

# ASPIRE

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES FROM  
**THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
CONCERT BAND**

WASHINGTON, D.C.



COLONEL DENNIS M. LAYENDECKER, COMMANDER AND MUSIC DIRECTOR



U.S. AIR FORCE



Known as “America’s International Musical Ambassadors,” The United States Air Force Band consists of eight performing groups that inspire patriotism, spread goodwill and deliver a wide variety of entertainment, satisfying the diverse musical tastes of its global audience. The Air Force Band’s largest ensemble, the **Concert Band**, proudly shares America’s rich musical heritage with audiences from all walks of life. With an extensive repertoire that includes orchestral transcriptions, original works for band (including newly commissioned works) and patriotic music, the Concert Band maintains a rigorous schedule of concerts, tours, broadcasts, recordings and ceremonies at home and across the nation.

On and off the stage, Concert Band members continually aspire to reach new artistic heights, fulfilling their mission to represent Air Force excellence through music. For example, when traveling around the United States, the Concert Band shares music and news about the Air Force by breaking into more than 20 chamber ensembles that perform throughout

communities along the way. These performances include educational clinics and master classes at grade schools, high schools and universities, as well as public concerts and local broadcasts. We hope that through these events, American citizens gain a greater appreciation and awareness of the professionalism of their United States Air Force. It’s rewarding to note that many students for whom we perform eventually join the United States Air Force as members of The United States Air Force Band, one of our regional bands, or in one of 150 other Air Force career fields.

This recording showcases the diverse chamber music that members of the Concert Band present to thousands of people each year. The professionalism, commitment, cooperation and attention to detail captured in this recording represent Airmen throughout the United States Air Force. We hope our recording inspires you to commit to excellence, emphasize teamwork and Aspire to join the world’s greatest Air Expeditionary Force.

The United States Air Force's premier **Brass Quintet** performs *Fugue in G minor* by Johann Sebastian Bach, and *Three Preludes* by George Gershwin. Bach's *Fugue in G minor* is from a larger set of contrapuntal keyboard



masterpieces known as *The Art of Fugue*. Ronald Romm, a founding member of the Canadian Brass, transcribed the score. George Gershwin's *Three Preludes*, originally composed for piano, demonstrates jazz idioms

of the early 20th century. This arrangement is by Bill Holcombe, who is well known for his fine scoring for brass instruments.

Noted for his lightness of touch and sensitivity to melody and harmony, French composer Jaques Ibert was a versatile and prolific composer of operas, ballets and music for the theater, cinema and radio. He composed *Entr'acte* in 1937, the same year he was appointed director of the French Academy in Rome. Originally scored for violin or flute and guitar or harpsichord, the music is clearly influenced by the composer's travels to Spain, with the accompaniment reminiscent of Spanish guitar playing. On this recording, the work is performed by the **Flute and Harp Duo**. This group frequently performs at high-level protocol events at the White House and throughout the national capital region.

Originally formed in 1987, the **Saxophone Quartet** has been performing together with its current personnel since 1999. Stunning

virtuosity and colorful repertoire are the hallmarks of this ensemble's performances. The group draws its repertoire largely from 20th-century composers. For example, *Nuages*, or *Clouds*, by French composer Eugene Bozza, is a flashy three-minute composition filled with chromatic lines that pass between the instrumentalists and leave the listener breathless. *Ulla in Africa*, by German jazz saxophonist Heiner Wiberny, was inspired by and written for his wife, who is named in the title. The work draws on African rhythms and Latin funk. In this performance, the string bass is used, although it is not called for in the original score.

The **Trumpet Ensemble** performs a rich and varied repertoire of original and transcribed compositions. Musically, the group strives to redraw the boundaries of sonority and style to create a memorable experience for its audience. First published in 1608, Cesario Gussago's *Sonata Quartadecima* is a unique

example of music written specifically for high brass instruments. Gussago lived in the Northern Italian city of Brescia, and despite the city's close proximity to the culturally sophisticated Venice, Gussago's musical style was not influenced by other composers of his day. This 15th-century composition has few meter changes and little embellishment. Instead, it is a simple yet sterling balance of color and mass.

Franz Schubert composed 15 string quartets during his short life, an astonishing amount given that he is known primarily for his widely performed orchestral works. Written during a period in which Schubert was struggling with the illness that would eventually take his life, his *String Quartet in D minor* is a dramatically turbulent composition. Variations of his own song, "Death and the Maiden," form the intimate heart of the work. Regarded as one of the greatest compositions in the chamber music





repertoire, this quartet demonstrates Schubert's mastery of intense lyricism, chromatic modulation and attention to textural detail. The final movement is heard here in an adaptation for the **Clarinet Quartet** by Robert Willaman.

