"The Force of Destiny" (1964-1985)

From 1966 to 1985, The Band instituted one of its greatest hallmarks – the Guest Artist Series – started as a way to introduce prominent local artists, the series was expanded to include collaborative performances with our nation's leading musicians, composers, dancers, and actors. By 1985, The Band had attracted over 300 guest artists from around the country. A few of these celebrities included: Actors William Conrad, Peter Graves, Shirley Temple Black, and Jerry Lewis; Composers Aaron Copland, Karel Husa, Leroy Anderson, and Morton Gould; Vocalists and Vocal Groups, Sarah Vaughan, The Statler Brothers, The Lettermen, Larry Gatlin & The Gatlin Brothers, and Manhattan Transfer; and Virtuoso Instrumentalists "Doc" Severinsen, Harvey Phillips, Victor Borge, Clark Terry, and the Dave Brubeck Quartet. Although one could write an encyclopedia on Colonel Gabriel and the Band's activities during this time frame, The Band knew who was behind all of the great triumphs and so coined a popular phrase that is still echoed today, "The USAF Band is the House That Gabe Built." Here are just a few of the highlights:

- 1965, A new program for tour financing was established with all concerts being "free and open to the public"
- 1965, Under this same program, the government would now pay band members for all travel related expenses
- 1965, The size of The Band increased from 177 to 225
- 1965, The entry grade rank increased from E-5 SSgt to E-6 TSgt
- 1967, The introduction of a new tunic styled uniform
- 1965 to 1985, The start of a commissioning program for new literature for Concert Band
- 1964 to 1985, The Band and its various ensembles recorded 84 LPs
- 1964 to 1979, The continuation of the ever popular "Serenade in Blue" broadcasts as the rebranded "Serenade in Stereo" radio broadcasts
- 1968, The Band's 12th International Tour included a 33-day, 14-nation tour of South and Central America
- 1969, The Band's 13th International Tour included a 29-day, 12-nation tour of Europe
- 1970, The establishment of a formal Chamber Players Series
- 1972, Karen (Riale) Erler became the first woman to become an instrumentalist in any of America's premier military bands
- 1973, The Singing Sergeants became the first premier military band to have a mixed chorus
- 1975, New ensembles included the addition of The Band's first Rock & Roll Band, known as Mach One
- 1976, Congressional tasking to support the loan of the Magna Carta in celebration of the US Bicentennial at the US Capitol building
- 1984, Historic ceremony for the interment of the Unknown Serviceman of the Vietnam Era at Arlington National Cemetery
- 1985, The Ceremonial Band became an all-brass and percussion ensemble and was renamed The Ceremonial Brass

Inaugurations: 1965, Inauguration for the 36th President of the United States of America, Lyndon Baines Johnson

1969, Inauguration for the 37th President of the United States of America, Richard Milhous Nixon

1973, Second inauguration for the 37th President of the United States of America, Richard Milhous Nixon

1977, Inauguration for the 38th President of the United States, James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr.

1981, Inauguration for the 39th President of the United States of American, Ronald Wilson Reagan

State Funerals: 1964, State Funeral in Honor of President Herbert Hoover

1964, State Funeral in Honor of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur

1969, State Funeral in Honor of President Dwight D. Eisenhower

1973, State Funeral in Honor of President Lyndon B. Johnson



THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND WASHINGTON, D.C. Major Arnald D. Gabriel, Conducting

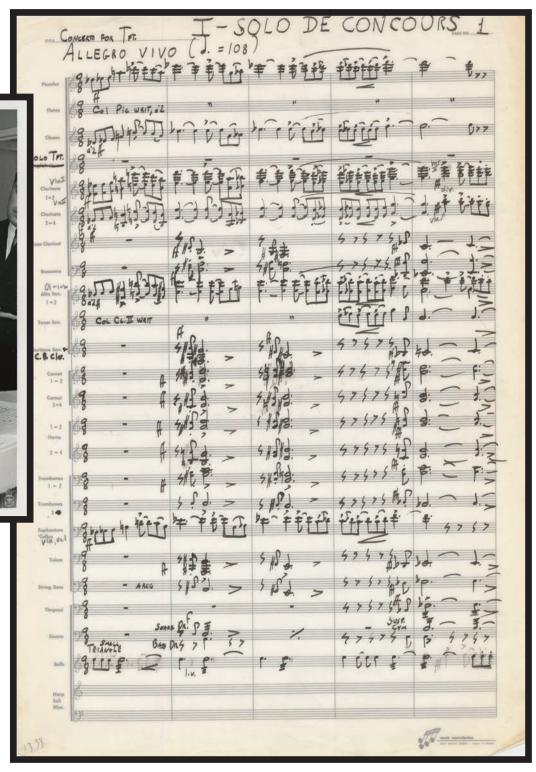
This is the first photo of The Band taken with its new Commander & Conductor, Major Arnald D. Gabriel. The setting was in the ballroom at Bowling Green State College (now University) prior to a concert there on October 4, 1964. The stage was strictly temporary (pipe & drape). However, the photo did the job and was used for over a year until the schedule allowed for a more "formal" setting in Washington, DC. Note that the Concert Band was at that point down to 56 players.



A series of Friday evening concerts in Washington's Departmental Auditorium had been instituted in October of 1964 with limited success. However, when child prodigy pianist Ingeborg Ittlinger appeared as a "guest artist" on Friday December 4th the auditorium was packed. She performed Franz Joseph Haydn's Concerto in D Major with the Air Force Orchestra and helped firmly establish the potential drawing power of a guest artist when used in conjunction with an AF Band concert.



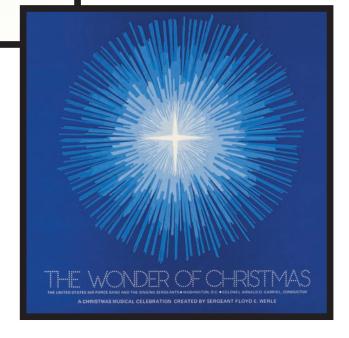
On Friday evening, August 27, 1965 at the Watergate concert location on the Potomac River at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. Trumpet virtuoso Doc Severinsen joined forces with The Band and conductor Major Arnald D. Gabriel to premiere "Concerto for Trumpet" by the Chief of The Band's Composing & Arranging Staff, Sgt Floyd E. Werle. The next morning everyone was in The Band's studio at Bolling Air Force Base to make a studio recording of the concerto – the first of four trumpet concerti Werle would write for Severinsen over the next 20 years. Shown during the recording session are (L-R) Maj Gabriel, Doc Severinsen and Floyd Werle. Photo Credit: Ron Hall

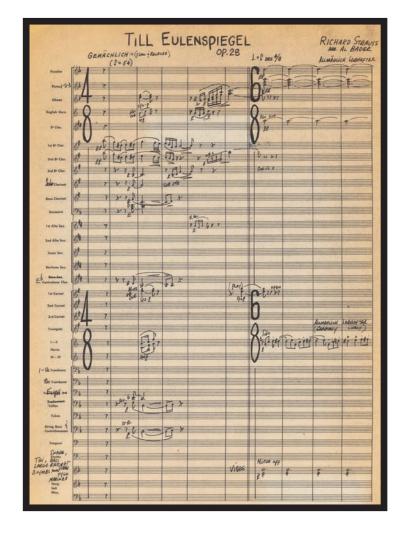




Major Al Bader - Initially entered the Air Force Music Program as an enlisted clarinet player auditioned by Col George S. Howard. Soon thereafter he was selected to join the faculty of the USAF Bandsman School at Bolling AFB where he taught music theory, harmony and served as the "reed faculty." When the school was deactivated early in 1964, he joined the Concert Band where he formed and served as principal of the saxophone section. Selected by Maj Gabriel to be his Assistant Conductor, Bader was commissioned in 1965. He was the perfect "teacher" on the podium, preparing The Band for numerous performances throughout America while freeing Gabriel for his overwhelming duties as Commander. Among other projects, he conducted the recording sessions for Floyd Werle's greatest arrangement, "The Wonder of Christmas." He also found time to transcribe 14 brilliant orchestra transcriptions for band. Not so well known, Al Bader is a decorated war hero having seen combat in the Pacific Theater during WWII as an Army infantryman where he served with the 40th Infantry at Guadalcanal, New Britain and the assault landing at Luzon in the Philippines. Recalled by the Army, he also served in Korea during the Korean War. He retired in 1976.

