

A Merry Little Christmas



The United States Air Force Concert Band
and Singing Sergeants

WASHINGTON, D. C.





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Spring...Summer...Fall...each of these seasons has its own ability to bring distinct images to our minds and feelings to our hearts. However, no scene can compare to that of the winter holidays, when the chilly air, beautiful decorations and festive spirit remind us that indeed there is a little child in everyone. These visions certainly would not be complete without the traditional sounds associated with such a

magical time of year. With this in mind, what could be a better way to say “Season’s Greetings” than with a special collection of music from **The United States Air Force Band** that appeals to the youthful, more playful side of our human experience? We hope you enjoy this merry little assortment of seasonal delights for and about young people...young people of all ages.

What would the holidays be without the most popular image of all—Santa Claus? He spreads his Christmas cheer by flying to town on a reindeer-drawn sleigh and sliding down chimneys to deliver gifts to all of the good girls and boys. **Santa!/Must be Santa** (A Short Suite) presents a jolly sampling of tunes arranged by Chief Master Sergeant Michael Davis and Master Sergeant Larry MacTaggart that celebrates the boundless generosity of Santa Claus.

Our second selection is Pat Ballard’s clever resetting of his popular 1950s tune, *Mr. Sandman*. While the original song is a romantic teenage wish list, this new arrangement is a holiday wish list from an even younger point of view. In this delightful setting by Technical Sergeant John Bliss, four of our Singing Sergeants reveal what they would like for the holidays from **Mister Santa**.

This time of year is so magical that even an inanimate group of toy soldiers can come to life and become a holiday tradition. *Parade of the Tin Soldiers*, originally written as a solo piano piece by Leon Jessel in 1905, was featured in the 1920s Broadway production of *La Chauvesouris*. This specific scene featured a group of wooden toy soldiers performing a dance, and culminated with a soldier on the end of the line falling down and knocking over all of the others with remarkable precision. This piece came to be known as **Parade of the Wooden Soldiers**, and in this new setting from Master Sergeant Larry MacTaggart, we can easily imagine the famous dance of these very popular toys.

During the late 1800s, a distinctively American form of sacred music began its rise out of the Civil War ashes in the South and spread across the country. Called “spirituals,” these jubilant anthems were joyful expressions of hope in the midst of the worst possible oppression. Some of the more popular spirituals, including *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* and *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, were passed down through generations of African-American slaves and their descendants. One of the oldest Christmas spirituals is **Children, Go Where I Send Thee**, and in this new arrangement by Chief Master Sergeant Michael Davis, the Singing Sergeants combine counting and story-telling as they sing about people going to see the Christ child.

While the gospel accounts of the nativity mention only the infant Jesus, over the years songwriters have taken the liberty to add children to the manger scene. In 1958, composer Harry Simeone introduced us to a young musician whose story has since become a favorite Christmas fable. In this beautiful new treatment of **The Little Drummer Boy** by Technical Sergeant John Bliss, you will not only hear musical references to the three wise men, but also a clever quote from *Pat-a-Pan*, an old French carol with a very similar text.

The story line and melody of our next selection also suggest a centuries-old traditional carol. This time one of the main characters is a little shepherd boy who declares to all around him the evidence of a miracle coming to pass. Technical Sergeant Janice Carl conveys the mystery, beauty and majesty of the young boy's experience in Chief Master Sergeant Michael Davis' arrangement of this perennial favorite, **Do You Hear What I Hear?**

Charles Tazewell was at the height of his career as a radio scriptwriter when he decided to write a children's Christmas story in 1939. In only three days he managed to produce the timeless classic **The Littlest Angel**, which has enchanted both young and old for three generations. In the late 1960s, the former director of the Singing Sergeants, Major Frank Lockwood, created a marvelous band accompaniment to Mr. Tazewell's text. During this recording, we feature the distinctive narrative voice of Chief Master Sergeant Glenda Shepela as we share this unique musical work with you.

When evening falls on Jewish homes throughout the world during the season of Hanukkah, the pleasant aroma of potato pancakes, or latkes, fills the air. The warm candlelight of the Menorah dances for eight evenings, as children spin their dreidels before gathering to hear the ancient story of this holiday. Master Sergeant Carol Wiley highlights this tradition in a beautiful lullaby, *Rozhinkes mit Mandlen*, or **Raisins and Almonds**.

