



The United States Air Force

AIRMEN OF NOTE

50th Anniversary

Senior Master Sergeant
C.E. Askew, Superintendent

Senior Master Sergeant
Joe Eckert, Music Director



The United States Air Force Band



Washington, D.C.

This compilation celebrates the 50th anniversary of the premier jazz ensemble of the United States Air Force - the **Airmen of Note**. Although the “Note” lists its official date of origin as September 28, 1950, the band can trace its roots back to that fabulous group of Army Air Forces musicians that was organized and led by Major Glenn Miller during World War II.

The idea behind forming the **Airmen of Note** came from Brigadier General Sidney Grubbs, commander of Headquarters Command at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., and a big Miller fan. At the time, The United States Air Force Band had a concert band, a string ensemble, a symphony orchestra, a men’s chorus and a full array of smaller units, but no swinging big band to entertain the troops at dances and stage shows.

In the summer of 1950, General Grubbs authorized the additional personnel and tasked The Air Force Band’s commander, Lieutenant Colonel George S. Howard, to fill this musical void. Leadership of this new group fell to Chief Warrant Officer Fred Kepner, who proceeded to audition more than 200 musicians, many of whom were top names in their field. Little did he know, the foundation was established for a tradition of unparalleled excellence that shows no signs of waning. For 50 years, the “Note” has dazzled audiences worldwide with incomparable live and recorded performances, proudly carrying Major Miller’s legacy into the 21st century.

It is with tremendous gratitude that the **Airmen of Note** of today honor their rich musical heritage. This album of memories is dedicated to each and every airman who served in “America’s Big Band” during the past 50 years.

1| **Music in the Air** *Opening Theme*: Music composed and arranged by Charles Sayre**
CWO Bob Bunton, *announcer*

Front Cover: The Airmen of Note in the early 1950s.

2| **Portrait of New York**

Arranged by Sammy Nestico**

Street Scene - *Alfred Newman* / Manhattan - *Richard Rodgers*

Autumn in New York - *Vernon Duke* / Manhattan Serenade - *Louis Alter*

New York New York - *Leonard Bernstein*

Chief Warrant Officer Fred Kepner, Director, 1950-1954

The United States Air Force Strings

Colonel George S. Howard, Director



3| **Walkin' and Swingin'**

Music by Mary Lou Williams

Arranged by Sammy Nestico**

Bill Duffy, *tenor saxophone*

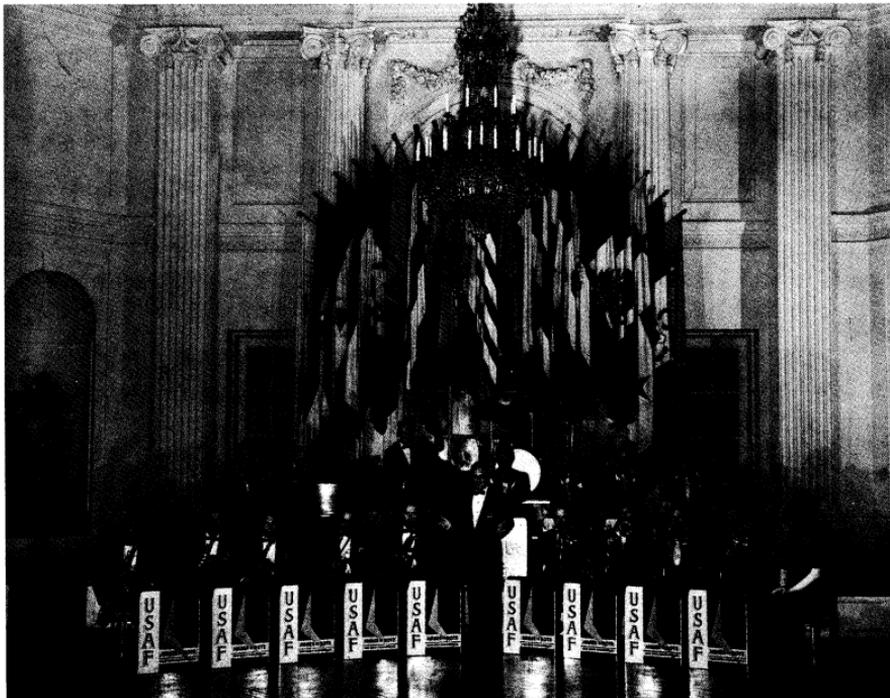
4| **Wagon Wheels**

Music by Peter DeRose

Arranged by Bill Finnegan

Sammy Nestico, *trombone*

Master Sergeant Sammy Nestico, Director, 1954-1955



5) **Fawncy Meeting You**

Music composed and arranged by Neal Hefti
Barry Weinstein and Jim Towsey,
tenor saxophone