MAJOR ALBERT A. BADER
Assistant Conductor
THE U.S. AIR FORCE BAND
Washington, D.C.

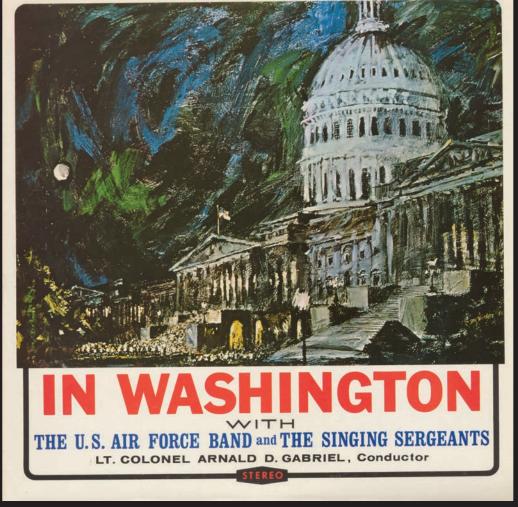








In 1963, Princeton NJ artist Charles McVicker contributed to the Air Force the painting "Air Force Capitol Concert." Even though The Band had been in existence since 1941, this was the first-ever painting of any band in the Air Force and is a part of the Air Force Art Collection. This photocopy was made on March 16, 1967 for use as the cover of The Band's 1967 LP "In Washington."





TUBBY the TUBA

Words by PAUL TRIPP Music by GEORGE KLEINSINGER

Arranged for Band by GEORGE F. ROACH

THE U.S. AIR FORCE BAND BOLLING AFB, D.C. 20332 The radio team of Harden & Weaver (Frank Harden & Jackson Weaver) absolutely dominated the morning drive time on WMAL radio in Washington, DC. Whenever they appeared as guests with The Band and Singing Sergeants, first in DC's Departmental Auditorium and later in the spacious DAR Constitution Hall, they always drew an overflow audience. This photo was taken during a February 5, 1967 Departmental concert. (L-R) Frank Harden, Jack Weaver, Maj Arnald D. Gabriel on the podium, and student guest artist Dan Brown, tuba, from Edison HS in Alexandria (Fairfax County), VA. Photo Credit – Ron Hall

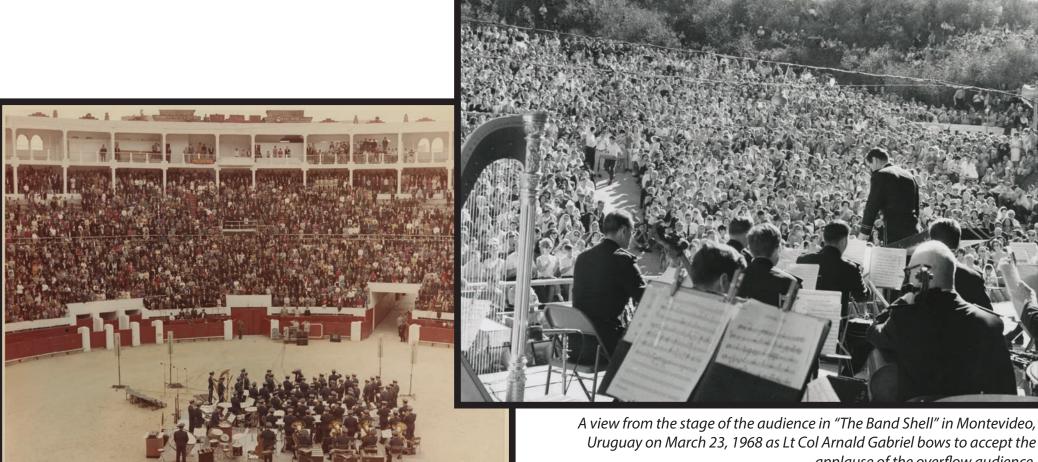




Since 1967 marked the 20th Anniversary of the USAF as a separate branch of the armed services, The Band had a 20th Anniversary cake cutting back stage. (L-R) Maj Arnald Gabriel, Jackson Weaver, and Frank Harden.

Photo Credit – Ron Hall.

G. SCHIRMER, Inc.



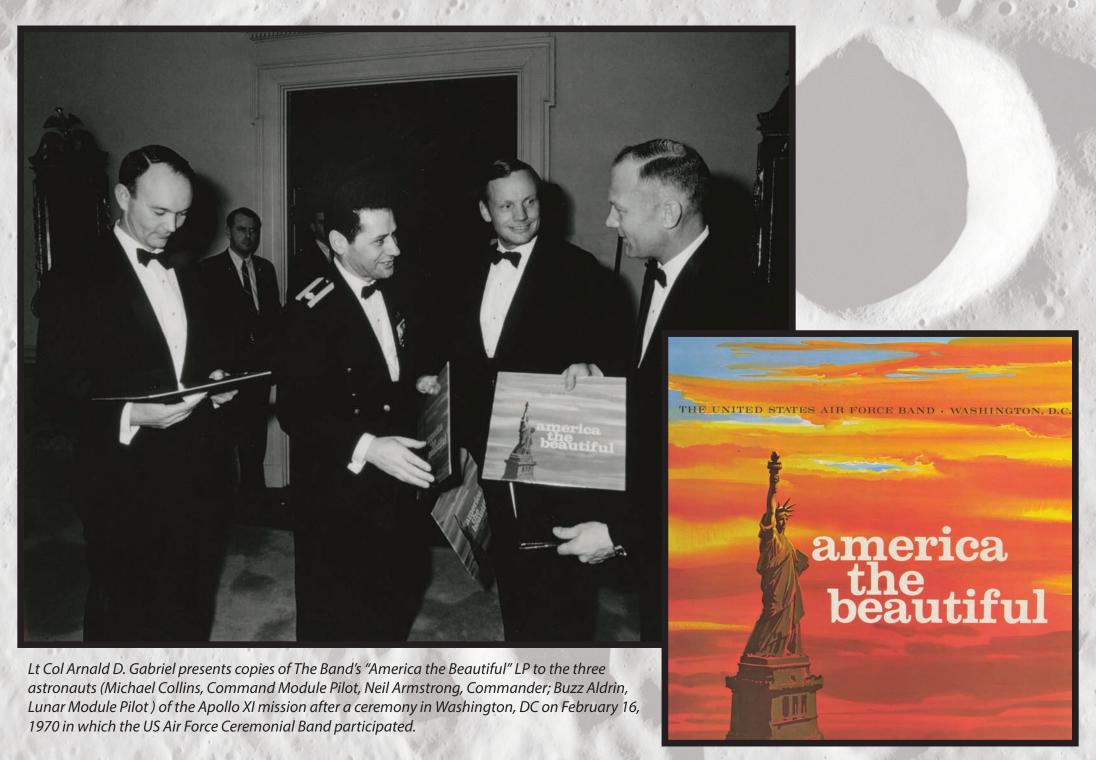
The USAF Band performing the Colombian National Anthem in the Bull Ring in Bogota, Colombia on March 30, 1968 during its 33-day, 14-nation tour of South and Central America which featured the Singing Sergeants.

