

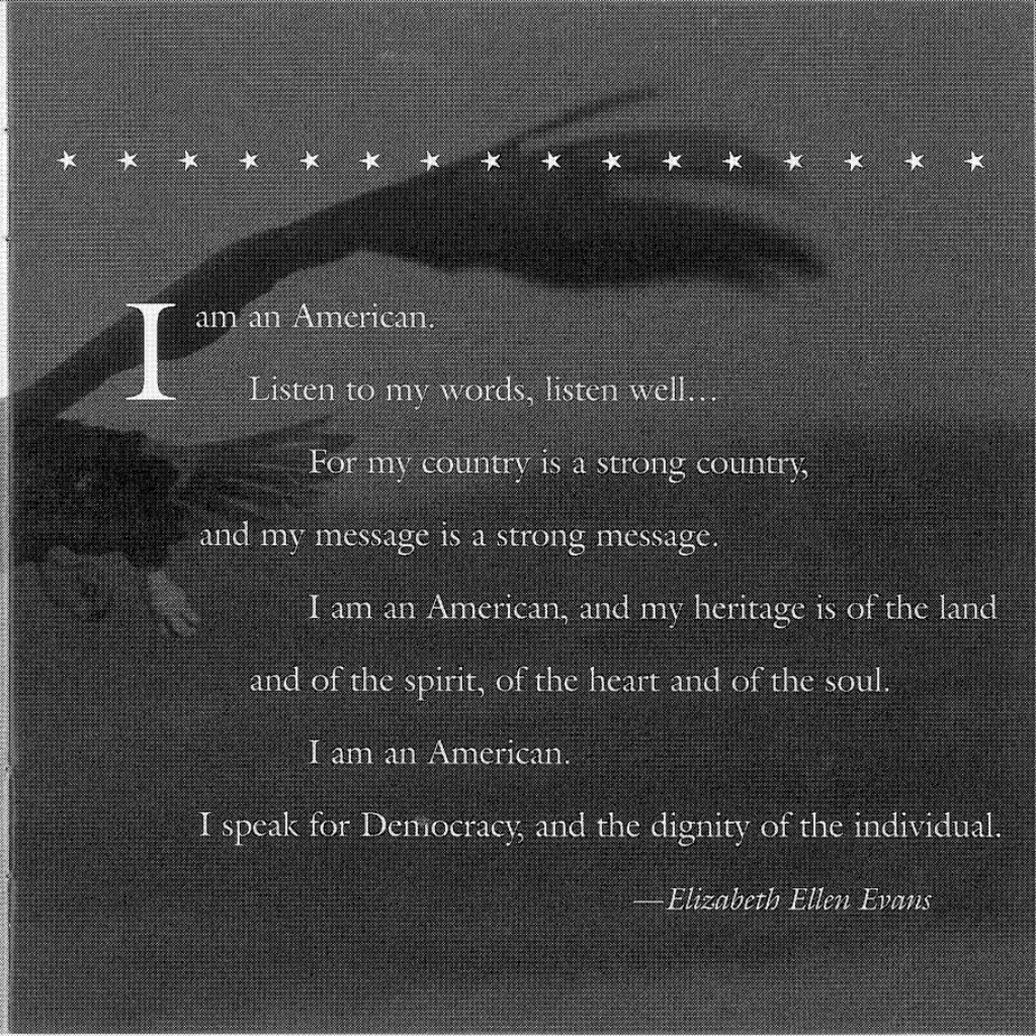
THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CONCERT BAND AND SINGING SERGEANTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. ★ Colonel Lowell E. Graham, Commander/Conductor

I Am an American ★

American





I am an American.

Listen to my words, listen well...

For my country is a strong country,
and my message is a strong message.

I am an American, and my heritage is of the land
and of the spirit, of the heart and of the soul.

I am an American.

I speak for Democracy, and the dignity of the individual.

—*Elizabeth Ellen Evans*

“America’s Band” is proud to present **I Am an American**, a musical collection that celebrates our nation’s foundation of liberty and democracy. It begins with a wonderful symphonic overture setting of our national anthem, features two stirring patriotic narrations, and culminates with one of the greatest marches of all time. From beginning to end, this recording resonates with the joy of our cherished freedom.

We are pleased to begin this recording with a work by an Air Force Band treasure, Chief Master Sergeant (Retired) Floyd E. Werle, who was our chief arranger from 1952–1982. Using text written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, Chief Werle composed *The Pledge of Allegiance*, a stirring composition for full band and chorus; his grasp of the band and chorus canvas is second-to-none.

Written in the latter part of the 19th century by American composer Dudley Buck, *Festival Overture on the American National Aire “The Star Spangled Banner”* began as a set of variations for organ that was masterfully adapted for full band and chorus.

One of the staples in The Air Force Band’s library is Chief Werle’s *The Story of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.”* Julia Ward Howe wrote the text for *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* during one of the most trying times of our young democracy—the Civil War. Created for full band, chorus, soloist and narrator, this piece epitomizes our fundamental core value as a nation of individuals joining together for the common good.

In 1970, a long-time friend of The Air Force Band, American composer Carmen Dragon, introduced concertgoers to the musical composition I Am an American. The performance took place at the historic Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. In this work, Carmen Dragon skillfully adapted Elizabeth Ellen Evans' winning Voices of Democracy essay, *I Speak for Democracy*, into a stunning choral success. The result was a patriotic treasure that to this day is an audience favorite.

