

The United States Air Force Band



Washington, D.C.

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

*Airmen of Note*

Chief Master Sergeant

Peter C. BarenBiegge, Director

*Christmas  
Time is Here*

IT IS MY HOPE THAT LONG TIME FANS of the Airmen of Note, as well as first-time listeners, will make *Christmas Time Is Here* their first choice for holiday music each year. Outstanding work by each member of the band, along with a stunning diversity of arrangements from both TSgt Alan Baylock, and our chief arranger, SMSgt Mike Crotty, make for an unbeatable package. We are very fortunate to have had SMSgt Crotty's creative mind develop a musical personality for the "Note" for more than a quarter century. His originality, wit, musical twists and turns, and ability to personalize each arrangement to the individual performer is without peer. Though 1998 will see SMSgt Crotty retire from his magnificent Air Force career, his work will endure as a major part of the musical library of the Airmen of Note.



We open with SMSgt Crotty's Good King Wenceslas and His Merry Band. This unique arrangement features MSgt Rich Sigler artfully handling the flugelhorn solo while baritone saxophonist MSgt Don New spins a beautiful countermelody. Listen to SMSgt C.E. Askew as he delivers great drum exchanges with the brass on this very original and often humorous piece.

In Christmas Time is Here, SMSgt Crotty provides the perfect setting for the sweet sounds of SMSgt Joe Eckert's alto saxophone along with MSgt Joe Jackson on lead trombone. The orchestral colors within this arrangement are reminiscent of the writing of Duke Ellington, whose work has always been a great inspiration to SMSgt Crotty.

Next we feature SMSgt Crotty's vocal arrangement of Let it Snow. Constantly looking for new ways to present familiar tunes, he has turned the Airmen of Note into a large salsa band that features MSgt Pat Shrieves on percussion and newcomer TSgt Ben Patterson on trombone.

This is the first opportunity the band has had to record TSgt Alan Baylock's arrangements, and as you will hear for yourself, his writing is terrific. His contemporary pop treatment of Mary, Did You Know? was inspired by the popular 1996 recording by Kenny Rogers and features myself on soprano saxophone. Interestingly, TSgt Baylock's first arrangement of Mary, Did You Know? was for a local children's choir.

Reminiscent of the great big bands of the '40s and '50s, Winter Wonderland begins with the swinging piano solo of MSgt Wade Beach Jr., great trombone duets by MSgt Joe Jackson and TSgt Jeff Martin, and of course the impeccable bass playing of MSgt Paul Henry.

Joy to the World may be one of the most well-known songs of the holiday season. But it never sounded quite like this, as TSgt Baylock has stretched the boundaries with his innovative arrangement. From the first four notes of the melody, TSgt Baylock has generated a showcase for the prodigious talents of tenor saxophonist SMSgt Saul Miller Jr.

Throughout its history, the Airmen of Note has been blessed with terrific soloists, and MSgt Tracey Wright is certainly no exception. She is a marvelous vocal talent who excels in any musical style. Here she brings the tender blues to SMSgt Crotty's classic arrangement of The Christmas Song.

The magic that we've come to expect from SMSgt Crotty goes into a rather contemporary reading of Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride. The frequent key changes and unusual harmonies lay the foundation for the outstanding solos of tenor saxophonist SMSgt Saul Miller Jr. and guitarist TSgt Shawn Purcell.

MSgt Wright returns on the poignant Bill Evans tune It's Love, It's Christmas. Take note of the beautiful voicings SMSgt Crotty uses on what may be the only recording of this special holiday tune.

TSgt Baylock's gorgeous arrangement of Away in a Manger was created especially for lead alto saxophonist SMSgt Joe Eckert. The colorful voicings in this simple song evoke images of innocence and peace, reminiscent of the manger scene.

We close with a fast and furious rendition of Frosty the Snowman, featuring terrific solos by trumpeter TSgt Tim Leahey and alto saxophonist TSgt Andy Axelrad. Listen to the ease with which they handle the difficulties in this exciting chart.