6) **Waltz of the Trumpets**

Music composed and arranged by Charles Sayre**

Captain John Osiecki, Director, 1955-1966



7| **Big Mama Louise**

Music composed and arranged by Kim Richmond**

Vince Somma, *trumpet*

Gary Scott, *tenor saxophone*

Chief Warrant Officer Bob Bunton, Director, 1966-1971



8| **I'm Getting Sentimental Over You**

Music by George Bassman

Arranged by Phil Wilson

David Steinmeyer, *trombone*

Lieutenant Ken Green, Director, 1971-1972



9| **Salute to Miller**

Arranged by Sammy Nestico**

A String of Pearls - *Jerry Gray*

At Last - *Harry Warren*

Tuxedo Junction - *Erskine Hawkins/*

William Johnson/Julian Dash

In the Mood - *Joe Garland*

10| **The Days of Wine and Roses**

Music by Henry Mancini

Arranged by Mike Crotty**

John Dodge, *tenor saxophone*

Captain Gene Egge, Director, 1972-1974



11| **Half Unison**

Music composed and arranged by
Michael Barone
Rick Whitehead, *guitar*

12| **Till Love Touches Your Life**

Music by Riz Ortolani
Lyrics by Arthur Hamilton
Arranged by Bobby Sherwood
Special Guest: Sarah Vaughn, *vocal*

Chief Master Sergeant Dave Napier, Director, 1974-1976



13| Grieved We All At Summer's Passing
Music composed and arranged by Mike Crotty**
Roger Hogan, *tenor saxophone*

Chief Master Sergeant Ernie Hensley, Director, 1976-1979
The United States Air Force Strings
Captain Lowell E. Graham*, Director



14| I'll Remember April

Music by Gene DePaul

Lyrics by Don Raye

Arranged by Mike Crotty**

Bobbie McCleary*, *vocal*

Rick Lillard, *trombone*

15| All or Nothing at All

Music by Jack Lawrence

Arranged by Mike Crotty**

Pete BarenBregge, *tenor saxophone*

Vaughn Nark, *trumpet*

Rick Lillard, *trombone*

Chief Master Sergeant Dave Steinmeyer, Director, 1979-1984; Musical Director, 1984-1989

Chief Master Sergeant Larry Trautman, Superintendent, 1984-1989



16| **Old Man River**

Music by Jerome Kern

Special Guest: Joe Williams, *vocal*

17| **Change in Elevation**

Music composed and arranged by Mike Crotty**

Don New*, *baritone saxophone*

Doug Elliott, *trombone*

Chief Master Sergeant Pete BarenBregge, Director, 1989-1998

Back Cover: The Airmen of Note today.

18| **'Round Midnight**

Music by Thelonius Monk

Lyrics by Charles "Cootie" Williams

Arranged by Alan Baylock*

Tracey Wright*, *vocal*

Senior Master Sergeant C.E. Askew, Superintendent, 1998-present

Senior Master Sergeant Joe Eckert, Music Director, 1998-present

19| **Up, Up, and Away** *Closing Theme:* Music by Jimmy Webb/CWO Bob Bunton, announcer

*Member / **Former Member – The United States Air Force Band

PERSONNEL

Alto Sax

Lowell Smith
Jimmy Craig
Walt Levinsky
Mel Owen
Paul Chafin
Jim Staten
Gene Ventresca
Don Grossi
John Dodge
Kim Richmond
Bill McPherson
Ernie Hensley
Danny Garcia
Tim Eyerman
Gene Gaydos
Lee Lachman
Doug Gately
Pete BarenBregge
Saul Miller
Joe Eckert
Andy Axelrad

Tenor Saxophone

Bill Duffy
Bill Cervantes
Tommy Newsom
Charlie Almeida
Rufus Long
Bob Snyder
Gary Scott
Rick Torcaso

Tony Osiecki
Jim Towsey
John Dodge
Barry Weinstein
Ernie Hensley
Roger Hogan
Lee Lachman
Doug Gately
Pete BarenBregge
Don New
Tim Eyerermann
Saul Miller
Tyler Kuebler

