

# Credits

## COMMAND STAFF

Lieutenant Colonel Alan C. Sierichs	<b>Commander and Music Director</b>
Major Scott A. Guidry	<b>Deputy Commander</b>
Chief Master Sergeant Jerry J. Thomas	<b>Band Manager</b>
Chief Master Sergeant Elizabeth S. Schouten	<b>Band Superintendent</b>



## TECHNICAL SUPPORT STAFF

Senior Master Sergeant Joe Jackson	<b>Producer/Liner Notes</b>
Master Sergeant Rich Sigler	<b>Assistant Producer</b>
Mr. Bob Dawson, Bias Recording Co., Inc.	<b>Remastering</b>
Mr. Jim McKay	<b>Remastering</b>

## RECORDING PRODUCTION STAFF

Senior Master Sergeant Jennifer Pagnard	<b>Director of Marketing and Outreach</b>
Senior Master Sergeant Robert K. McConnell	<b>Superintendent of Recording Production</b>
Master Sergeant Jill C. Westeyn	<b>Chief Booklet Editor</b>
Chief Master Sergeant Dudley J. Hinote	<b>Liner Notes</b>
Senior Master Sergeant Christopher Moehlenkamp	<b>Liner Notes Editor</b>
Senior Master Sergeant Kevin Burns	<b>Photo Research</b>
Technical Sergeant Douglas W. Morgan	<b>Representative for Recording Production</b>
Master Sergeant Robert S. Harrelson	<b>Music Licensing</b>
Chief Master Sergeant (Ret.) Harry Gleeson	<b>Historical Advisor</b>
Chief Master Sergeant (Ret.) Larry Trautman	<b>Historical Advisor</b>
Mr. Rich Mittelstadt	<b>Historical Advisor</b>

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The United States  
**AIR FORCE BAND**  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

# AIRMEN of Note



In 2010, the Airmen of Note celebrates 60 years as the premier jazz ensemble of the United States Air Force. The band's remarkable success in community outreach and troop morale initiatives has been enabled by generations of world-class jazz performers, composers and arrangers.

The roots of the Airmen of Note are found in two well-known musical organizations: the Glenn Miller Army Air Forces Orchestra and The United States Air Force Band at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. Major Miller's Orchestra raised the morale of American service members fighting in World War II. This legacy was not lost on Brigadier General Sydney D. Grubbs, the commander of Bolling Air Force Base during the Korean War era.

General Grubbs perceived a continuing need for an ensemble that fulfilled the role of the Glenn Miller Orchestra in World War II—an ensemble that performed music more to the tastes of young servicemembers, as opposed to the marches and brass band styles that comprised the bulk of the military music of the day. General Grubbs presented the idea of a dance band as a standing unit of The Air Force Band to the band's commander Colonel George S. Howard. He discovered that Colonel Howard had been considering the same thing.

In September 1950, the pieces quickly came together when the Airmen of Note was formed under the leadership of The Air Force Band's chief arranger, Chief Warrant Officer Fred Kepner. He auditioned over 200 professional, civilian musicians from



bands led by such greats as Tommy Dorsey, Hal McIntyre, Xavier Cugat, Johnny Long, Claude Thornhill, Ralph Flanagan, Billy Butterfield, Baron Elliott, Shep Fields, Raymond Scott, Noro Morales and Sonny Dunham. Only the very best were selected to enlist in the Air Force and travel to Washington, D.C., to join the "Note." By January 1951, the band was ready to begin.



Chief Warrant Officer Fred Kepner

While the "Note" soon found itself to be in high demand for the dance circuit at service clubs, it also found opportunities to perform for the public at venues throughout the Washington, D.C. area. With domestic and overseas tours, as well as broadcast recording sessions, the "Note" began a continuing tradition of bringing its music to civilian and military audiences around the world.

By 1953, the "Note" had entered the consciousness of the mainstream entertainment industry and was selected to play the part of the Glenn Miller Orchestra in the Universal-International picture, *The Glenn Miller Story*, starring Jimmy Stewart.

Jimmy Stewart in 'The Glenn Miller Story'





Staff Sergeant Sammy Nestico

filled with equally strong players, including future *Tonight Show* band assistant director Tommy Newsom.