As I prepare to retire from active duty in October 1998, I cannot help reflecting on the 16 recordings of my Air Force career. More than memorable musical products, they allow the “Note” to bring world-class big band jazz to people throughout the world. These important tools assist us in representing the pride and professionalism of the people who make up the world’s most respected air and space force. I am extremely proud to have been a part of these recordings, and to have had the opportunity to serve with the nation’s finest musicians and NCOs.

PETER C. BARENBREGGE, CMSgt, USAF

*Director, Airmen of Note*



## SELECTIONS

**1 | Good King Wenceslas and  
His Merry Band 4:05**

TRADITIONAL

*arr.* SMSgt Mike Crotty\*

MSgt Rick Sigler, *flugelhorn*

SMSgt C.E. Askew, *drums*

**2 | Christmas Time is Here 4:15**

VINCE GUARALDI

*arr.* SMSgt Mike Crotty\*

SMSgt Joe Eckert,

*alto saxophone*

MSgt Joe Jackson, *trombone*

**3 | Let it Snow 3:08**

JULE STYNE/SAMMY CAHN

*arr.* SMSgt Mike Crotty\*

MSgt Tracey Wright, *vocalist*

TSgt Ben Patterson, *trombone*

**4 | Mary, Did You Know? 6:22**

MARK LOWRY/BUDDY GREEN

*arr.* TSgt Alan Baylock\*

CMSgt Pete BarenBregge,

*soprano saxophone*

**5 | Winter Wonderland 6:06**

DICK SMITH/FELIX BERNARD

*arr.* TSgt Alan Baylock\*

MSgt Joe Jackson, *trombone*

TSgt Jeff Martin, *trombone*

MSgt Wade Beach Jr., *piano*

MSgt Paul Henry, *bass*

**6 | Joy to the World 8:36**

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL

*arr.* TSgt Alan Baylock\*

SMSgt Saul Miller Jr.,

*tenor saxophone*

**7 | The Christmas Song 4:33**

MEL TORME/ROBERT WELLS

*arr.* SMSgt Mike Crotty\*

MSgt Tracey Wright, *vocalist*

**8 | Sleigh Ride 9:02**

LEROY ANDERSON

*arr.* SMSgt Mike Crotty\*

SMSgt Saul Miller Jr.,

*tenor saxophone*

TSgt Shawn Purcell, *guitar*

**9 | It's Love, It's Christmas 3:57**  
BILL EVANS  
*arr.* SMSgt Mike Crotty\*  
MSgt Tracey Wright, *vocalist*

**10 | Away in a Manger 5:40**  
JAMES MURRAY  
*arr.* TSgt Alan Baylock\*  
SMSgt Joe Eckert,  
*alto saxophone*

**11 | Frosty the Snowman 6:06**  
STEVE NELSON/JACK ROLLINS  
*arr.* TSgt Alan Baylock\*  
TSgt Andy Axelrad,  
*alto saxophone*  
TSgt Tim Leahey, *trumpet*

*\*Member, The United States Air Force Band*



## PERSONNEL

### The United States Air Force Airmen Of Note

Chief Master Sergeant Peter C. Barenbregge, *Director*

#### SAXOPHONES/WOODWINDS

Senior Master Sergeant Joe Eckert, *lead alto* – Cleveland, OH

Technical Sergeant Andy Axelrad, *alto* – Buffalo Grove, IL

Chief Master Sergeant Pete BarenBregge, *lead tenor* – Wilmington, DE

Senior Master Sergeant Saul Miller Jr., *tenor* – Riverside, CA

Master Sergeant Don New, *baritone* – Levittown, PA

#### TRUMPETS

Master Sergeant Bruce Gates, *lead* – Geneva, IL

Master Sergeant Dave Detwiler, \* *assistant lead* – Altoona, PA

Technical Sergeant Tim Leahey, *jazz* – Altoona, PA

Master Sergeant Rich Sigler, *jazz* – Mountain View, CA

#### TROMBONES

Master Sergeant Joe Jackson, *lead* – Denton, TX

Technical Sergeant Jeff Martin, *jazz* – Newton, KS

Technical Sergeant Ben Patterson, *assistant lead/jazz* – Scapula, OK

Master Sergeant Dudley Hinote, *bass* – Titusville, FL

#### RHYTHM SECTION

Senior Master Sergeant C.E. Askew, *drums* – Stuttgart, AR

Master Sergeant Wade Beach Jr., *piano* – Baltimore, MD

Master Sergeant Paul Henry, *bass* – Green Bay, WI

Technical Sergeant Shawn Purcell, *guitar* – Pittsburgh, PA

#### VOCALIST

Master Sergeant Tracey Wright – Alexandria, VA

\*Member, The U.S. Army Band, Washington, D.C.