Twentieth-century Danish composer Carl Nielsen's *Quintet, Op. 43*, has long been a staple of wind quintet literature. With three well-balanced movements in neoclassic form, it remains popular with students and professionals alike. The third movement, a theme and variations, is especially interesting as the composer portrays various acquaintances throughout the movement, some of whom had odd personality quirks. This performance by members of the **Woodwind Quintet** is a stunning display of virtuosity by the performers as well as the ensemble as a whole. This group is one of two separate woodwind quintets formed by members of the Concert Band.

The **Percussion Ensemble** presents a work composed to commemorate the historic World War II battle in which 425,000 American, British and German soldiers lost their lives: *Normandy Beach - 1944*. Composed in 1994 by David Gillingham for the annual

Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, the work unfolds in three sections. The first section recalls the preparation for D-Day; dark, mysterious and foreboding, the score calls for bowed marimbas to create the effect of distant bugle calls. The second section depicts the tragic conflict, as echoes of *The Star Spangled Banner* and *America the Beautiful* are played in the low range of the marimbas. Finally, the third section harks back to the first in the form of an epilogue. It is a melancholy, plaintive chorale that ends in dark discord. Employing a marimba quartet and two batteries of percussion including glockenspiel and vibraphone, *Normandy Beach - 1944* was recorded during the week of the 60th anniversary of that tragic day.

The **Clarinet Choir** presents the full spectrum of clarinet sound found in the modern concert band. The instrumentation includes the Eb soprano, Bb soprano, alto, bass, contra-alto and contra-bass clarinets, creating a rich

harmonic effect. Twentieth-century composer Vaclav Nelhybel has left us a large body of works characterized by a vigorous drive and accentuation, accumulations of dissonance and textural densities, and exploding dynamics, all of which feature prominently in his *Chorale and Danza* for clarinet choir. A consummate educator, Nelhybel relished composing original, challenging pieces for student musicians and delighted in making music with young players.

As a chamber ensemble, the trombone quartet dates back to the early 17th century, appearing to be the earliest of all chamber ensembles to have survived in its present-day form. Our **Trombone Quartet** performs a wide variety of music to include orchestral, ragtime, jazz and original works for trombones. *Achieved is the Glorious Work*, from Franz Joseph Haydn's oratorio, *The Creation*, represents the celebration at the end of the sixth day of the creation as depicted in the Bible.

Donald Miller's arrangement of this work is considered standard repertoire for the trombone quartet.

Comprised of flute, oboe and cello, the **Chamber Trio** performs one movement from the *Trio Sonata in C minor* by 16th-century German composer Georg Philipp Telemann. Famous for his creative compositional techniques, Telemann wrote this sonata to be played by a variety of treble instruments, thereby making the sheet music accessible to a larger pool of instrumentalists. This was a typical practice during the Baroque period when chamber music was usually performed in the home on whatever instruments were readily available, providing entertainment for the players, rather than for an audience.

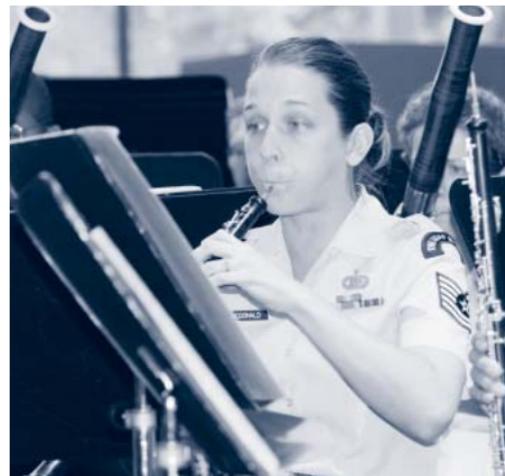
German composer Franz Danzi was the son of a professional cellist. Following in his father's footsteps, he began performing and composing at a very young age. Of his many compositions, Danzi is perhaps best known

for his chamber music, particularly his wind quintets. Still a novel medium at the time, Danzi was one of the first composers outside of France to write for this instrumentation. His earliest three wind quintets, *Op. 56*, were dedicated to Czechoslovakian-born composer Anton Reicha, known to many as the "father of the wind quintet." The first movement is a light *Allegretto*, with the five instrumentalists trading the theme back and forth throughout the movement. Performing the *Allegretto* from Danzi's *Quintet in Bb major, Op. 56 No. 1*, is the United States Air Force's premier **Woodwind Quintet**.

The **Brass Ensemble** represents a cross-section of the Concert Band's brass section. These musicians have performed together in concert around the world in support of the Band's international mission. Giovanni Gabrieli (ca.1555-1612), the most celebrated composer of his generation, held the coveted position of music director at St. Mark's Cathedral in

Venice. His musical style is considered the culmination of the Venetian School, and also represents the transition from the Renaissance to early Baroque periods of music. *Canzona per sonare No. 2* (Song through Sound) is quite possibly his most popular composition. Many of his works were published posthumously, and this second of 32 Canzoni, published in 1615, is no exception. Written in four parts, the *Canzona per sonare No. 2* was often used in church services as music between the Offertory and Holy Communion.

