

100 YEARS OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE



The Central Band of the Royal Air Force
The U.S. Air Force Concert Band

April 16, 2018

D.A.R. Constitution Hall
Washington, D.C.



THE CENTRAL BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

THE CENTRAL BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE was established in 1920 and since its formation has played an integral and unique role in military life and in the musical world. Now, from its home in state-of-the-art facilities at Royal Air Force Northolt, the Central Band plays a vital part in State Ceremonial events as well as performing across the United Kingdom in support of Service charities and maintaining an international presence at events such as Military Tattoos throughout the world. The band is the first ensemble outside the United States of America to have been awarded the 'John Philip Sousa Citation for Musical Excellence', recognising its reputation for the highest standards of performance. In 1993, ties with the United States were strengthened further when the band had the honour of receiving a Governor's Citation in recognition of their 'impressive commitment

to the people of Maryland, seeking to make a productive difference in their lives and cultural experiences'. In 1922, the Central Band was the first military band to broadcast on the BBC and it is still the military band that is most frequently featured on air. Recent broadcasts include



appearances on 'Friday Night is Music Night' for Radio 2 commemorating anniversaries of the Battle of Britain and the Dambusters, and live broadcasts for Radio 3 celebrating British light music.

The Central Band are regular guests in some of the UK's favourite concert halls, including the Royal Festival Hall in London and Birmingham's Symphony Hall, undertaking an annual concert tour in support of the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust. In 2013 the band performed at the inaugural 'West End Heroes', a spectacular charity gala performance in the Dominion Theatre featuring many of the stars of West End shows. The band continuously develops strong links with the musical community, having presented several highly acclaimed concerts for the British and World Associations of Symphonic Bands and Wind Ensembles (BASBWE and WASBWE) and performing at many of the country's leading music colleges and conservatoires.



The fundamental role that music plays in military life sees the Central Band, side by side with other Service men and women, representing the Royal Air Force at State Ceremonial events such as the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. Other landmark occasions, both solemn and joyous, have included the performance of a specially commissioned fanfare at the wedding of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and performing as part of a Tri-Service orchestra and marching troop in Belgium to mark 100 years since the battle of Passchendaele. The band fulfils a unique need in these circumstances, be it the poignancy of a trumpet call or the pomp and flourish of a celebratory fanfare.

As serving members of the Royal Air Force, musicians also undertake key operational support roles in theatres around the world. Recent deployments have included Operations TELIC, HERRICK and KIPION, and support roles in the Falkland Islands and the United Arab Emirates. The musicians also undertake regular training for their specific deployment role, which is the running of Casualty Decontamination Areas. Whether from the concert platform, a recording studio, a parade ground, or operational theatres around the globe, musicians of the Central Band display the highest standards in their conduct and performance. Whilst building on its heritage, the band continually seeks new challenges in order to demonstrate the excellence which, throughout its illustrious history, has become a renowned trademark of the Royal Air Force.

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND



THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND began as one of 59 “Air Force Bands” activated on October 1, 1941. Between 1941 and 1945, the Band auditioned over 1,500 applicants and recruited musicians from 32 major symphony orchestras and 38 famous dance bands. The Band’s unsurpassed professionalism, extreme versatility and location at the Headquarters for the Army Air Forces quickly earned the Band its designation as “The Official Band of the Army Air Forces.”

On September 18, 1947, the United States Air Force became a separate and distinct branch of America’s armed forces and its official musical representative assumed its present mantle, The United States Air Force Band. All units of the organization assumed the official “Air Force” title. The Band continued to grow in quality and number of performing units.

Today, through innovative technology, community relations tours, live local performances, deployments and recordings, The United States Air Force Band, with its six distinct ensembles, remains the preeminent military musical organization in the nation’s capital. The U.S. Air Force Band honors those who have served, inspires American citizens to heightened patriotism and service and positively impacts the global community on behalf of the U.S. Air Force and the United States of America.

The **CONCERT BAND** is the premier symphonic wind ensemble of the United States Air Force. Remaining true to the Air Force’s pioneering spirit, the ensemble is renowned as a champion of new works for band, with dozens of world premieres to its credit. Featuring 51 active duty Airmen musicians, the Concert Band performs throughout the United States via biannual tours, live radio, television and Internet broadcasts, as well as at local concerts across metropolitan Washington, D.C. The Concert Band performs a wide variety of music ranging from classical transcriptions and original works to solo features, light classics, popular favorites and patriotic selections. The ensemble is in constant demand by many of the world’s most highly-respected professional musical organizations, including the American Bandmasters Association, Music Educators National Conference and The Midwest Clinic.



Aim High

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE CENTENARY CELEBRATION CONCERT

featuring

THE CENTRAL BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE
conducted by Flight Lieutenant Chris l'Anson

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CONCERT BAND
conducted by Colonel Larry H. Lang

THE QUEEN'S COLOUR SQUADRON OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE
THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE HONOR GUARD



The RAF 100 concerts celebrate the great history of the Royal Air Force and our participation shows our commitment to our allies both on and off the battlefield.