*Special thanks to:*

Master Sergeant Pat Shrieves –  
Freehold, NJ  
(USAF Concert Band, *percussionist*)  
on all tracks except 1 and 3

*The following selections were released by  
permission of the publisher:*

**Christmas Time is Here**  
Lee Mendelson Film Productions

**Mary, Did You Know?**  
Word Music Inc.  
Rufus Music Inc.  
GAITHER MUSIC INC.

**Winter Wonderland**  
Bregman Vocco & Conn Inc.  
WARNER CHAPPELL MUSIC INC.

**The Christmas Song**  
Edwin H. Morris & Co. Inc.  
MPL COMMUNICATIONS INC.

**Sleigh Ride**  
EMI Music Inc.

**It's Love, It's Christmas**  
Ludlow Music Inc.  
THE RICHMOND ORGANIZATION

**Frosty the Snowman**  
Anne-Rachel Music Corporation  
WARNER CHAPPELL MUSIC INC.

## CREDITS

Colonel Lowell E. Graham	<i>Commander</i>
Major Frank J. Grzych II	<i>Deputy Commander</i>
Chief Master Sergeant Peter C. BarenBregge	<i>Director/Producer/Mixing</i>
Senior Master Sergeant Mike Crotty	<i>Producer/Mixing</i>
Mr. Bruce Leek	<i>Recording Engineer/Digital Editing</i>
Master Sergeant Kendall Thomsen	<i>Assistant Recording Engineer</i>
Chief Master Sergeant Dana L. Steinhauser	<i>Director of Public Affairs</i>
Master Sergeant William D. Porter II	<i>Recording Production</i>
Master Sergeant Judith J. Thompson	
Technical Sergeant Robert K. McConnell	
Master Sergeant Dudley J. Hinote	<i>Graphic Layout</i>
Master Sergeant James E. Bittner	<i>Booklet Editor</i>
Crabtree + Company (Arlington, VA)	<i>Cover Design</i>
Sterling Productions, Ltd. (Sterling, VA)	<i>Disc Replication</i>
Lion Recording Services (Springfield, VA)	<i>Disc Packaging</i>

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The United States Air Force Band Home Page is available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.bolling.af.mil/band/band.htm>

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*Christmas  
Time is Here*

- 1 | **Good King Wenceslas and his Merry Band**  
Traditional – *arr.* SMSgt Mike Crotty\*
  - 2 | **Christmas Time is Here**  
Vince Guaraldi – *arr.* SMSgt Mike Crotty\*
  - 3 | **Let it Snow**  
Jule Styne/Sammy Cahn –  
*arr.* SMSgt Mike Crotty\*
  - 4 | **Mary, Did You Know?**  
Mark Lowry/Buddy Green –  
*arr.* TSgt Alan Baylock\*
  - 5 | **Winter Wonderland**  
Dick Smith/Felix Bernard – *arr.* TSgt Alan Baylock\*
  - 6 | **Joy to the World**  
George Frederick Handel – *arr.* SMSgt Mike Crotty\*
  - 7 | **The Christmas Song**  
Mel Torme/Robert Wells – *arr.* SMSgt Mike Crotty\*
  - 8 | **Sleigh Ride**  
Leroy Anderson – *arr.* SMSgt Mike Crotty\*
  - 9 | **It's Love, It's Christmas**  
Bill Evans – *arr.* SMSgt Mike Crotty\*
  - 10 | **Away in a Manger**  
James Murray – *arr.* TSgt Alan Baylock\*
  - 11 | **Frosty the Snowman**  
Steve Nelson/Jack Rollins – *arr.* TSgt Alan Baylock\*
- \*Member, The United States Air Force Band*