While Santa Claus is known for his big round belly, chubby face and white beard, it may be a surprise that he did not always look this way. This holiday character acquired his modern image and charm in 1822 when Professor Clement Clark Moore wrote a Christmas Eve poem for his children titled "A Visit from St. Nicholas." This poem about the legendary gift-giver transformed Santa from a tall, slender Dutch patron saint to a short, plump "jolly old elf" that children have since adored. Our next selection, arranged by Harry Simeone and Chief Master Sergeant (Ret) Floyd Werle, highlights Professor Moore's immortal poem in Ken Darby's well-known musical setting of **'Twas the Night Before Christmas**.

With its prehistoric setting and cast of characters that includes the Spring Fairy, Spirit of the Wood and King Frost, Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov's opera *The Snow Maiden* has all the ingredients of a modern child's fantasy. Written in 1880 in just three months, it was a work of which the composer was particularly proud, yet, like most other Russian operas, is rarely staged today. One excerpt from the third act of the opera that has remained popular, however, is the famous **Dance of the Buffoons**.

While every child eventually has to grow up, this holiday season affords us the chance to revisit our childhood, recapture some of that youthful optimism, put things back into perspective and perhaps even make a positive difference in this world of ours. Here, Master Sergeant Angela Williams sings about her holiday wishes and desires in Master Sergeant Robert Thurston's arrangement of **Grown-Up Christmas List**.

Barry Manilow's **Because It's Christmas** (For All the Children), arranged by Master Sergeant Larry MacTaggart, is the title track of Manilow's 1990 holiday recording. Beginning with George Frederick Handel's *For Unto Us A Child Is Born* from the *Messiah*, the song evolves into a musical tribute to children everywhere, and reminds us of the importance of our childhood dreams.

This special collection of music would not be complete without a few traditional holiday carols. The United States Air Force Concert Band, Singing Sergeants and the Woodbridge Youth Chorale invite you to sing along with some of our favorites in **Joyful and Triumphant**. In this wonderful collection by Technical Sergeant John Bliss, arrangements of *Away in a Manger*, *Silent Night* and *The First Noel* are put together with Chief Master Sergeant (Ret) Floyd Werle's version of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. As you sing, please remember the thousands of American service members currently deployed on peacekeeping and humanitarian missions all over the world... and have yourself a joyous holiday season, a Happy New Year and of course, **A Merry Little Christmas!**

SELECTIONS

1| *Santa! / Must Be Santa* (A Short Suite) (9:51)

arr. CMSGT MICHAEL DAVIS*/MSGT LARRY MACTAGGART*

Happy Holiday!—Williamson Music Co.

Here Comes Santa Claus!—Gene Autry's Western Music Publishing Co.

The Bell That Couldn't Jingle—Universal On Backstreet Music Inc./Warner Chappell Music Inc.

Up on the House Top

I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus—Jewel Music Publishing Co. Inc.

Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

Santa Claus is Coming to Town—The Song Writers Guild/EMI Music Publishing

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer—St. Nicholas Music Inc.

Must Be Santa—Woodwyn Music Co.

CMSgt Julianne Turrentine, MSgt Kevin Sapp and MSgt Russell Colleran, soloists

2| *Mister Santa* (2:36)

music and lyrics PAT BALLARD

arr. TSGT JOHN BLISS*

MPL Communications Inc. (Edwin H. Morris & Co.)

CMSgt Donna Abraira, TSgt Amy Statz,

MSgt Jennifer Lyons and TSgt Janice Carl, soloists

3| *Parade of the
Wooden Soldiers* (3:27)

LEON JESSEL

arr. MSGT LARRY MACTAGGART*

Edward B. Marks Music Co.



4| Children, Go Where I Send Thee (2:30)

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL

arr. CMSGT MICHAEL DAVIS*

TSgt Robin Askew, soloist

5| The Little Drummer Boy (4:02)

HARRY SIMEONE/HENRY V. ONORATI/KATHERINE K. DAVIS

arr. TSGT JOHN BLISS*

EMI Music Publishing/International Korwin Corp.

6| Do You Hear What I Hear? (4:22)

music NOEL REGNEY

lyrics GLORIA ADELE SHAYNE

arr. CMSGT MICHAEL DAVIS*

Jewel Music Publishing Co. Inc.

