



The United States
AIR FORCE BAND
WASHINGTON, DC



HOLIDAY
Traditions



Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker, Commander and Music Director

AMERICA'S INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL AMBASSADORS

HOLIDAY *Traditions*

As you gather amongst family and friends in celebration of the holidays, the United States Air Force Band joyfully shares with you some of our *Holiday Traditions*. Much of the music on this album was written or arranged by Airmen musicians and reflects not only the world-class musical products being produced on a daily basis, but also the excellence demonstrated by all Airmen serving around the globe.

Embodied by every Airman, this excellence is delivered daily by our Total Force. Over 690,000 strong, the United States Air Force is dedicated to evolving and expanding our nation's capabilities of global vigilance, reach and power—America's edge. As you reflect upon your own *Holiday Traditions* this season, we hope that you will remember all who have served and are continuing to serve our Nation.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MERRY CHRISTMAS (1992)

Originally composed for the motion picture *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*, ***Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas*** celebrates the joy of the holiday season with a lively musical score. Known to many as one of America's most successful film composers, John Williams was also a very accomplished Airman musician. From 1952-1954, Williams served with the United States Air Force as a composer and arranger. During that time, Airman First Class Williams made such an impression on his fellow Airmen that it was predicted, "Someday the words 'Music by Johnny Williams' will flash on your local theater screen." Having earned over forty Oscar nominations, his film scores have become a significant part of our American culture.

NOËL (FROM *SYMPHONIC SKETCHES*) (1895)

Known as the "dean of American composers", Massachusetts native George Whitefield Chadwick created a uniquely American style of composition which influenced the music of Aaron Copland and Virgil Thomson. Chadwick wrote the four-movement *Symphonic Sketches*, Opus 70, between 1895 and 1904. In the orchestral score, he preceded each movement with a poem depicting a different aspect of American life. The traditional poem used for the second movement, entitled ***Noël***, reads as follows:

*Through the soft, calm moonlight comes a sound;
A mother lulls her babe, and all around
The gentle snow lies glistening;
On such a night the Virgin Mother mild
In dreamless slumber wrapped the Holy Child,
While angel-hosts were listening.*

A CHRISTMAS FANFARE (1992)

James A. Beckel has been the Principal Trombonist with the Indianapolis Symphony since 1969. In addition, he serves on the music faculties at DePauw University and the University of Indianapolis, and is an active composer and arranger. Commissioned by the Indianapolis Symphony for its 1992 Yuletide Concerts, *A Christmas Fanfare* was designed to stand alone as its own piece, or to segue into Leroy Anderson's *A Christmas Festival*, as performed on this recording.

A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL (1950)

A Christmas Festival, a medley of traditional Christmas songs, is an orchestral holiday favorite. This recording coincides with the 2007-2009 Leroy Anderson Centennial Celebration—a worldwide commemoration honoring the American composer's musical legacy.

Anderson had close ties to the United States military. He joined the US Army at the beginning of World War II, serving as a translator and interpreter. While assigned to the Pentagon, he composed one of his most famous works, *The Syncopated Clock*. After being released from active duty in 1945, Anderson went on to compose many other works, including *Sleigh Ride*, *Blue Tango*, *The Typewriter* and *Bugler's Holiday*.

WHY CHRISTMAS TREES AREN'T PERFECT (2006)

A World War II veteran, Richard H. Schneider has been a journalist and author for more than five decades. His heartwarming tale, *Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect*, centers around Small Pine, a little fir tree striving to be selected as the Christmas tree of the Queen's castle, despite having its perfect shape marred through its selfless sacrifices for the animals of the forest. The story teaches readers of all ages about the true meaning of beauty and generosity.

USAF Bandsman MSgt Robert Thurston brings Schneider's timeless story to life with a beautiful, original musical score which accompanies the narration read by SMSgt Jennifer Pagnard. Originally from Tallahassee, Florida, MSgt Thurston began his Air Force career in 1994 and serves as Chief Composer and Arranger for The USAF Band. SMSgt Pagnard, originally from Knoxville, Tennessee, is an alto vocalist with The Singing Sergeants and began her Air Force career in 1992.

RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS MUSIC (1944)

Composer Alfred Reed fondly recalled his time in the military as “the years when I really began to learn my craft.” Born Alfred Friedman, he enlisted in the United States Army in September 1942 and became a staff arranger for the 529th Army Air Corps Band. During his 3½ years of service, he wrote more than 150 compositions and arrangements, including *Russian Christmas Music*.

The world premiere of *Russian Christmas Music* took place in December 1944 in Denver, Colorado, to promote the Russian-American alliance during World War II. Alfred Reed describes his composition as “a musical impression of Old Russia during the jubilant Christmas season.” Although the work was composed in the form of a single, continuous movement, Reed originally subtitled four distinct sections within the piece: Children’s Carol, Antiphonal Chant, Village Song and Cathedral Chorus.

Under Reed’s supervision, the orchestral version heard on this recording was transcribed by Dr. Clark McAlister and dedicated to Colonel (Ret.) Arnard D. Gabriel, Conductor Emeritus and former Commander of The United States Air Force Band.

O HOLY NIGHT (ARRANGED 2006)

In 1847, an amateur poet named Placide Cappeau wrote a Christmas poem entitled *Minuit, chrétiens*. Upon reaching the conclusion that his work needed to be set to music, Cappeau contacted his friend and composer Adolphe Charles Adam for assistance. Their collaboration resulted in *Cantique de Noël (O Holy Night)*, one of the most well-known and widely performed Christmas carols of all time.

Created as a way to pay tribute to our fellow Airmen, this arrangement of *O Holy Night* by MSgt John Bliss of The United States Air Force Band incorporates the *Air Force Hymn—Lord Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly* into this traditional holiday favorite. Originally from Fremont, California, MSgt Bliss began his Air Force career in 1996 as staff arranger for the USAF Band of the Golden West, Travis Air Force Base, California. He joined the music production staff of The USAF Band in 1998.

FEAST OF CAROLS (ARRANGED 1985)

Written for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, *Feast of Carols* is a collection of six well-known Christmas carols. Randol Alan Bass was commissioned to write a number of large, choral-orchestral Christmas carol medleys and *Feast of Carols* is the first of these. Bass has enjoyed a successful career as vocalist, pianist, conductor, arranger and composer. His works have been performed by many prestigious musical organizations such as the Tanglewood Chorus, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the Chicago Symphony and the Dallas Symphony and Chorus.

Selections

1. MERRY CHRISTMAS, MERRY CHRISTMAS

(from *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*)

(2:39)

Music by John Williams

Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse

Published by Stage and Screen Music, Ltd. (BMI) / Marjor Publishing Co., Inc.

(BMI) / John Hughes Songs (BMI) / Fox Film Music Corporation (EMI) (BMI)

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administered by Cherry River Music

Conducted by Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker

Performed by The Symphony Orchestra and Singing Sergeants

2. NOËL (from *Symphonic Sketches*)

(6:28)

Music by George Whitefield Chadwick

Conducted by Captain Michael P. Murray

Performed by The Symphony Orchestra

3. A CHRISTMAS FANFARE AND A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

(9:45)

A Christmas Fanfare

Music by James A. Beckel, Jr.

Published by James Beckel Music

A Christmas Festival

Joy to the World

Deck the Halls

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Good King Wenceslas

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Silent Night

Jingle Bells

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Arranged by Leroy Anderson

Published by EMI Mills Music Publishing

Conducted by Major Keith H. Bland

Performed by The Symphony Orchestra

4. WHY CHRISTMAS TREES AREN'T PERFECT (13:18)

Music by MSgt Robert Thurston*

Text by Richard H. Schneider

"Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect" by Richard H. Schneider is adapted with permission from Guideposts. Copyright © 1981 by Guideposts, Carmel, New York 10512. All rights reserved.