Uruguay on March 23, 1968 as Lt Col Arnald Gabriel bows to accept the applause of the overflow audience.



The Band conducted by Lt Col Arnald D. Gabriel during a concert in Usher Hall, Edinburgh, Scotland on September 30, 1969. This was one of 21 concerts presented on a 29-day, 12-nation tour by The Band, the Singing Sergeants, and the USAF Pipe Band. Photo Credit – Sgt. H. Bruce Gilkes

The Band performs outdoors at the world famous Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen Denmark on September 12, 1969. Photo Credit – Sgt H. Bruce Gilkes







Lou Coppola performing with Maria von Trapp at the Air House. Her memoir "The Story of the Trapp Family Singers" was used as the basis for the Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II's hit Broadway musical, "The Sound of Music."

The Band and Singing Sergeants on the John Philip Sousa Memorial Stage in the Concert Hall at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. This photo was shot in the spring of 1972 and is the first photo taken on that stage of any large ensemble including the resident National Symphony Orchestra. Photo Credit – Danny Vines & Ron Hall





Karen Erler uniform – In 1972, Karen (Riale) Erler was the first woman instrumentalist to join the ranks of any of the five premier service bands. (Early enlisted uniform donated to The USAF Band by SMSgt Karen Erler, USAF, ret.).

Feature Article on Karen in the May 1973 edition of Airmen Magazine.





Pictured here following a Guest Artist Series concert in 1976 with (L to R) Tom Gauger (WMAL radio disc jockey); Carmen Dragon (Composer, Arranger, Conductor, Educator, Radio and Television Personality); and Colonel Gabriel.



In 1973 Col Arnald Gabriel took the bold move of turning the previously all-male Singing Sergeants into a mixed chorus. The first two women to join the "New" Singing Sergeants were (L-R) Evelyn Dunn Lewis and Nancy Beatty Forrest.





The Ceremonial Black uniform makes a brief appearance.

Swearing in ceremony for Amn Evelyn Lewis (1973), pictured here with her recruiter TSgt Forrest Case in Baltimore, MD.

The USAF
Ceremonial Band
at the Pentagon
circa July of 1973.
The Director / OIC
is Capt James M.
"Danny" Danielsen.





Ms. Shirley Temple Black and Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel receiving the Valley Forge Freedom Foundation Award in Philadelphia, Pa. on May 12, 1972.

In the late summer of 1974, The Band and Singing Sergeants returned to the John Philip Sousa Memorial Stage in the Concert Hall of Washington's John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for a formal photograph. The purpose of this photograph was to document an integrated concert band and to document the Singing Sergeants, as a mixed chorus. The saxophonist on the far right, TSgt Jeanne Gartner established many firsts for women in The USAF Band, as: the first woman saxophonist, the first woman copyist, the first woman NCOIC of Music Production, the first woman to retire after serving a complete 30-year career, and the first woman to serve as Chief Enlisted Manager, the highest enlisted position in The USAF Band. Photo Credit – Ron Hall



The "New" Singing Sergeants pose with their new director, Lt H. Bruce Gilkes (white jacket) at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the summer of 1974. Photo Credit – Ron Hall

Katharine Lawton Brown, Glenda Rueb,

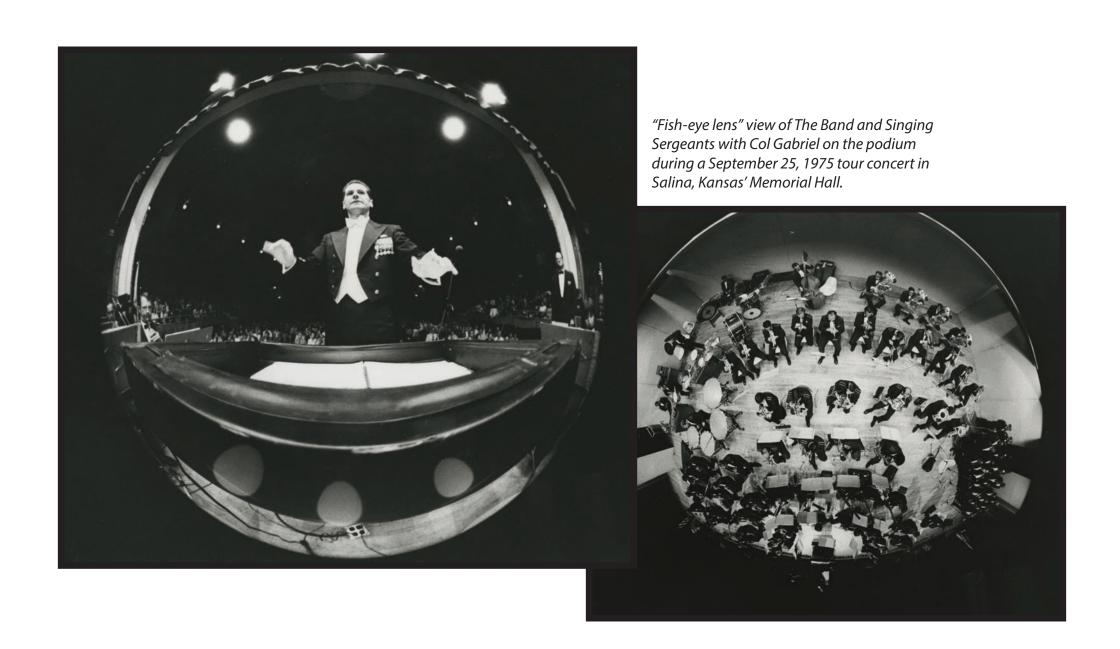
Gwen Haynes, and Leslie Keller.

The official jazz ensemble of The USAF Band, the Airmen of Note, in a promotional photo which was taken late in 1974 just after Sgt Dave Napier (dark jacket) had been named Director.





Renowned television and radio actor William Conrad (white sweater standing right) leads The Band and Singing Sergeants in a December 20, 1974 rehearsal at The Band's studio on Bolling AFB prior to his December 22nd appearance with the organization in DAR Constitution Hall. The Band's rehearsal/recording studio had been the Bolling base theater in the early days of WWII and was totally inadequate for the space needs of the organization.





In 1975, Colonel Gabriel formed a stand-alone Rock & Roll band composed of seven members of the Concert Band and Singing Sergeants. Their sound was an interesting amalgam of Rock, Funk and Soul music and they were an immediate sensation. Mach One performed primarily at high schools and colleges and any doubt the students may have harbored about the quality of the Air Force Airmen and their music were blown away by the tight, professional group.



died in an automobile accident February, 1975, shortly after their formation.

> The original members included: TSqt Chuck Carthan, Bass Vocals, Backup Vocals, Percussion; TSqt Mark Hynes, Drums; TSqt Mike Askew, Guitar, Backup Vocals; MSqt Mike Crotty, Leader, Sax, Flute, Trumpet, Flugelhorn, Backup Vocals; TSqt Ken Buckery, Organ, Synthesizer; TSqt David Chab, Trombone, Percussion, Backup Vocals; TSqt Vernia Lewis, Vocals, Backup Vocals. Vernia was the first black female vocalist to audition and win a position with The USAF Band.

Spignener, Percussion/Vocals and

TSqt Steve Ward, Guitar/Vocals.

The US Air Force Symphony Orchestra Magna Carta Ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda June 3rd, 1976

Magna Carta, 1297: Widely viewed as one of the most important legal documents in the history of democracy ...