Master Sergeant Johnny Osiecki

Nestico returned to his arranging position within The Air Force Band in 1955. Taking his place was accordionist Master Sergeant Johnny Osiecki, who led the band for eleven years—a tenure longer than that of any other leader in the group’s history. During this period, the focus of the band changed from that of just a dance band into a contemporary jazz group capable of playing concerts,

as well as entertaining audiences at service clubs. The group also started appearing at jazz festivals and added the music of the jazz greats of the late ‘50s and ‘60s to its repertoire. However, it never abandoned its roots as a swinging dance band, even appearing on the Lawrence Welk television show.



During the 1960s, The Air Force Band’s nationally syndicated *Serenade in Blue* radio series brought the music of the Airmen of Note into the homes of the American people, providing a new level of publicity for the “Note.” The band’s increasing popularity also led to performances at the White House for President Lyndon B. Johnson on a number of occasions.

In 1966, Sergeant Osiecki retired from the Air Force, and Chief Warrant Officer Bob Buntun was selected to lead the Airmen of Note. He served as the group’s leader for five years. In addition to continuing the programs and stylistic direction



Chief Warrant Officer Bob Buntun



*First Lieutenant Ken Green*



*Captain Gene Egge*

established under Osiecki, the “Note” began producing promotional recordings. These recordings were distributed directly to the American public, often during community relations concert tours across

the country. This initiative helped keep the band’s world-class music and Air Force messages resounding throughout American communities.

Between 1971 and 1979, the “Note” was under the leadership of four different musicians. First Lieutenant Ken Green directed the band from 1971 to 1972, and Captain Gene Egge led the group from 1972 to 1974. Chief Master Sergeant Dave Napier, the



*Chief Master Sergeant Dave Napier*

first member from within the Airmen of Note to be appointed director, was in charge from 1974 to 1976, and Chief Master Sergeant Ernie Hensley took over from 1976 to 1979.



*Chief Master Sergeant Ernie Hensley*

During this period, the band continued to add new ways of bringing their music to civilian and military audiences. In 1972, it was featured on the *Tonight Show*, where an enthusiastic Johnny Carson bumped another guest to feature the “Note” on an encore. Following the example set by the Glenn Miller Army Air Forces Orchestra 30 years prior, the “Note” took its act to service members fighting overseas, this time traveling to Southeast Asia. Additionally, the band increased its collaborations with guest artists in both live performances and on recordings.





1950 – 1954 Chief Warrant Officer Fred Kepner



1954 – 1955 Staff Sergeant Sammy Nestico



1955 – 1966 Master Sergeant Johnny Osiecki



1966 – 1971 Chief Warrant Officer Bob Bunton



1971 – 1972  
First Lieutenant Ken Green



1972 – 1974 Captain Gene Egge



1974 – 1976 Chief Master Sergeant Dave Napier



1976 – 1979 Chief Master Sergeant Ernie Hensley



1979 – 1989 Chief Master Sergeant Dave Steinmeyer



1989 – 1998 Chief Master Sergeant Pete BarenBregge



1998 – 2004 Chief Master Sergeants C.E. Askew  
and Joe Eckert



2004 – present Chief Master Sergeant Dudley  
Hinote and Senior Master Sergeant Joe Jackson



Chief Master Sergeant Dave Steinmeyer



Chief Master Sergeant Pete BarenBregge

The director of the Airmen of Note from 1979 through 1989 was longtime lead trombonist Chief Master Sergeant Dave Steinmeyer. Saxophonist Chief Master Sergeant Pete BarenBregge led the band from 1989 to 1998. During the 1980s and early 1990s, the Air Force experienced many changes and through them all the “Note” played an important role in entertaining Airmen and presenting the “face of the Air Force” to the public. Educational outreach became an important component of the ensemble’s mission. Music clinics across the United States provided the opportunity to display its exciting brand of big band jazz to tens of thousands of future leaders.



Chief Master Sergeants C.E. Askew and Joe Eckert

Upon Chief BarenBregge’s retirement in 1998, managerial and musical direction duties were divided, as the new leaders, Chief Master Sergeants C.E. Askew and Joe

Eckert, took the helm. In 2002, the Airmen of Note embarked on its first tour of a combat zone in 30 years, touring bases in Southwest Asia. Then in 2004, Chief Master Sergeant Dudley Hinote and Senior Master Sergeant Joe Jackson assumed leadership. In 2006, the group spearheaded The Air Force Band’s return to broadcasting with the Jazz Heritage Series, a series of programs that combines the talents of jazz masters with the performing skill of the “Note.” Recordings continued to be an important component of the band’s ability to deliver music to its audience. In late 2009, the “Note’s” *Cool Yule* holiday CD raced up the charts to the #2 most-played jazz recording in the United States.