By joining forces, we are able to create events that celebrate the rich heritage of both air forces as well as raise awareness and understanding of each air service. The professionalism and dedication of both organizations is demonstrated daily while working together at home and abroad, protecting the freedoms we enjoy and delivering humanitarian assistance to those in need.



COMMEMORATE | CELEBRATE | INSPIRE

PROGRAM

FANFARES FROM “ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS” Peter Graham

AMERICAN OVERTURE FOR BAND Joseph Willcox Jenkins

~QUEEN'S COLOUR SQUADRON CONTINUITY DRILL DISPLAY~

THE DAMBUSTERS MARCH Eric Coates

featuring the Central Band of the Royal Air Force

HEROIC FANFARE Paul Murtha

OVERTURE TO “CANDIDE” Leonard Bernstein, arr. Walter Beeler

DANCE MOVEMENTS, MVT. I Philip Sparke

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA John Philip Sousa

featuring the U.S. Air Force Concert Band

~INTERMISSION~

REVELRY Williams Pitts

EAGLE SQUADRON MARCH Kenneth Alford

Col (Ret.) Arnald D. Gabriel, conductor

BATTLE OF BRITAIN SUITE William Walton, arr. Barrie Hingley

ASCENSION Tom Davoren

featuring TSgt Forrest Sonntag, trumpet ; Cpl Lewis Musson, euphonium

F35 MARCH Michael McDermott

HYMN TO THE FALLEN John Williams, arr. Paul Lavender

Col (Ret.) Arnald D. Gabriel, conductor

FINALE FROM “STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS” John Williams, arr. Paul Lavender



COLONEL ARNALD D. GABRIEL retired from the United States Air Force in 1985 following a distinguished 36 year military career, at which time he was awarded his third Legion of Merit for his service to the United States Air Force. A combat machine gunner with the United States Army's famed 29th Infantry Division in Europe during WW II, Gabriel received two awards of the Bronze Star Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the French Croix de Guerre. On November 10, 2016, Gabriel was awarded Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, France's highest distinction. He served as Commander/Conductor of the internationally renowned U.S. Air Force Band, Symphony Orchestra and Singing Sergeants from 1964 to 1985. In 1990, he was named the first Conductor Emeritus of The U.S. Air Force Band.



COLONEL LARRY H. LANG is the commander and conductor of The United States Air Force Band. He is responsible for all activities of this 184-member squadron including equipping, training and deploying Airmen musicians to perform nearly 1,600 missions each year. Colonel Lang received his commission through Officer Training School in San Antonio, Texas, in April 1990. His previous commands include the Air Force Band of the Pacific in Alaska, the Air Force Heritage of America Band in Virginia, the Air Force Band of Liberty in Massachusetts and the Air Force Academy Band in Colorado. He was selected to command The U.S. Air Force Band in March 2012.



FLIGHT LIEUTENANT CHRIS I'ANSON is Director of Music of the Central Band of the Royal Air Force. He joined the Royal Air Force in 2003 as a percussionist. For ten years, he performed in venues all over the world including Poland, Moscow, Canada, Cyprus and Gibraltar regularly featured as a soloist. In 2009, he attained the Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music (LRSM) diploma in Music Direction, qualifying him for selection to his current role. He graduated from Initial Officer Training at Royal Air Force College Cranwell in December 2013 and served as Director of Music of the Band of the RAF Regiment from March 2014 until August 2017.



CORPORAL LEWIS MUSSON began playing euphonium at the age of seven and within a few years joined the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain and secured a scholarship to study at Chethams School of Music in Manchester. He studied with Steven Mead and David Thornton at the Royal Northern College of Music. Lewis joined The Central Band of the Royal Air Force in 2013, performing on TV, radio, parade squares and concert halls across the UK and abroad. He recorded solos for a number of the Central Band's recent CDs and in 2015, won the RAF solo competition. Lewis was a featured soloist on three consecutive RAF CTE tours.



TECHNICAL SGT. FORREST SONNTAG is a trumpeter with the Concert Band, The United States Air Force Band, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C. Originally from Jupiter, Florida, his career in the Air Force began in 2017. Sonntag earned a bachelor of music degree from the Manhattan School of Music where he studied with Vincent Penzarella and Mark Gould. Prior to joining the Air Force, Sonntag was second trumpet with the Jacksonville Symphony, a position he held for 2 years. He also played lead trumpet for 2 summers with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.