"here is a law which is above the King and which even he must not break. This reaffirmation of a supreme law and its expression in a general charter is the great work of Magna Carta; and this alone justifies the respect in which men have held it." -- Winston Churchill, 1956

As a part of its participation in the United States Bicentennial Celebration in 1976, the British government brought to America the oldest known copy of the Magna Carta, considered by many to be the predecessor of what would eventually become our American Constitution. The Magna Carta was displayed in a special case in the rotunda of the US Capitol building for a year, and the loan of this invaluable document was celebrated in a special ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda on the afternoon of June 3rd, 1976.

As a part of the ornate Congressionally requested ceremony, the United States Air Force Symphony Orchestra and the Singing Sergeants, directed by Col Arnald D. Gabriel and with soloists Sergeants Kathryn Lawton Brown, Charles Kuliga, George Singleton and Josue Bustos (seen here dressed in period costumes), presented the musical highlight of the ceremony, a performance of "The Ballad of the Magna Carta" composed by Kurt Weill. The entire ceremony made headlines in newspapers and news broadcasts across the nation and around the world.









THE U.S. AIR FORCE

SINGING SERGEANTS

Washington, D.C.

Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel, Conductor

Performing Their

SINGING - DANCING EXTRAVAGANZA

WHAT A GREAT YEAR THAT WAS!



The Band's Chief Composer / Arranger Sgt Floyd Werle created a singing / dancing extravaganza for The Band and Singing Sergeants which the ensembles premiered at the Air Force Association banquet in September of 1976. It proved so popular that Col Gabriel decided to take the show "on tour" that fall. The presentation marked the first time since 1951 that the chorus had presented a costumed and staged production, something which has since become a staple for the group. This promophoto was created to assist in PR for the performances. Photo Credit – Harry H. Gleeson



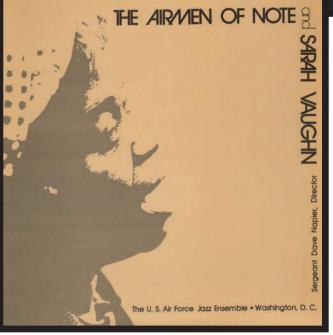
CMSgt Stephen C. R. Stephens, The USAF Band's third Drum Major (1977-1992)

The Bowman Family - Brian, euphonium; Victor, trumpet; and Linda Jane, soprano. AF Band arranger Bob Walters scored Scott Joplin's Heliotrope Bouquet specifically for them.





One of the giants in the history of jazz, vocalist Sarah Vaughan, acknowledges a standing ovation at the conclusion of her performance with the Airmen of Note in Washington's DAR Constitution Hall on March 6, 1977. The concert was a part of The Band's Guest Artist Series.









Many of The United States Air Force Band's student matinees are highlighted by the appearance of "guest conductors" from the audience.

A lighthearted photo of the Texas contingent in either The AF Band and/or the Singing Sergeants taken before the 1977 fall tour which included nine performances in nine cities in Texas. All nine Texans had received their college degrees from Texas colleges and/or universities.

Student "guest conductors" were always a highlight of concerts by The USAF Band while on tour, as shown in this four-photo montage from The USAF Band's press kit.



Band Composer & Arranger Sgt Mike Davis backstage with comedian Jo Anne Worley of TV's "Laugh In" following her March 19, 1978 appearance on The Band's Guest Artist Series for which Davis supplied several arrangements for Worley.





The USAF String Quartet performs at the White House for First Lady Rosalynn Carter and guests.

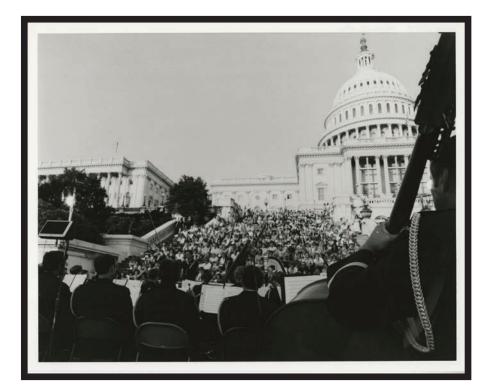
The Strolling Strings entertaining at a June, 1978 retirement party which was held at the headquarters of National Geographic Society in Washington, DC. Photo Credit – Ron Hall



Colonel Gabriel with Mr. Fred Rogers and several cast members of Public Television's "Mr. Rogers Neighborhood," with First Daughter Amy Carter (and friends) following The Band's Guest Artist Series performance in 1977.



Actor Bob Keeshan in his fabled role as CBS TV's
Captain Kangaroo during his Guest Artist Series appearance with The Band and Singing Sergeants on February 25, 1979. Col Gabriel is on the podium and "Captain Kangaroo" is narrating Don Gillis's The Man Who Invented Music and Mike Davis's arrangement of The Magic of Walt Disney.



1979 – Summer concert by The Band on the West Front of the US Capitol building



Major Kangaroo

Captain Kangaroo, Bob Keeshan, appeared recently with the Air Force Band as part of the band's 1979 Guest Artist Series at D.A.R. Constitution Hall. The program featured the well known personality of the longest running television program ever, now in its 25th year. Col. Arnald D. Gabriel, commander and conductor of the Air Force Band, decided that Keeshan had been a Captain long enough and presented him a plaque promoting him to honorary major. (USAF Photo by Mike Pandrek)



Friday evening, July 6, 1979 summer concert at the Jefferson Memorial by The Band and Singing Sergeants. Col Arnald D. Gabriel (white jacket) is on the podium and actor William Conrad is narrating.



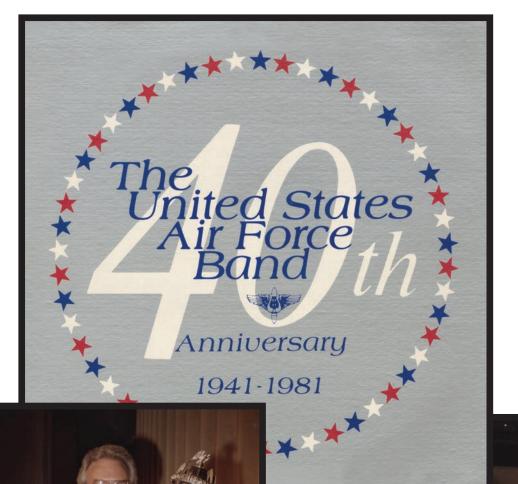
The Band's clarinet section pictured in a PR shot for a tour in 1980. Principal clarinet Sgt Jim Murphy is on the front row right.



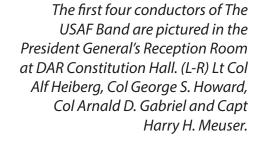


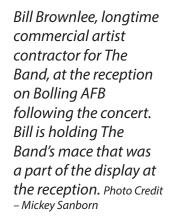
SMSgt Bobbie Coonin following a White House performance, seen here with First Lady Nancy Reagan, President Ronald Reagan, and former President Gerald Ford.

The Singing Sergeants with their new Director, Lt Craig Jessop (white jacket) in this 1980 PR photo.

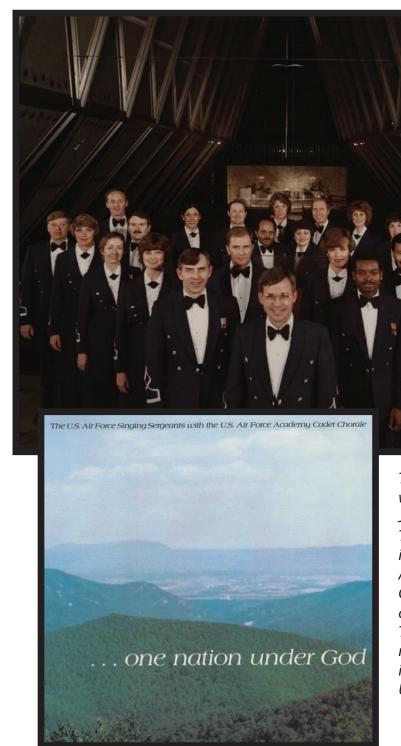








The full-house audience at the concert on September 20, 1981 in Constitution Hall honoring / commemorating The Band's 40th Anniversary.