**Liner Note Contributors:** Senior Master Sgts. Jeffrey Gaylord, William Marr, Lindsey Smith and Andrew Wilson. Master Sgts. Shawn Buck, Curt Christensen, Carl Long, Brian McCurdy, Erica Montgomery, Stacy Newbrough Ascione and Eric Sabatino. Tech. Sgt. Jill Westeyn.





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## BRASS QUINTET

1. Fugue in G minor (3:19)  
Johann Sebastian Bach  
trans. Ronald Romm  
*Canadian Brass Publications*

SMSgt Andrew Wilson, *trumpet* – Gambier, OH  
TSgt Christian Pagnard, *trumpet* – Dayton, OH  
TSgt Michael Himes, *horn* – Orlando, FL  
SMSgt Lindsey Smith, *trombone* – Williamston, MI  
TSgt Brian Sands, *tuba* – Goshen, IN

## FLUTE AND HARP DUO

2. Entr'acte for Flute and Harp (3:39)  
Jacques Ibert  
*Theodore Presser Co.*

MSgt Ardyth Scott, *flute* – Omaha, NE  
MSgt Eric Sabatino, *harp* – Long Island City, NY

### SAXOPHONE QUARTET

3. Nuages (2:56)

Eugene Bozza

*Alphonse Leduc and Co.*

MSgt William Marr, *soprano saxophone* – Alexandria, VA

TSgt Jeremy Koch, *alto saxophone* – Chicago, IL

MSgt Jake McCray, *tenor saxophone* – Fairfax, VA

MSgt Mary Beth George, *baritone saxophone* – Buffalo, NY

### TRUMPET ENSEMBLE

4. Sonata Quartadecima (2:03)

Cesario Gussago

arr. Richard Burkart

*Crown Music Press*

MSgt Curt Christensen, *piccolo trumpet* – Mt. Clemens, MI

SMSgt Andrew Wilson, *piccolo trumpet* – Gambier, OH

SMSgt Clarence Mitchell II, *piccolo trumpet* – Portsmouth, VA

TSgt Christian Pagnard, *trumpet* – Dayton, OH

TSgt Nathan Clark, *trumpet* – Glen Rock, PA

TSgt Valentin Lukashuk, *trumpet* – Brest, Belarus



### CLARINET QUARTET

5. Finale from *String Quartet in D minor* (3:50)

Franz Schubert

adapted by Robert Willaman

*G. Schirmer, Inc.*

MSgt Bryan Guidry, *clarinet* – Bedford, TX

MSgt Brian McCurdy, *clarinet* – Virginia Beach, VA

TSgt Darrin Thiriot, *clarinet* – Bountiful, UT

MSgt John Romano, *bass clarinet* – Bluefield, WV

### WOODWIND QUINTET

6. Theme and Variations from *Quintet, Op. 43* (9:24)

Carl Nielsen

*Edition Wilhelm Hansen/Music Sales Corp.*

TSgt Jennifer Moore, *flute* – Oxford, MI

TSgt Kevin Darrow, *oboe* – Arlington, TX

MSgt Shawn Buck, *clarinet* – Brookside, PA

TSgt Sandra Johnson, *bassoon* – Centerville, MN

TSgt Joel Wealer, *horn* – Hannibal, MO



### BRASS QUINTET

Three Preludes  
George Gershwin  
arr. Bill Holcombe  
*Studio Music Co.*

- 7. Prelude No. 1 (1:42)
- 8. Prelude No. 2 (3:47)
- 9. Prelude No. 3 (1:26)

SMSgt Andrew Wilson, *trumpet* – Gambier, OH  
TSgt Christian Pagnard, *trumpet* – Dayton, OH  
TSgt Michael Himes, *horn* – Orlando, FL  
SMSgt Lindsey Smith, *trombone* – Williamston, MI  
TSgt Brian Sands, *tuba* – Goshen, IN



### PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

- 10. Normandy Beach – 1944 (9:49)  
David Gillingham  
*C. Alan Publications*

MSgt Erica Montgomery, *marimba* – Louisville, KY  
TSgt Marc Dinitz, *marimba* – Rockville, MD  
TSgt Adam Green, *marimba* – Cincinnati, OH  
TSgt Scott Pollard, *marimba* – Raleigh, NC  
SMSgt Patrick Shrieves, *vibraphone, percussion* – Freehold, NJ  
TSgt Joe Reynolds, *glockenspiel, percussion* – Houston, TX