TSgt Janice Carl, soloist

7| The Littlest Angel (12:14)

music MAJOR (RET) FRANK LOCKWOOD**

text CHARLES TAZEWELL

CMSgt Glenda Shepela, narrator

8| Raisins and Almonds (4:27)

TRADITIONAL LULLABY

arr. MUC DAVID WARD***

MSgt Carol Wiley, soloist



- 9) 'Twas the Night
Before Christmas (7:58)
music KEN DARBY
text PROFESSOR CLEMENT CLARK MOORE
arr. HARRY SIMEONE/CMSGT (RET) FLOYD WERLE**
Shawnee Press Inc.
MSgt Jennifer Lyons, TSgt Ryan Dolan and TSgt Kenneth Maxwell, soloists
- 10) Dance of the Buzons from *The Snow Maiden* (4:13)
NICOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV
trans. HARVEY A. SARTORIUS
- 11) Grown-Up Christmas List (3:29)
music and lyrics DAVID FOSTER/LINDA THOMPSON JENNER
arr. MSGT ROBERT THURSTON*
Air Bear Music/Linda's Boys Music/Warner-Tamerlane Pub. Corp.
MSgt Angela Williams, soloist
- 12) Because It's Christmas (For All the Children) (6:18)
music and lyrics BARRY MANILOW/BRUCE H. SUSSMAN/JACK A. FELDMAN
arr. MSGT LARRY MACTAGGART*
Careers BMG Music Publishing
- 13) Joyful and Triumphant (5:30)
arr. TSGT JOHN BLISS*/CMSGT (RET) FLOYD WERLE**
Away in a Manger, Silent Night, The First Noel and O Come, All Ye Faithful
Featuring the Woodbridge Youth Chorale

* Member, The United States Air Force Band

** Former Member, The United States Air Force Band

*** Former Member, The United States Navy Band

(Total Time 71:06)

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CONCERT BAND

Commander/Conductor: Colonel Lowell E. Graham—*Greeley, CO*

Manager: Chief Master Sergeant James H. Moseley II—*Beaumont, TX*

Piccolo

MSgt Ardyth Corliss Scott—*Shreveport, LA*

Flute

TSgt Sharon Nokes*—*Philadelphia, PA*

MSgt Lucille Johnston Snell—

Albuquerque, NM

TSgt Stacy Newbrough—*Iowa City, IA*

Oboe

MSgt Ronald Erler*—*Falls Church, VA*

SMSgt David James—*Hampton, VA*

English Horn

CMSgt James Moseley—*Beaumont, TX*

E-Flat Clarinet

MSgt Jan Brooks Siegfried—*Valparaiso, IN*

B-Flat Clarinet

TSgt George Stoffan^o—*Stratford, CT*

TSgt Dawn Henry—*Quarryville, PA*

MSgt David Aspinwall—*Atlanta, GA*

MSgt Elizabeth Campeau—*Pinckney, MI*

MSgt Sandra Cox—*Columbia, SC*

MSgt Jan Brooks Siegfried—*Valparaiso, IN*

MSgt Carl Long—*Hanover, NH*

MSgt Richard Drew—*Joliet, IL*

TSgt Bryan Guidry—*Bedford, TX*

MSgt Lorraine Haddad—*Poughkeepsie, NY*

TSgt Shawn Buck—*Brookside, PA*

SMSgt Robert Little—*Houston, TX*

TSgt Brian McCurdy—*Winchester, VA*

Bass Clarinet

TSgt Jeffrey Snavelly—*Milwaukee, WI*

Contra-Alto Clarinet

TSgt Brian McCurdy—*Winchester, VA*

Bassoon

CMSgt Danny Phipps*—*Annapolis, MD*

TSgt Larry Burke—*Redondo Beach, CA*

Contra-Bassoon

SMSgt Joe Tersero—*Killeen, TX*

Alto Saxophone

MSgt William Mar*—*Alexandria, VA*

TSgt Jeremy Koch—*Chicago, IL*

Tenor Saxophone

TSgt Jake McCray—*Fairfax, VA*

Baritone Saxophone

MSgt Mary Beth George—*Buffalo, NY*

French Horn

TSgt Kathleen Monroe*—*Columbus, OH*
TSgt Kent Wyatt—*Arlington, TX*
MSgt Deborah Stephenson—*Dallas, TX*
TSgt Philip Krzywicki—*Philadelphia, PA*
TSgt Leslie Mincer Robillard—
Charlottesville, VA
TSgt Michael Himes—*Orlando, FL*