The Singing Sergeants with conductor Capt Craig Jessop center foreground. This photo was taken inside the chapel at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO on January 24, 1982. The chorus was there to record Sgt Floyd Werle's inspirational "One Nation Under God" LP.



Sgt Floyd E. Werle, Chief of the Composing and Arranging Staff of The Band in Washington DC, at the organ console in the chapel at the US Air Force Academy.

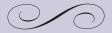


November 10, 1982 on the occasion of a weeklong salute to our Vietnam Veterans, The USAF Band and Singing Sergeants presented an extravaganza celebration concert at DAR Constitution Hall in honor of all the Vietnam Veterans who traveled to Washington for the unveiling of the new Vietnam War Memorial. Special guests included: Wayne Newton, Jimmy Stewart, Carol Lawrence, Brian Dennehy and Chris Noel.

A lifelong fan and friend of The USAF Band, "Jimmy" Stewart graduated from Princeton University in 1932, and became an actor. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps on March 22, 1941, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and awarded his pilot wings on December 31, 1941. He served as an instructor pilot during most of 1942 and 1943, and was assigned to the 445th Bombardment Group in Sioux City, Iowa in August 1943. Stewart flew with the group to England in December 1943 and soon began flying combat missions over Europe. He served a short tour in Southeast Asia in 1966 and retired from the Air Force on June 1, 1968. On May 23, 1985, President Ronald Reagan awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom and promoted him to Major General on the retired list. The USAF Band is blessed to have several recordings which feature him, most notably his rendition of the World War I poem by John Gillespie Magee, Jr. entitled, High Flight.

"Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth of sun-split clouds and done a hundred things You have not dreamed of wheeled and soared and swung high in the sunlit silence.
Hovering there I've chased the shouting wind along
and flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.

"Up, up the long delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace,
where never lark, or even eagle, flew;
and, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
the high untrespassed sanctity of space,
put out my hand and touched the face of God."





Air Force Band guitarist Sgt Walt Johns entertaining guests at the Air House on Fort Myer, Arlington, VA in March of 1983. Photo Credit – Ron Hall.



Characters from Walt Disney World in Florida appearing with The Band and Singing Sergeants during a Guest Artist Series concert in Washington's DAR Constitution Hall on February 19, 1984.

Backstage following the Gala Guest Artist Salute to The United States Air Force Band concert on November 18, 1984 (which was actually a retirement concert for Col Arnald D. Gabriel) – (L-R) Tom Gauger, WMAL Radio, guest announcer; trumpet virtuoso Doc Severinsen; former Miss America Lynda Day George; Col Gabriel and nationally acclaimed actors Peter **Graves and William** Conrad.



Actor Peter Graves sitting in with the clarinet section of The Band.



July 4, 1984 Carol Channing, American actress, singer, dancer, comedian, and voice artist joins The Band in a patriotic concert at the National Air and Space Museum.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier The Unknown of Vietnam

At noon, Memorial Day, May 28, 1984 Colonel Arnald Gabriel and The USAF Band marched in the military funeral procession in honor of the Unknown Serviceman of the Vietnam Era. In the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater hundreds of invited guests, including over 100 Medal of Honor recipients from all wars, joined tens of thousands of spectators viewing the ceremonies on national television. Honorary pallbearers were Vietnam Medal of Honor heroes from each military branch, including USAF pilots Colonels George E. "Bud" Day and James P. Fleming.

President Reagan gave an emotionally-charged speech during the somber funeral service.

"Today we pause to embrace him and all who served so well in a war whose end offered no parades, no flags, and so little thanks. About him we may well wonder as others have: As a child, did he play on some street in a great American city? Did he work beside his father on a farm in America's heartland? Did he marry? Did he have children? Did he look expectantly to return to a bride? "We will never know the answers to those questions about his life. We do know, though, why he died. He saw the horrors of war but bravely faced them, certain his own cause and his country's cause was a noble one, that he was fighting for free men everywhere." President Reagan then assured the families of MIA's the quest for their loved ones was not over. "We write no last chapters," he said. "We close no books. We put away no final memories." The President then presented the Medal of Honor by stating we should "debate the lessons learned at some other time: Today we simply say with pride, 'Thank you, dear son. May God cradle you in His loving arms.' We present to you our nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor, for service above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy during the Vietnam Era."

Note: In 1998, time, determination, and advances in technology would finally identify the Unknown Soldier of the Vietnam War. DNA testing proved that the remains which were buried in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery were those of USAF First Lieutenant Michael Joseph Blassie. Per his family's request, Lieutenant Blassie's remains were returned to his family on Friday, July 10, 1998, and were buried in his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri, on Saturday, July 11, 1998.

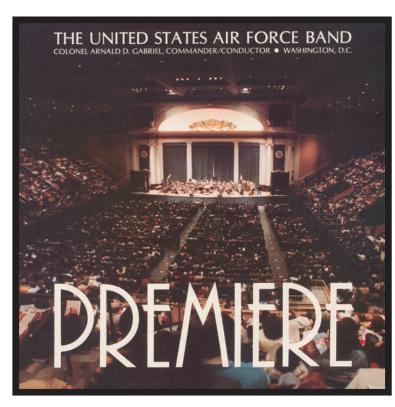
The decision was made that the crypt which contained the remains of the Vietnam Unknown will remain vacant. The crypt cover was replaced with one that has the inscription "Honoring and Keeping Faith with America's Missing Servicemen, 1958-1975."





Master Recordings During the Gabriel Years

Continuing in the tradition set by The AAF Band, The USAF Band has produced an extensive catalogue of recordings which has set the standard of excellence, both inside and outside of the military. Here are just a few of the most notable recordings produced during the Gabriel Years.



Premiere – The USAF Band has been a world leader in continuously promoting new compositions; this album features premiere performances of works by Claude T. Smith, Henk Badings, and Vaclav Nelhybel.





La Banda Sinfonica ... was released for broadcasting in South America prior to the band's 1968 tour as a way of generating audience attendance at the band's live performances. The desired outcome was reflected in the after actions report. The Band's return from their tour of Central and South America was a triumphant one and as the numbers were tallied it was determined that the traveling ambassadors had performed for more than one-hundred-seventy thousand people at twenty-six concerts in twelve countries. Millions more had heard the group through three telecasts and seventeen radio shows that were broadcast throughout the continent.

After their return, a letter The Band received from the Commander, United States Military Group Peru was one of many and was typical in its praise: "I extend my sincere appreciation to you and the members of the USAF Band for the concerts performed in Peru during your recent tour of Latin America. I personally feel that your tour has contributed immensely toward improving the image of the United States Military forces and it also created good will between our country and Peru."

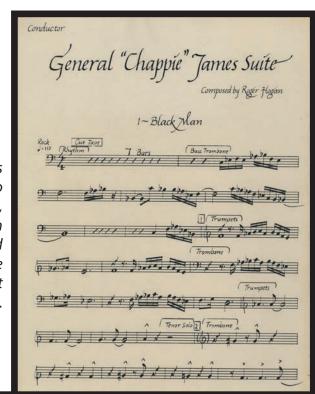
Serenade in Stereo was a continuation of the original Army Air Forces Band radio broadcasts, which included, The Air Force Hour, This Is Your Country, Flight Into The Past, and the original Serenade in Blue 16" Radio Transcription LP Series. One of the featured artists on the Serenade in Stereo series is CMSgt Dave Steinmeyer, who in an interview on one of the broadcasts revealed his secret for being able to perform in the extreme upper register of the trombone with absolute perfection and ease.