Baritone Saxophone

Bruce Snyder
John Bowling
Jim Staten
Frank Denton
Dave Napier
Les Whittington
Doug Gately
Don New

Trumpet

Bill Hodges
John Bova
Larry Tain
Kenny Eshelman
Roger Middleton
Andy Peele
Ken Grasley
Bobby Zottola
Don Smith

Ray Stone
Jim Fuller
Scott Waller
Ron Viera
Tom Sullivan
Vince Soma
Paul Hubinon
Dick Montz
Steve Wright
Jimmy Lay
Ken Smukal
Tim Bowen
Dick Perry
Larry Trautman
Bruce Nelson
Tim Bowen
Vaughn Nark
Bruce Gates
Rich Sigler
Rich Haering
Tim Leahey
Brian MacDonald

Trombone

John Shuman
Tommy Vasileros
Leo Keller
Francis Pahl
Greg Phillips
Ray Winslow
Dick Johnson
George West
Jack Schnupp

Jim Buchanan
Houghton Peterson
Cliff Stark
Chuck Sayre
Gary Ross
Jerry Cohen
Al DiPasquale
Dave Steinmeyer
Bill Booth
Ed Green
Tom Streeter
Dave Boyle
Jerry Johnson
Mike Smukal
Harry Stephens
Paul Rawlins
Lee Robertson
Gary Hall
Rick Lillard
Mark Madden
Dave Morgan
Dudley Hinote
Doug Elliott
Joe Jackson
Jeff Martin
Ben Patterson

Drums
Gene Miller
Gene Estes
Frank Rinaldi
Jack Franklin
Bobby Test
Doug Marsh
Charley McIlroy

Gary Gauger
Jim Nolan
Dave Palamar
Skip Schaffer
Mark Hynes
George Honea
C.E. Askew.

Piano

Fred Kepner
Jimmy Odrich
Joe Nerren
Al Pothier
Kenny Sampson
Dick Reitan
Tom Baldwin
Smith Dobson
Gil Cray
Sydney Lehman
Mike Rubin
Wade Beach Jr.
Steve Ericson

Bass

George Roumanis
Howard Terrell
Ken Fricker
Don Dempsey
Dick Jones
Terry Plumeri
Bob Warren
Ephraim Woolfolk
Brent McKesson
Tom Williams
Paul Henry

Guitar

Bob Mann
Rick Whitehead
Wayne Wilkinson
Shawn Purcell

Vocalists

Jim Daugherty
Bob Ware
Larry Grayson
Tommy Zang
Duff Thomas
Judy Hickman
Jackie Roberts
Jerry Whitman
Miki Bellamy
Doug Scarborough
Bobbie McCleary
Juanita Deshazior
Tracey Wright

French Horn

Eddie d'Alfonso
Clare Van Norman

Staff Arrangers

Sammy Nestico
Paul Kelly
Chuck Sayre
Tom Baldwin
Chris Dedrick
Mike Crotty
Paul Rawlins
Alan Baylock

SELECTIONS

- 1| **Music in the Air**¹ *Opening Theme* 0:39
- 2| **Portrait of New York** 6:51
Street Scene²
Manhattan³
Autumn in New York⁴
Manhattan Serenade⁵
New York New York⁶
- 3| **Walkin' and Swingin'**⁷ 4:12
- 4| **Wagon Wheels**⁸ 3:40
- 5| **Fawncy Meeting You**⁹ 2:10
- 6| **Waltz of the Trumpets!** 1:58
- 7| **Big Mama Louise**¹⁰ 3:36
- 8| **I'm Getting Sentimental Over You**¹¹ 3:15
- 9| **Salute to Miller** 4:14
A String of Pearls⁸
At Last¹²
Tuxedo Junction¹³
In the Mood¹⁴
- 10| **The Days of Wine and Roses**¹² 2:01
- 11| **Half Unison**¹⁵ 3:44
- 12| **Till Love Touches Your Life**¹⁶ 3:03
- 13| **Grieved We All At Summer's Passing**¹⁷ 4:56
- 14| **I'll Remember April**⁸ 3:27
- 15| **All or Nothing at All**¹⁹ 2:51
- 16| **Old Man River**²⁰ 3:07
- 17| **Change in Elevation**²¹ 7:10
- 18| **'Round Midnight**²¹ 6:00
- 19| **Up, Up, and Away**²² *Closing Theme* 1:36

Total Time 70:38

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