PERSONNEL

THE CENTRAL BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

Flt Lt Chris l'Anson – *Conductor*

Sgt Neslihan Jordan, *1st flute*
SAC Holly Blomfield, *2nd flute*
Sgt Alison Rogers, *1st oboe*
SAC Louisa Gawn, *2nd oboe*
SAC Sabina Heywood, *E♭ clarinet*
Cpl Graham Jones, *Solo clarinet*
SAC Tim Ieraci, *Solo clarinet*
Cpl Sally Woodcock, *2nd clarinet*
SAC Kathryn O'Grady, *2nd clarinet*
Sgt Dominique Thistleton, *3rd clarinet*
Cpl John Brown, *bass clarinet*
SAC Chris James, *bassoon*
Cpl Andy Mears, *1st alto saxophone*
Cpl Mike Hearman, *2nd alto saxophone*
Sgt Tom Butcher, *tenor saxophone*
Sgt George Martin, *baritone saxophone*

SAC Ed Dyer, *1st horn*
Cpl Ellen Driscoll, *2nd horn*
Chf Tech Paul Meaden, *3rd horn*
Chf Tech Paul Phelan, *4th horn*
Cpl Andrew Lofthouse, *1st trumpet*
SAC Ben Murray, *1st trumpet*
Cpl Tim Hynd, *2nd trumpet*
SAC Edward Carpenter, *3rd trumpet*
SAC Malcolm Knapp, *4th trumpet*
Cpl Jonathan Hill, *1st trombone*
Cpl Andy Taylor, *2nd trombone*
Cpl Matthew Edwardson, *3rd trombone*
Cpl Jonathan Hayward, *bass trombone*
Sgt Matthew Ellson, *euphonium*
Cpl Lewis Musson, *euphonium*
SAC Owen Wallage, *tuba*
SAC Ollie Brookes, *tuba*
Cpl Dave Coyle, *percussion*

Cpl Matt Walker, *percussion*
SAC Joseph Whelan, *percussion*
Chf Tech Adrian Beckwith, *piano*
Chf Tech Andy Rigby, *bass guitar*

LEGEND

SAC = Senior Aircraftsman
Cpl = Corporal
Sgt = Sergeant
Chf Tech = Chief Technician
Flt Lt = Flight Lieutenant

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CONCERT BAND

Col Larry H. Lang – *Commander and Conductor*

Capt Dustin M. Doyle – *Director of Operations*

CMSgt Stacy Newbrough Ascione – *Flight Chief*

CMSgt Stacy Newbrough Ascione, * *flute*
MSgt Jennifer Tersero, *flute*
MSgt Megan Ensor, *piccolo*
SMSgt Tracey MacDonald, * *oboe*
TSgt Kaitlin Hartley, *oboe*
TSgt Emily Foster, *english horn*
MSgt Brooke Emery, *E♭ clarinet*
SMSgt Brian McCurdy, *clarinet*
SMSgt Julianna Evans Arnold, *clarinet*
SMSgt J. Blake Arrington, *clarinet*
MSgt Ani Berberian, *clarinet*
MSgt Benjamin Bowers, *clarinet*
TSgt Jeremy Klenke, * *clarinet*
TSgt Sara Reese, *clarinet*
TSgt Brian Wahrlich, *clarinet*
TSgt Nikki Hill, *clarinet*
TSgt Joey Velez, *clarinet*
SMSgt David K. Stump, *bass clarinet*
TSgt Eddie Sanders III, * *bassoon*
TSgt Sandy Sisk, *bassoon*

MSgt Jeremy Koch, * *alto saxophone*
TSgt Ricky Parrell, *alto saxophone*
SMSgt Jake McCray, *tenor saxophone*
TSgt Carolyn Braus, *baritone saxophone*
SMSgt Kent Wyatt, *french horn*
SMSgt Philip Krzywicki, *french horn*
SMSgt Brett Miller, * *french horn*
TSgt David Balandrin, *french horn*
TSgt Peter Morris, *french horn*
SMSgt Christian Pagnard, *cornet/trumpet*
TSgt Valentin Lukashuk, *cornet/trumpet*
TSgt Blakely Rosengaft, *cornet/trumpet*
TSgt Kristopher Westrich, *cornet/trumpet*
TSgt Micah Killion, * *cornet/trumpet*
TSgt Forrest Sonntag, *cornet/trumpet*
MSgt Matthew Nudell, *trombone*
MSgt David Rosengaft, * *trombone*
TSgt James Layfield, *trombone*
MSgt Jay Heltzer, *bass trombone*
SMSgt Jen Dayton Cox, *euphonium*
MSgt John Cox, * *euphonium*
SMSgt Brian Sands, * *tuba*
TSgt Daniel Walley, *tuba*
MSgt Matthew Murray, * *string bass*

MSgt Adam Green, *timpani*
SMSgt Dennis Hoffmann, *percussion*
SMSgt Joe Reynolds, *percussion*
MSgt Marc Dinitz, * *percussion*
MSgt Randy Gorman, *percussion*
TSgt Gréta Ásgeirsson, *harp*
TSgt Taylor Armstrong, *piano*
MSgt Matthew Geist, *guitar*
MSgt Loren Zimmer, *FOH engineer*
MSgt Mark Hannah, *monitor engineer*
TSgt Joshua Voyles, *audio manager*
TSgt Matthew Dannan, *librarian*

LEGEND

* = Principal/Section Leader
TSgt = Technical Sergeant
MSgt = Master Sergeant
SMSgt = Senior Master Sergeant
CMSgt = Chief Master Sergeant
Capt = Captain
Col = Colonel



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