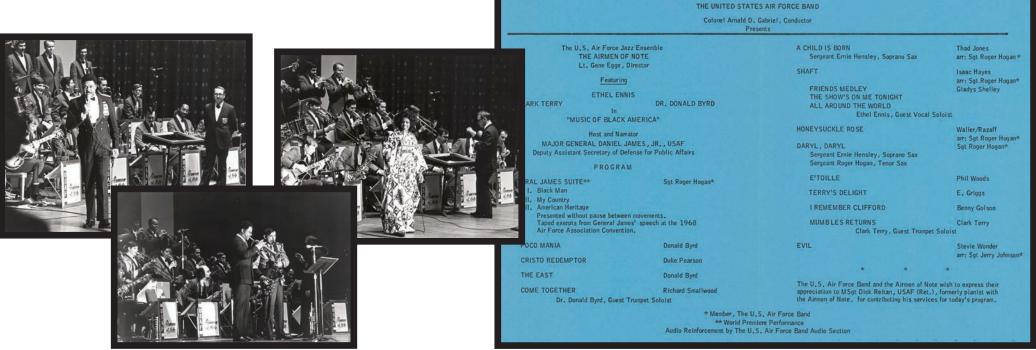




Brothers in Blue is a landmark recording which celebrated Music in Black America. The album includes brilliant compositions and arrangements by MSgt Roger Hogan, composer, arranger and saxophonist with the greatest jazz ensemble in the world, "The Airmen of Note."

The opening selection "Chappie James Suite" is a tribute to "Brothers in Blue" and is dedicated to Lieutenant General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., who at the time was the highest ranking black man in the American military. The performance and recording featured Lt Gen James, as he narrates the piece that bears his name in a live performance at DAR Constitution Hall on March 4, 1973.

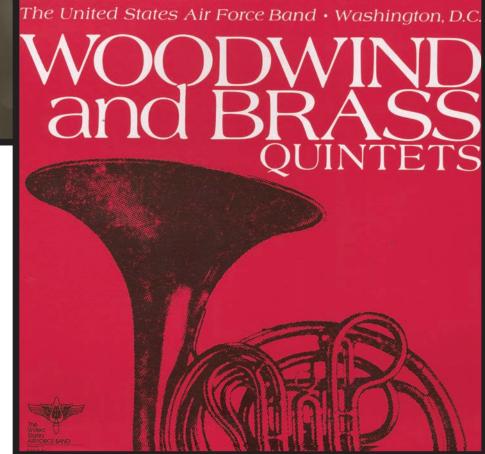








In 1979, The Band produced its first Woodwind and Brass Quintet album.



Outstanding Solo Performers During the Gabriel Years







CMSgt Lawrence Odom (USAF, retired) had the special honor of serving as The Band's harp soloist and was a frequent guest at the White House and the Department of State, performing regularly for the President and visiting Heads-of-State. Following his retirement from active duty, Chief Odom was appointed principal harpist with the Kennedy Center Opera Orchestra, and earned degrees in mathematics, chemistry, and (at age 50!) a Doctor of Pharmacy. Still an active performer and arranger, he continues to add to his over 260 transcriptions held in The Werle Library. Larry is pictured here with famed American conductor, Frederick Fennell.

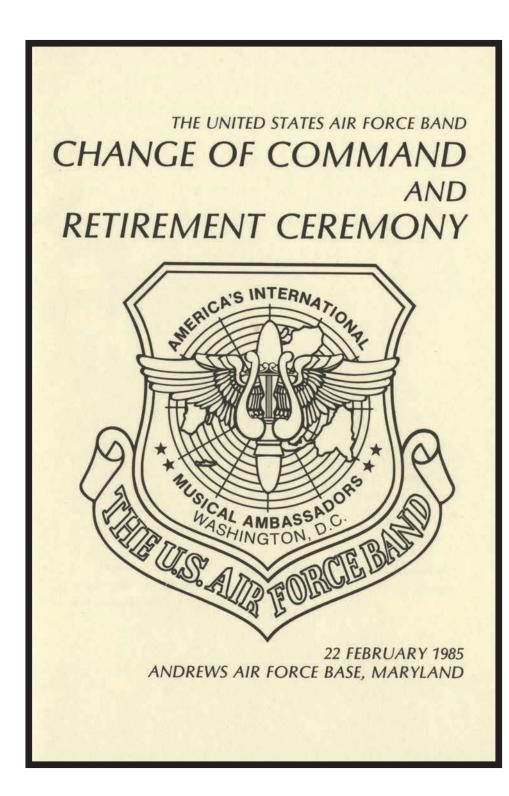


CMSgt Lawrence Wiehe, Jr. spent twelve years as a trombonist with the Navy Band before joining the Air Force Band in 1963. He was recognized as not only the finest trombone player in the military, but in the world. His legacy continues in the many recordings contained in the Werle Library and in the composition written specifically for him by Floyd Werle, entitled "A Trombone Chronology."





Colonel Gabriel's final group photo with The United States Air Force Band and Singing Sergeants, on the stage of DAR Constitution Hall. The photo was featured in The Band's calendar for 1985.











The end of an era; shown at the Bolling Air Force Base Officers Club retirement reception honoring Arnald Gabriel on February 22, 1985. (L-R) Maj Albert A. Bader, Capt Carl Costenbader, Col Arnald D. Gabriel and CWO Lou Kriebel.



February 17, 1985 - Sammy Nestico, the second leader of the Airmen of Note and a long-time member of The Band's arranging staff, returns as a guest artist and music director/arranger for Toni Tennille; "Toni" Tennille is best known from her '70s and '80s chart-topping hits with the pop duo The Captain & Tennille.

"Next to a letter from home, Capt Miller, your organization is the greatest morale builder in the European Theater of Operations."

- July 1944, Maj Gen Jimmy Doolittle, the commander of the 8th Air Force



1985 - Sgt Ann Meier, a member of the Singing Sergeants, serenading legendary General Jimmy Doolittle (seated right); to the left of Ann is the 11th CSAF, General Charles A. Gabriel. Throughout his career, Gen Doolittle continuously praised the men and women of The United States Air Force Band. Photo Credit – Ron Hall

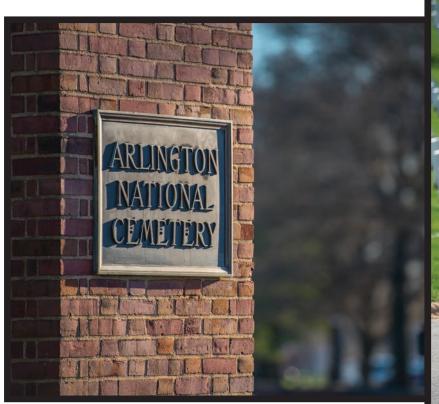




Among the most important duties of The United States Air Force Band is providing appropriate musical honors to our nation's fallen heroes being interred at America's most solemn location, Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. From a lone bugler for a simple honors funeral to a full honors funeral with the Ceremonial Brass, members of The USAF Band are rendering honors at Arlington virtually every day during the week.