Narrated by SMSgt Jennifer Pagnard

Conducted by Captain Michael J. Willen

Performed by The Symphony Orchestra



5. RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS MUSIC

(14:51)

Music by Alfred Reed

Transcribed for Orchestra by Clark McAlister

Published by WB Music Corp (ASCAP)

Conducted by Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker

Performed by The Symphony Orchestra

6. O HOLY NIGHT

(6:15)

(with *Lord Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly*)

Music by Adolphe Charles Adam

Lyrics by Placide Cappeau

Lord Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly (Original Hymn entitled *Quebec: L.M.*)

Music by Henry Baker

Lyrics by Mary C. D. Hamilton

Arranged by MSgt John Bliss*

Featuring members of Max Impact and The Airmen of Note

Max Impact—Tenor soloist: MSgt Ryan Carson, *Rapid City, SD*;

The Airmen of Note—Trumpet soloist: MSgt Brian MacDonald, *Ft. Lauderdale, FL*;

Electric Bass: SMSgt Paul Henry, *Green Bay, WI*; Piano: MSgt

Steven Erickson, *Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada*; Acoustic Guitar: TSgt

Geoffrey Reecer, *Arlington, VA*; Drums: TSgt David McDonald, *Decatur, IL*

Conducted by Captain Michael J. Willen

Performed by The Symphony Orchestra and Singing Sergeants

7. FEAST OF CAROLS

(14:51)

Gloucester Wassail

Il est Né, le Divin Enfant

O Come, O Come Emanuel

The Holly and the Ivy

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Arranged by Randol Alan Bass