Cornet

MSgt Andrew Wilson*—*Gambier, OH*
MSgt James Bittner—*Harrisburg, PA*
TSgt Michael Bosch—*Bethlehem, PA*
MSgt William Adcock—*San Jose, CA*
TSgt Curt Christensen—*Mt. Clemens, MI*
MSgt Clarence Mitchell—*Portsmouth, VA*

Trumpet

MSgt Robert McConnell—*Wadsworth, OH*
TSgt Kenneth Oedemann—*Southampton, PA*

Trombone

CMSgt Mark Williams*—*Okemos, MI*
MSgt Jeffrey Gaylord—*Western Springs, IL*
TSgt James VanZandt—*Austin, TX*
SMSgt Lindsey Smith—*Williamston, MI*

Bass Trombone

SMSgt Chris Matten—*Catasauqua, PA*

Euphonium

TSgt William Jones*—*Stormville, NY*
TSgt Joseph Bello—*Naperville, IL*

Tuba

TSgt Christopher Quade*—*Burke, VA*
SMSgt Jan Duga—*Columbus, OH*
SMSgt William Porter—*Alcoa, TN*

Cello

MSgt Christopher Moehlenkamp*—
Lynchburg, VA
TSgt Joan Hovda—*Decorah, IA*

String Bass

SMSgt Frank Pappajohn—*Morgantown, WV*

Timpani

SMSgt Patrick Shrieves—*Freehold, NJ*

Percussion

MSgt Aubrey Adams*—*Medford, OK*
SMSgt Mark Carson—*East Fulton, OH*
TSgt Erica Kadison—*Louisville, KY*
TSgt Marc Dinitz—*Rockville, MD*

Harp

TSgt Eric Sabatino—*Long Island City, NY*

Piano/Celeste

MSgt Marek Vastek—*Warsaw, Poland*
TSgt Mitchell Morton—*Pittsburgh, PA*

◦ Concertmaster

* Principal



THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SINGING SERGEANTS

Director: First Lieutenant Chad A. Steffey–*Ponca City, OK*

Manager: Chief Master Sergeant Donna Baldwin Abraira–*Dummerston, VT*

Soprano

CMSgt Donna Baldwin Abraira
Dummerston, VT

CMSgt Julianne Sages Turrentine^{o*}
Uniontown, PA

TSgt Robin Askew
Chapel Hill, NC

TSgt Linda Mayes Waring
Hagerstown, MD

TSgt Amy Statz
Sauk City, WI

TSgt Anne Seaton
Lodi, WI

Alto

SMSgt Patricia Fanara Wolfe*
Massapequa Park, NY

MSgt Carol Hawkins Wiley
Wilson, NC

MSgt Angela Burns Williams
Wilmington, NC

MSgt Jennifer Lyons
Knoxville, TN

TSgt Janice Reksten Carl
Reston, VA

Tenor

SMSgt Richard Pearson
Carrollton, OH

MSgt Kevin Sapp*
Fort Meyer, FL

MSgt Russell Colleran
Lindenhurst, NY

TSgt Ryan Carson
Rapid City, SD

TSgt Kenneth Maxwell
Enon Valley, PA

Bass/Baritone

SMSgt David Nokes*
La Honda, CA

TSgt David Farwig
Denver, CO

TSgt Brian Davis
Highland, MD

TSgt Ryan Dolan
Virginia Beach, VA

TSgt Robert Harrelson
Boiling Springs, NC

^o Assistant Director

* Section Leader

THE WOODBRIDGE YOUTH CHORALE

Director: Karyn Kelsey

Assistant Director/Accompanist: Arthur Lockamy

Ashley Amidon
Melissa Amidon
Brittany Baukman
Rachel Binswanger
Brittany Bonta
Cayce Boyles
Lindsey Buckner
Caly Cassady
Caitlin Colwell
Trevor Finney
Kristal Foster
Lindsey Godart

Meg Henshall
Sarah Henshall
Amber Hill
Abby Kaster
Amanda Kaster
Bruce Lord
Carter Nichols
Erin Nuckols
Callie Paige
Thomas Pietler
Bill Porter
Sandra Porter

Catie Samples
Emily Sisa
Dawn Slekis
Stefanie Slekis
Britton Terronez
Sarah Unke
Jessika VanOver
Persephania Williams
Mandy Wood
Lynsey Yatros



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Colonel Lowell E. Graham, *Commander/Conductor*

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