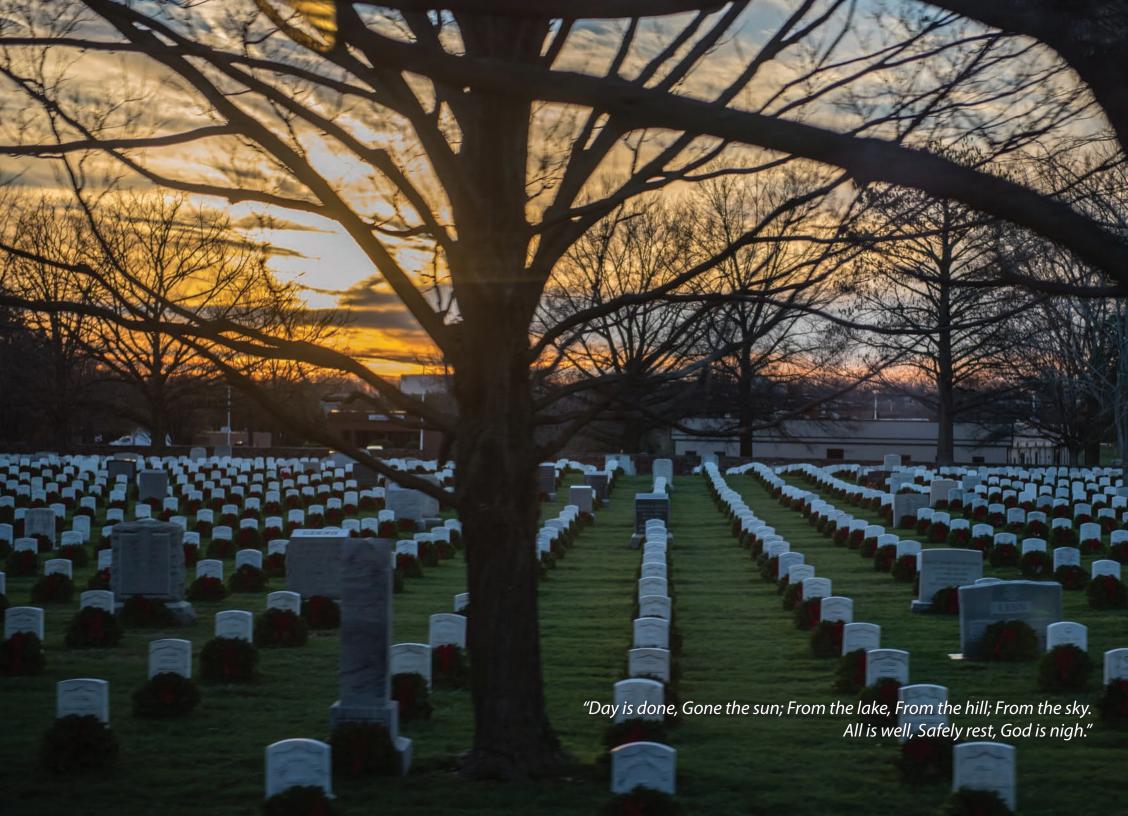
The photographic product on page 148 dramatically captures the solemnity of a US Air Force funeral at Arlington, is the work of Ron Hall who spent over 50 years as Air Staff Photographer in the Pentagon. One of America's most skilled photographers, he was and remains a close and respected friend of The Band who, over the entire span of his time in the Pentagon, contributed both large group photographs as well as individual portraits of conductors and featured soloists. Additionally, whenever he or a member of his staff photographed an official function where units of The Band performed, he insured The Band received copies of these historic photos that included band members.

With his permission, this is the first time this dramatic photographic representation has ever been published.









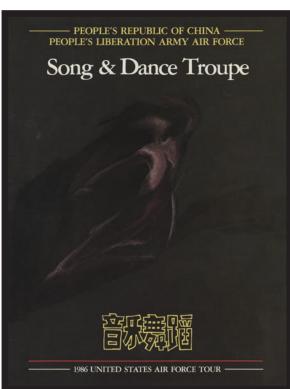
Hands Across the Sea (1985-1990)

After serving almost 21 years as the Commander and Conductor of The United States Air Force Band, Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel passed on the baton to Lt Col Mike M. Bankhead. During the Bankhead era, The Band would again revive its role as "America's International Musical Ambassadors" this time by instituting a robust Foreign Bandleader Exchange Program which resulted in several exchange tours between The USAF Band and other countries. In addition, The Band continued its vigorous commissioning program with new works by Ron Nelson, Gunther Schuller, Claude Smith, Walter Hartley, Jerzy Sapieyevski, Fisher Tull, David Mazlanka, Karel Husa and Robert Jager.

- 1985, Glenda Shepela was the first woman promoted to CMSgt not just for The USAF Band, but also for the entire AF Band career field
- 1985, The Band instituted the Foreign Bandleader Exchange Program with guest conductors from Brazil, Portugal and the United Kingdom
- 1985, The Band hosted the People's Republic of China, People's Liberation Army Air Force's Song and Dance Troupe during their DC visit
- 1985 to 1990, The Band produced 20 Long Playing records and recorded The Band's first compact disc (CD) in 1986 titled, "America!"
- 1986, The Singing Sergeants and Symphony Orchestra perform at the ACDA North Central Division Convention
- 1986, The Band and Singing Sergeants performed at the 40th Anniversary and historic 1st International, Mid West Band & Orchestra Clinic
- 1986 to 1990, The Band recorded a total of 9 compact discs
- 1986 to 1990, Lt Col James Bankhead led the effort to move The Band out of its decaying World War II era buildings into a new facility
- 1986, Mach One was updated/modified to reflect a more modern sound and the name was changed to Spectrum
- 1987 Leona Mitchell, America's leading lyric-spinto soprano, performed with The Band's Symphony Orchestra during a Guest Artist Series concert
- 1987, Captain Rene Castelain, Music Director of the French Air Force's "Music of the Air" Band in Paris, guest conducts The USAF Band
- 1987, The Singing Sergeants perform for the memorial service in Honor of the Space Shuttle Challenger Crew
- 1987, As part of an "In Turn" agreement, The USAF Band and Singing Sergeants was the first premier service band to "tour" mainland China
- 1988, Guest Artist Concert featuring The Chorus of the French Armed Forces, Lieutenant Yves Parmentier, Commander and Conductor
- 1988, Lt Col Kurt Ringelmann, Chief of the Military Bands Section, Bonn, West Germany guest conducts The USAF Band
- 1988, Wing Commander Eric Banks, Commander and Conductor of the Royal Air Force Central Band guest conducts The USAF Band
- 1989, The Singing Sergeants performed a joint concert with The Cincinnati Pops, conducted by Erich Kunzel
- 1989, Major Giuseppe Santurbano, director of The Italian Air Force Band guest conducts during The Band's summer concert at the Sylvan Theater
- 1989. The Serenade in Blue Orchestra went on its first tour to South America
- 1989, The Strolling Strings performed at the Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic
- 1989, The USAF Band revived its European International tour and participated in the French Bicentennial Celebration
- 1990, The Serenade in Blue Orchestra went on its second tour of South America
- 1990, The USAF Band hosted The Soviet Union Symphony Orchestra during its visit to Washington, DC
- 1990, Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel selected as the first "Conductor Emeritus" of The United States Air Force Band
- 1990, The Band performed at the Mid-West Band and Orchestra Clinic

Inauguration: 1989, Inauguration for the 43rd President of the United States of America, George Herbert Walker Bush





In 1985, CMSgts Glenda Shepela and David Ballengee escorted the People's Republic of China, People's Liberation Army Air Force's Song and Dance Troupe for performances at Air Force Bases and surrounding communities in DC, Virginia, Colorado, Nebraska, Illinois, and Hawaii. This cultural exchange was one of the most engaging and successful venues for opening up dialogue between the US and mainland China and their respective Air Force leaders.









In 1986, The Band released its first compact disc, titled, "America!"



In 1986, SMSgt Glenda Shepela was promoted to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant, a grade held only by the the top 1% of the enlisted force. This was a historic first, as she would be the first woman to do so not just in The Band, but in the entire Air Force Band career field.



As part of an "In Turn" favor to the People's Republic of China, The USAF Band and Singing Sergeants would be the first US military unit to tour mainland China in 1987. The program for this historic tour featured The Band's top soloist at the time.