### SAXOPHONE QUARTET

- 11. Ulla in Africa (4:03)  
Heiner Wibery  
*Advance Music/Bookcase 98*

SMSgt William Marr, *soprano saxophone* – Alexandria, VA  
TSgt Jeremy Koch, *alto saxophone* – Chicago, IL  
MSgt Jake McCray, *tenor saxophone* – Fairfax, VA  
MSgt Mary Beth George, *baritone saxophone* – Buffalo, NY  
TSgt Matthew Murray, *string bass* – Winona, MN

### CLARINET CHOIR

- 12. Chorale and Danza (5:00)  
Vaclav Nelhybel  
*Southern Music Co.*

MSgt Carl Long, *director* – Hanover, NH  
TSgt Rochelle Oedemann, *Eb clarinet* – Akron, OH  
TSgt Jennifer Dashnaw, *Bb clarinet 1* – Peekskill, NY  
TSgt Julianna Evans Arnold, *Bb clarinet 1* – Vienna, VA  
SMSgt Sandra Cox, *Bb clarinet 2* – Columbia, SC  
MSgt Melinda Burts, *Bb clarinet 2* – Lima, OH  
MSgt Richard Drew, *Bb clarinet 2* – Joliet, IL  
SMSgt Elizabeth Campeau, *Bb clarinet 3* – Pinckney, MI  
MSgt Lorraine Haddad, *Bb clarinet 3* – Poughkeepsie, NY  
TSgt Brooke Emery, *Bb clarinet 3* – Mt. Pleasant, MI  
MSgt David Stump, *alto clarinet* – Colorado Springs, CO  
TSgt Darrin Thiriot, *alto clarinet* – Bountiful, UT  
MSgt Bryan Guidry, *bass clarinet* – Bedford, TX  
MSgt Brian McCurdy, *contra-alto clarinet* – Virginia Beach, VA  
MSgt John Romano, *contra-bass clarinet* – Bluefield, WV





#### TROMBONE QUARTET

13. Achieved is the Glorious Work from *The Creation* (2:46)

Franz Joseph Haydn

arr. Donald Miller

*Ensemble Publications, Inc.*

SMSgt Jeffrey Gaylord, *trombone* – Western Springs, IL

TSgt David Sisk, *trombone* – Coraopolis, PA

MSgt Michael Piersol, *trombone* – Williamsburg, IA

SMSgt Chris Matten, *bass trombone* – Catasauqua, PA

#### CHAMBER TRIO

14. Allegro from *Trio Sonata in C minor* (1:51)

Georg Philipp Telemann

*Belwin Mills Publishing Corp.*

SMSgt Lucille Johnston Snell, *flute* – Albuquerque, NM

TSgt Jill Westeyn, *oboe* – Davie, FL

TSgt Ronald Gardiner, *cello* – Lancaster, PA

#### WOODWIND QUINTET

15. Allegretto from *Quintet in Bb major, Op. 56 No. 1* (5:48)

Franz Danzi

ed. George Waln

*Neil A. Kjos Music Co.*

MSgt Stacy Newbrough Ascione, *flute* – Iowa City, IA

TSgt Tracey MacDonald, *oboe* – Duncanville, TX

TSgt Julianna Evans Arnold, *clarinet* – Vienna, VA

TSgt Eddie Sanders III, *bassoon* – Washington, DC

TSgt Kathleen Fitzpatrick, *horn* – Columbus, OH

#### BRASS ENSEMBLE

16. Canzona per sonare No. 2 (2:35)

Giovanni Gabrieli

ed. Robert King

*Robert King Music Co.*

MSgt Curt Christensen, *trumpet* – Mt. Clemens, MI

SMSgt Clarence Mitchell II, *trumpet* – Portsmouth, VA

TSgt Nathan Clark, *trumpet* – Glen Rock, PA

TSgt Valentin Lukashuk, *trumpet* – Brest, Belarus

MSgt Kent Wyatt, *horn* – Arlington, TX

MSgt Philip Krzywicki, *horn* – Philadelphia, PA

TSgt William Jones, *euphonium* – Stormville, NY

TSgt Danny Helseth, *euphonium* – Yakima, WA

CMSgt William Porter, *tuba* – Alcoa, TN

SMSgt Jan Duga, *tuba* – Columbus, OH

Total Time 63:59



## CREDITS

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The United States Air Force Band Home Page is available on the World Wide Web at:  
**[www.usafband.com](http://www.usafband.com)**

The United States Air Force Band is wholeheartedly committed to reflecting the diversity of our great nation. We actively encourage individuals from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds to learn about our organization and seek positions in America's International Musical Ambassadors. Interested in Air Force opportunities? Contact Air Force Recruiting via **[www.airforce.com](http://www.airforce.com)** or call **1-800-423-USAF**



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