Chief Master Sergeant Dudley Hinote and Senior Master Sergeant Joe Jackson

The Airmen of Note commemorates its 60-year history with a reunion in September 2010. This celebration gives the “Note” and its distinguished alumni the opportunity to reflect on being part of one of the most revered musical organizations in the world. Today, as the longest-tenured military jazz band and the nation’s premier Air Force jazz ensemble, the “Note” stands poised at the forefront of jazz to fulfill its missions with the enthusiasm, flexibility and musical excellence that have always been its hallmarks.

# SELECTIONS

*Leader: CWO3 Fred Kepner  
(1950-54)*

- 1. Sabre Jet – 1953 (3:29)**  
Comp./Arr. MSgt Sammy Nestico  
SSgt Walt Levinsky, clarinet  
SSgt Bill Hodges, trumpet

*Leader: MSgt Sammy Nestico  
(1954-55)*

- 2. Wrap Your Troubles  
in Dreams<sup>1</sup> – 1955 (3:22)**  
Comp. Barris/Koehler/Moll  
Arr. SSgt Tommy Newsom  
SSgt Tommy Zang, vocals

*Leader: Capt Johnny Osiecki  
(1955-66)*

- 3. One O'Clock Jump<sup>2</sup> – 1957 (3:48)**  
Comp. Count Basie  
Arr. SSgt George West  
SSgt Tommy Newsom,  
tenor saxophone  
SSgt Bobby Zottola, trumpet  
SSgt George West, bass trombone  
MSgt Don Dempsey, bass

- 4. Loch Lomond – 1965 (3:19)**  
Comp. Traditional  
Arr. MSgt Sammy Nestico  
TSgt Bill Tole, trombone

*Leader: CWO4 Bob Bunton  
(1966-71)*

- 5. Them There Eyes<sup>3</sup> – 1967 (2:49)**  
Comp. Pinkard/Tauber/Tracey  
Arr. TSgt Paul Kelly  
TSgt Bobby Mann, guitar

- 6. And We Do Love You Madly<sup>4</sup>  
– 1970 (2:44)**  
Comp./Arr. Paul Kondziela  
CMSgt Ernie Hensley, alto saxophone  
MSgt Ken Smukal, trumpet  
TSgt Gary Scott, tenor saxophone

*Leader: Capt Ken Green  
(1971-72)*

- 7. Uno Mas – 1972 (3:51)**  
Comp./Arr. SMSgt Roger Hogan  
MSgt Ken Smukal, trumpet  
TSgt Gary Scott, piccolo

*Leader: Capt Gene Egge  
(1972-74)*

- 8. God Bless the Child<sup>5</sup> – 1974 (7:29)**  
Comp. Herzog/Holiday  
Arr. SMSgt Mike Crotty  
SSgt Miki Bellamy, vocals  
MSgt Mike Smukal, trombone  
MSgt Ken Smukal, trumpet  
CMSgt Ernie Hensley, alto saxophone

*Leader: CMSgt Dave Napier  
(1974-76)*

- 9. La Fiesta<sup>6</sup> – 1974 (4:00)**  
Comp. Chick Corea  
Arr. SMSgt Gil Cray  
SMSgt Gil Cray, piano

*Leader: CMSgt Ernie Hensley  
(1976-79)*

- 10. Blues for Mundy – 1977 (4:38)**  
Comp. CMSgt Rick Whitehead  
Arr. SMSgt Roger Hogan  
CMSgt Rick Whitehead, guitar  
SMSgt Brent McKesson, bass

*Leader: CMSgt Dave Steinmeyer  
(1979-89)*

- 11. And We Will Love Again<sup>7</sup>  
– 1984 (4:30)**  
Comp. Patrick Williams  
Arr. SMSgt Gil Cray  
CMSgt Dave Steinmeyer, trombone  
TSgt Judy Steinmeyer, violin
- 12. Invitation<sup>8</sup> – 1985 (4:03)**  
Comp. Bronislaw Kaper  
Arr. SMSgt Mike Crotty  
SMSgt Bobbie McCleary, vocals  
CMSgt Dave Steinmeyer, trombone