CMSgt Brian Bowman, featured on Herbert L. Clarke's Carnival of Venice (1912)





TSgt Daisy Jackson and MSgt George Singleton performed George and Ira Gershwin's "Selections from Porgy and Bess"









STATES OF









Circa 1987, The Singing Sergeants performing Christmas music for then Vice President George H. W. Bush.

January 20, 1989 - The USAF Band marching in front of the reviewing stand for the inauguration of the 43rd President of the United States, George H. W. Bush.



The Serenade in Blue Orchestra was created by Lt Col Bankhead as an innovative "revue-like" show, drawing members from the Air Force Strings, Airmen of Note and Singing Sergeants (named Serenade in Blue after the radio program, which had been so successful from the 1950s through the '70s). The Serenade in Blue Orchestra toured South America twice, once in 1989 and then again in 1990. The program highlights the cities where the band performed, including Panama City, Manaus, Brasilia, Rio de Janiero, Sao Paulo, Porto Allegre, Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Cordoba and Santiago.



Sub-Oficial Peter C. BarenBregge Regente do Grupo Musical Os Aviadores da Nota (The Airmen of Note)

O Sub-Oficial Peter BarenBregge é o regente do Grupo Músical Aviadores da Nota. Ele nasceu em Pittsburgh, Pensilvānia, mas considera Wilmington, Delaware, sua terra natal.

O Sub-Oficial BarenBregge fez seus estudos na Universidade Estadual de West Chester, em West Chester, Pensilvānia, de 1966 a 1969, e graduou-se como Bacharel de Música (Educação Musical). Enquanto esteve na universidade, o Sub-Oficial BarenBregge obteve seu mestrado em flauta, tendo como professora Marjorie Veleta. Ele tocou saxofone alto no conjunto de instrumentos de sopro durante seus quatro anos de estudo, e foi o principal saxofonista alto no conjunto de jazz. Após sua formatura, o Sub-Oficial BarenBregge ensinou música instrumental como docente no Seminário de Jazz da Escola de Música de Wilmington de 1970 a 1976, juntamente com Herbie Hancock, Thad Jones, Billy Taylor, e Pepper Adams. Em 1977 e 1978, ele excursionou pela Europa, como principal solista e regente assistente da Orquestra de Jovens Americanos de Jazz.

O Sub-Oficial BarenBregge entrou na Forca Aérea dos Estados Unidos em 1979 e tornou-se membro da Orquestra dos Aviadores da Nota da Força Aérea dos Estados Unidos Aviadores da Nota, onde ele tocou como jazz tenor e primeiro saxofone alto. Ele também atuou como solista convidado com a Orquestra de Concertos da USAF (Força Aérea dos Estados Unidos). Ele tornou-se Diretor do grupo Aviadores da Nota em 1989.

O Sub-Oficial BarenBregge fez inúmeras gravações para rádio, a televisão e discos. Trabalhou como "free-lance" nas áreas de Washington, D.C. e Baltimore com artistas de renome tais como, Mel Tormé, Bob Hope, Vicki Carr, Sammy Davis, Jr., Frank Sinatra, Dinah Shore, Toni Tennille, Carmen McRae, Diahann Carrol, Tony Bennet e muitos outros.



Serenata em Azul

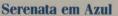
(Serenade in Blue) Um Resumo

Desde a era do swing de Glenn Miller e Benny Goodman até a época dos filmes musicais de grandes aventuras de Bill Conti e John Williams, a Serenata em Azul tem captado a vitalidade da grande herança musical da América. O mais importante conjunto de jazz da Força Aérea dos Estados Unidos, os Aviadores da Nota, junto ao conjunto As Cordas Musicais da Força Aérea e os membros dos Sargentos Cantores reunem-se em um palco para um espetáculo dedicado a reviver algumas da músicas mais excitantes e elegantes do nosso país.

A coreografia de alta energia, o vestuário admirával e a encenação emocionante são tão deslumbrantes

para a vista como a música o é para os ouvidos. A Serenata em Azul é uma produção única na história da Orquestra da Força Aérea - organização geradora dos Aviadores da Nota, das Cordas e dos Sargentos Cantores. No decorrer dos anos 1960 e 1970, a orquestra produziu um show de rádio que foi transmitido em toda a América. Todas as unidades da Orquestra da Força Aérea participaram dessas transmissões semanais, frequentemente em combinação uma com a outra. Entretanto, a Serenata em Azul transformou-se apenas em um produto de estúdio de gravação até que a idéia foi revivida pelo novo desafio de levar em excursão o espetáculo Serenata em Azul.









Soviet Armed Forces Orchestra disembarks at Andrews Air Force Base on January 12.

Soviet Orchestra Visits Andrews

By A1C Gregory Williams

The Soviet Armed Forces Orchestra arrived at Andrews AFB January 12 from the Soviet Union to begin a tour of East coast cities and military installations.

of the Soviet orchestra members, is equal to the American services' grade of E-8 or E-9, according to Capt. George attractive and the architec Egan, an interpreter from the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

They're a little tired after a

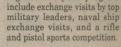
ture is very interesting," said Starchinia Arkhmedzhanov "But, it could be a little larg er," he added, pointing to h



In 1990, the Soviet Orchestra was invited to tour the US and was hosted by The USAF Band while in DC. This exchange would generate an "In Turn" invite for The USAF Band to perform at the V-E 50th Anniversary in Moscow, Russia. The Soviet Orchestra was thrilled to hear the Airmen of Note and the Strolling Strings.









On February 18, 1990, Brig Gen Ralph Rohatsch, Jr., AFDW Commander, presented Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel with the first ever "Conductor Emeritus of The United States Air Force Band" designation in recognition of his service as The Band's Commander and Conductor for 21 years.



The United States Air Force Band

"Imerica's International Musical Ambassadors"
Washington, D.G.
hereby bestows the title of

CONDUCTOR EMERITUS

Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel, USAF (Ret)

Presented this 18th day of February 1990

Burned Roke Sch

Brig Gen Ralph R Rohatsch, Jr: Commander Air Force District of Washington Lt Col James M. Bankhead. Commander The United States Air Force Band



The USAF Band Wind Quintet L-R, Judy Lapple, flute; Ron Erler, oboe; Winston DeShields, horn; Steve Lawson, clarinet; Danny Phipps, bassoon; and pianist Marek Vastek



Timpanist Andy Powers with the USAF Honor Guard



The USAF Brass Quintet James Bittner, trumpet; Ronald Blais, trumpet; Kyle Perry, horn; Edward McKee, tuba; Mark Williams, trombone



The USAF Band
Tuba Euphonium
Ensemble and
the USAF Honor
Guard
Pictured L – R,
Lance Leduke,
euphonium;
David Porter,
tuba; Ed McKee,
tuba; Bob
Daniels, tuba;
Jan Duga, tuba;
and Ann Hinote,
euphonium



1990 - The Music Production Team led by CMSgt Michael Wheeler consisted of four arrangers, six copyists, and one librarian. (L – R) MSgt(s) Barbara Lewis, Tom Dossett, TSgt Paul Rawlins, MSgt Keith Laurent, SMSgt Mike Davis, MSgt Bob Deitemeyer, TSgt Joe Tersero, TSgt Rob Mesite, MSgt Mike Crotty, TSgt Jeanne Garter, and centered is CMSgt Michael Wheeler.

One of the most critical teams to a musical organization is its Technical Support Team. Tech support maintains audio equipment, provides audio support for indoor and outdoor venues, and oversees recording projects. In his book, <u>A Symphony in the Sky</u>, Colonel George Howard, puts this team's importance in perspective, "My advice to any conductor is: Make friends with your sound engineer. He can do more to ruin your concerts than you can do to perfect them with a hundred rehearsals ... Pet him or pamper him, if necessary."