active duty Airmen musicians including one vocalist. Through the years, the Airmen of Note has presented its own brand of big band jazz as well as more contemporary forms of jazz to audiences via annual tours across the United States, deployments around the world and local performances throughout metropolitan Washington, D.C. Each year, their Jazz Heritage Series is broadcast to millions over National Public Radio, independent jazz radio stations, satellite radio services and the internet. In addition, the “Note” produces and delivers recorded music to millions of fans worldwide each year. The “Note’s” most recent recording, “Veteran’s of Jazz,” opened in the top 50 jazz CDs broadcast through radio stations nationwide.

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PERSONNEL

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE SQUADRONAIRES

SAXOPHONE

Corporal Andy Mears, Lead Alto
Corporal Mike Hearman, Second Alto
Sergeant Tom Butcher, Lead Tenor
Corporal Sally Woodcock, Second Tenor
Sergeant George Martin, Baritone

TRUMPET

Corporal Andrew Lofthouse, Lead
Corporal Tim Hynd, Second
Senior Aircraftman Ben Murray, Third
Senior Aircraftman Malcolm Knapp, Fourth

TROMBONE

Corporal Jonathan Hill, Lead
Corporal Matthew Edwardson, Second
Corporal Andy Taylor, Third
Corporal Jonathan Hayward, Bass

VOCALIST

Corporal Matt Walker

RHYTHM

Chief Technician Adrian Beckwith, Piano
Corporal Edward Carpenter, Guitar
Chief Technician Andy Rigby, Bass
Corporal Matt Walker, Drums
Corporal Dave Coyle, Percussion



THE U.S. AIR FORCE AIRMEN OF NOTE

SAXOPHONE

Senior Master Sgt. Tyler Kuebler, Lead Alto
Technical Sgt. Mike Cempola, Second Alto
Master Sgt. Tedd Baker, Lead Tenor
Master Sgt. Grant Langford, Second Tenor
Master Sgt. Doug Morgan, Baritone

TRUMPET

Senior Master Sgt. Brian MacDonald, Lead
Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Burns, Split Lead
Technical Sgt. Luke Brandon, Third
Technical Sgt. Logan Keese, Fourth

TROMBONE

Master Sgt. Ben Patterson, Lead
Master Sgt. Jeff Martin, Second
Technical Sgt. Kevin Cerovich, Third
Technical Sgt. Ben Polk, Bass

VOCALIST

Technical Sgt. Paige Wroble

RHYTHM

Technical Sgt. Chris Ziemba, Piano
Master Sgt. Geoff Reecer, Guitar
Technical Sgt. Cameron Kayne, Bass
Technical Sgt. David McDonald, Drums

AUDIO ENGINEERS

Master Sgts. Jim DeVaughn, David Graves & Chad Randolph



CHIEF TECHNICIAN ANDY RIGBY joined the Royal Air Force in 1996 and the Central Band in 1997. In 2011, he was assigned to Headquarters Music Services and became the Engagements Coordinator. Andy returned to the Central Band in 2015 and was made Band Sergeant of the RAF Squadronaires soon after.



CORPORAL ANDY MEARS began his Military Music career in 2002 with the Royal Marines Band Service. He joined the RAF Band in February 2011. In addition to his role as RAF Squadronaires Musical Director, he is also the principal saxophonist with the Central Band.



CHIEF MASTER SGT. KEVIN BURNS is the split lead trumpeter with the Airmen of Note. A native of Cleveland, Tennessee, his Air Force career began in 1993 where he was assigned to the Band of the West, Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. In 2002 he won a position with The USAF Band.



MASTER SGT. BENJAMIN PATTERSON is the music director and lead trombonist with the Airmen of Note. Originally from Sapulpa, Okla., his career in the Air Force began in 1997.