Published by ECS Publishing

Conducted by Captain Cristina M. Moore Urrutia

Performed by The Symphony Orchestra and Singing Sergeants

* Member, arranging staff, The United States Air Force Band

Total Time 68:34

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO



THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker – *Springfield, IL* –

Commander and Music Director

Major Keith H. Bland – *Prairie Village, KS* – Operations Officer

Captain Michael J. Willen – *Yuma, AZ* – Squadron Section Commander

Captain Cristina M. Moore Urrutia – *Kimball, NE* – Flight Commander

Captain Michael P. Murray – *Tacoma, WA* – Flight Commander

Senior Master Sergeant William B. Hones – *Toledo, OH* – Superintendent

VIOLIN I

MSgt Mari Uehara° | *Alexandria, VA*

TSgt Emily Barnes | *Cincinnati, OH*

SMSgt Deborah Volker | *Lansdale, PA*

SMSgt William Tortolano | *Underhill, VT*

MSgt Cleveland Chandler | *Baltimore, MD*

MSgt Greg Pinney | *Bristol, PA*

TSgt Mark Dorosheff | *Herndon, VA*

VIOLIN II

MSgt Alexander Dean* | *Los Angeles, CA*

MSgt Henry Tyszler | *Los Angeles, CA*

MSgt Douglas Ellison | *Detroit, MI*

TSgt Luke Wedge | *Hutchinson, KS*

TSgt Nathan Wisniewski | *Waukesha, WI*

TSgt Ni Santiago | *Rochester, NY*

VIOLA

MSgt Bryce Bunner* | *Evansville, IN*

TSgt William Hurd | *East Meadow, NY*

SMSgt Sharon Bingham Wolfolk |
Washington, DC

TSgt Wayne Graham | *Massapequa, NY*

TSgt Tyler Sieh | *Courtland, MN*

TSgt Devon Landis | *Moline, IL*

CELLO

SMSgt Chris Moehlenkamp* |
Lynchburg, VA

MSgt Vivian Podgainy | *Dix Hills, NY*

MSgt Frank McKinster | *Baltimore, MD*

TSgt Christine Choi | *Mission Viejo, CA*

TSgt Joshua Kowalsky | *Interlochen, MI*

STRING BASS

SMSgt William Hones* | *Toledo, OH*

TSgt Matthew Murray | *Winona, MN*

PICCOLO/FLUTE

MSgt Ardyth Scott | *Omaha, NE*

FLUTE

MSgt Stacy Newbrough Ascione* |
Iowa City, IA

MSgt Jennifer Moore | *Oxford, MI*

CMSgt Lucille Johnston Snell |
Albuquerque, NM

OBOE

TSgt Tracey MacDonald* | *Duncanville, TX*

TSgt Kevin Darrow | *Arlington, TX*

ENGLISH HORN/ OBOE

MSgt Jill Westeyn | *Davie, FL*

CLARINET

SMSgt Carl Long* | *Hanover, NH*

MSgt Julianna Arnold | *Vienna, VA*

BASS CLARINET

MSgt John Romano | *Bluefield, WV*

BASSOON

TSgt Eddie Sanders III* | *Washington, DC*

TSgt Sandra Sisk | *Centerville, MN*

CONTRA-BASSOON/ BASSOON

CMSgt Joe Tersero | *Killeen, TX*

FRENCH HORN

MSgt Kathleen Fitzpatrick* | *Columbus, OH*

TSgt Joel Wealer | *Hannibal, MO*

MSgt Kent Wyatt | *Arlington, TX*

MSgt Philip Krzywicki | *Philadelphia, PA*

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SMSgt Jennifer Burg | *Woodbridge, VA*

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TSgt Christian Pagnard | *Dayton, OH*



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SMSgt Lindsey Smith | *Williamston, MI*
CMSgt Ann Baldwin Hinote | *Canton, OH*

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SMSgt Chris Matten | *Catasauqua, PA*
TSgt Jay Heltzer | *Sherman Oaks, CA*

TUBA

MSgt Brian Sands* | *Goshen, IN*

TIMPANI

MSgt Erica Montgomery | *Louisville, KY*

PERCUSSION

MSgt Marc Dinitz* | *Rockville, MD*
TSgt Joe Reynolds | *Houston, TX*
TSgt Adam Green | *Cincinnati, OH*
CMSgt Jerry J. Thomas | *Knoxville, TN*

HARP

MSgt Eric Sabatino | *Long Island City, NY*

PIANO/CELESTE

TSgt Darrell Partin | *Las Cruces, NM*

° Concertmaster

* Principal

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SINGING SERGEANTS

Captain Cristina M. Moore Urrutia – *Kimball, NE* –

Director/Flight Commander

Chief Master Sergeant Kelly J. Egan – *Cortland, NY* – Manager

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Chapel Hill, NC

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MSgt Anne P. Seaton | *Lodi, WI*

MSgt Amy Statz Dolan | *Sauk City, WI*

ALTO

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SMSgt Jennifer Pagnard | *Knoxville, TN*

SMSgt Angela Burns° | *Wilmington, NC*

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TSgt Julia Brundage | *Annandale, VA*

TSgt Emily Lewis | *Lemoynne, PA*

TENOR

MSgt Bradley S. Bennett* | *Kent, OH*

TSgt Christopher D. Harris | *Poquoson, VA*

TSgt Nathan M. Carlisle | *Corpus Christi, TX*

TSgt Matthew Smith | *Buffalo, NY*

TSgt Joseph L. Haughton | *Philadelphia, PA*

TSgt Taylor Armstrong | *Bethlehem, PA*

BASS

MSgt Ryan P. Dolan* | *Virginia Beach, VA*

MSgt Robert S. Harrelson |

Boiling Springs, NC

MSgt Eric Sullivan | *Wilson, NC*

MSgt Matthew J. Irish° | *Dallas, TX*

TSgt Benjamin J. Park | *San Diego, CA*

° Assistant Conductor

* Section Leader

Credits

COMMAND STAFF

Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker	Commander and Music Director
Major Keith H. Bland	Squadron Operations Officer
Captain Michael J. Willen	Squadron Section Commander
Captain Cristina M. Moore Urrutia	Flight Commander
Captain Michael P. Murray	Flight Commander
Chief Master Sergeant Jerry J. Thomas	Band Manager
Chief Master Sergeant Elizabeth S. Schouten	Executive Assistant to the Commander

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Master Sergeant Lisa L. Maloney	Royalties
Master Sergeant Richard A. Drew	Royalties
Technical Sergeant David P. Sisk	Royalties

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