- 13. Night Clouds - 1985 (8:25)**  
Comp./Arr. SMSgt Mike Crotty  
MSgt Vaughn Nark, trumpet  
CMSgt Joe Eckert,  
soprano saxophone

*Leader: CMSgt Peter BarenBregge  
(1989-98)*

- 14. Naima<sup>9</sup> – 1993 (5:23)**  
Comp. John Coltrane  
Arr. SMSgt Mike Crotty  
CMSgt Peter BarenBregge,  
tenor saxophone

- 15. Never Make Your Move Too Soon<sup>10</sup>  
– 1996 (4:30)**  
Comp. Hooper/Jennings  
Arr. SMSgt Mike Crotty  
MSgt Tracey Wright, vocals  
SMSgt Joe Jackson, trombone

*Leaders: CMSgt C.E. Askew and  
CMSgt Joe Eckert  
(1998-2004)*

- 16. Shiny Stockings – 2000 (5:15)**  
Comp./Arr. Frank Foster  
SMSgt Tim Leahey, trumpet  
MSgt Steve Erickson, piano

*Leaders: CMSgt Dudley Hinote and  
SMSgt Joe Jackson  
(2004-Present)*

**17. I Love Being Here With You<sup>12</sup>  
– 2007 (3:16)**

Comp. Lee and Schluger  
Arr. MSgt Alan Baylock  
TSgt Paige Martin, vocals  
TSgt Tedd Baker, tenor saxophone

**18. Over the Rainbow – 2004 (2:53)**

Comp. Arlen/Harburg  
Arr. MSgt Alan Baylock  
MSgt Brian MacDonald, trumpet  
SMSgt Kevin Burns, trumpet

**Total Time (77:44)**

*Musicians are credited with their highest  
rank achieved.*

**Ranks**

SSgt = Staff Sergeant  
TSgt = Technical Sergeant  
MSgt = Master Sergeant  
SMSgt = Senior Master Sergeant  
CMSgt = Chief Master Sergeant  
CW03/CW04 = Senior-level Chief  
Warrant Officer  
Capt = Captain

**All selections were released with permis-  
sion of the following publishers:**

1. Shapiro, Bernstein & Co. Inc/Bughouse  
Music OBO Ted Koehler Music Co.
2. EMI Feist Catalog Inc.
3. Bourne Co.
4. Paul Konziela
5. Edward B. Marks Music Co.
6. Universal Music Corp. OBO Litha  
Music Co.
7. Songs of Universal Inc.
8. EMI April Music Inc. OBO Primary Wave  
Songs/Webster Music Corp.
9. Jowcol Music LLC
10. Irving Music Inc/Nesbert "Stix" Hooper,  
Status Cymbal Music Co. BMI
11. Helene Blue Musique, LTD OBO Lynn-  
storm Publishing
12. Universal Music MGB Songs OBO  
Denslow Music Inc.

# Personnel

## SAXOPHONES/WOODWINDS

TSgt Tyler Kuebler, lead alto  
*Agoura Hills, CA*  
MSgt Andy Axelrad, second alto  
*Buffalo Grove, IL*  
TSgt Tedd Baker, lead tenor  
*Marshfield, MA*  
TSgt Grant Langford, second tenor  
*Chapel Hill, NC*  
TSgt Doug Morgan, baritone  
*Grove City, PA*

## TRUMPETS

MSgt Brian MacDonald, lead  
*Ft. Lauderdale, FL*  
SMSgt Kevin Burns, split lead  
*Cleveland, TN*  
MSgt Rich Sigler, third  
*Mountain View, CA*  
SMSgt Tim Leahey, fourth  
*Altoona, PA*

## TROMBONES

SMSgt Joe Jackson, lead  
*Dallas, TX*  
MSgt Jeff Martin, second  
*Newton, KS*

TSgt Ben Patterson, third  
*Sapulpa, OK*  
CMSgt Dudley Hinote, bass  
*Titusville, FL*

## RHYTHM

TSgt Geoff Reecer, guitar  
*Arlington, VA*  
MSgt Steve Erickson, piano  
*Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada*  
SMSgt Paul Henry, bass  
*Green Bay, WI*  
TSgt David McDonald, drums  
*Decatur, IL*

## VOCALS

TSgt Paige Martin  
*Broadalbin, NY*

## ARRANGER

MSgt Alan Baylock  
*Ebensburg, PA*

## AUDIO ENGINEER

TSgt Adam Dempsey  
*Alpena, MI*