Morton Gould, with his vivid idiomatic genius, captured the spirit of 20th century America with American Salute, Yankee Doodle and Fourth of July.

This patriotic collection would not be complete without a taste of America's most beloved and popular marches. The Washington Post, El Capitan, National Emblem and Sempre Fidelis contain melodies known the world over and are immediately recognized as truly American tunes. Russian-born conductor André Kostelanetz is famous for organizing numerous orchestra concerts throughout the United States and Europe following World War II; his inventive orchestral arrangements of band marches for his orchestras were a mainstay of these concerts. Former member of the United States Air Force Band of the Rockies Senior Master Sergeant (Retired) Arthur Wiggins took Kostelanetz's orchestral arrangements and rearranged them for band instrumentation, bringing the pieces "full circle," and allowing The Air Force Band to reintroduce these energetic marches to the American people.

A perennial favorite of July 4th concerts is Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's **1812 Overture**. Written for the 1882 Moscow Exhibition, Tchaikovsky initially doubted the composition's value and felt no enthusiasm for the work. However, it quickly became very popular with audiences; today, it is customary to close Independence Day celebrations with this rousing patriotic tour de force. The quiet opening theme is based upon the Russian hymn *God, Preserve Thy People*. The overture then builds to its famous climax featuring live cannon fire!

John Philip Sousa's most famous composition is **The Stars and Stripes Forever**. Originally composed in 1896, this march stirred patriotism during the Spanish-American War and it still, even today, receives vigorous ovations when it is performed. André Kostelanetz and Arthur Wiggins give us this inventive arrangement of Sousa's classic march. The United States Air Force Band is proud to conclude its musical journey with this composition, proclaimed in 1987 by an act of Congress as the National March of the United States of America.



The United States Air Force Band has a long-standing tradition of featuring guest narrators in its performances. Edward G. Robinson, Walter Cronkite, E.G. Marshall, William Conrad, Peter Graves and Morgan Freeman are just a few examples of the celebrities who have performed and recorded with The Air Force Band. On this recording, we are delighted to display the beauty of the Air Force's "Total Force" at work; the active duty component joins the reserve element to bring to you two



powerful patriotic offerings. Maintaining our tradition of great narrators, we feature Brigadier General Tim White, USAF Reserve. Formerly on active duty with the United States Air Force, Brigadier General White currently serves in the Air Force Reserve. General White is co-anchor of the weekday newscasts on WKYC-TV in Cleveland, Ohio. He started his broadcasting career at the age of 14, reporting high school news for the local radio station in Clare, Michigan. In the years since, he has worked as a reporter, writer, producer, anchor and host for television stations and networks across the country. White is also an award-winning documentary film producer. His on-air television credits include WJZ (Baltimore), WCVB (Boston) and WTTG (Washington, D.C.) where he won multiple Emmy awards anchoring Fox Morning News. In June of 2000, he won the regional Emmy award for his anchor work at WKYC. He has also hosted programs for PBS, CBS, CNN, Turner Broadcasting, Knowledge TV, Paramount Studios and Worldnet. General White earned a Bachelor's Degree in Television and Film from Michigan State University, a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Southern California and a Doctorate in Communications from the University of Maryland.

SELECTIONS

1. The Pledge of Allegiance (2:43)
CMSgt (Ret.) Floyd E. Werle*
text Francis Bellamy
2. Festival Overture on the American National Air
"The Star Spangled Banner"¹ (6:37)
Dudley Buck
trans. Thomas R. Watts
ed. Vincent Osborn
3. The Story of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"² (10:53)
arr. CMSgt (Ret.) Floyd E. Werle*
text Julia Ward Howe
MSgt Carol Hawkins Wiley, *mezzo-soprano*
Brig Gen Tim White, *narrator*
4. I Am an American³ (7:51)
Carmen Dragon
text Elizabeth Ellen Evans (adapted by Adrian Michaelis)
TSgt Anne Seaton, *soprano*
Brig Gen Tim White, *narrator*
5. American Salute⁴ (4:04)
Morton Gould
6. Yankee Doodle⁴ (2:31)
Morton Gould
7. Fourth of July⁵ (2:20)
Morton Gould

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| <p>8. The Washington Post³ (2:40)
 John Philip Sousa
 <i>arr.</i> André Kostelanetz
 <i>trans.</i> SMSgt (Ret.) Arthur Wiggins**</p> | <p>★ All selections were released with
 permission of the following publishers:</p> |
| <p>9. El Capitan (2:47)
 John Philip Sousa
 <i>arr.</i> André Kostelanetz
 <i>trans.</i> SMSgt (Ret.) Arthur Wiggins**</p> | <p>★
 ★ 1 The Edwin A. Fleisher Collection
 of Orchestral Music
 ★ 2 Bourne Music Company
 ★ 3 Carl Fischer
 ★ 4 Mills Music, Inc.
 ★ 5 C&G Music Corporation
 ★ 6 Theodore Pressor Co.</p> |
| <p>10. National Emblem⁴ (2:38)
 Edwin Eugene Bagley
 <i>arr.</i> André Kostelanetz
 <i>trans.</i> SMSgt (Ret.) Arthur Wiggins**</p> | <p>★
 ★</p> |
| <p>11. Sempre Fidelis (2:56)
 John Philip Sousa
 <i>arr.</i> André Kostelanetz
 <i>trans.</i> SMSgt (Ret.) Arthur Wiggins**</p> | <p>★
 ★</p> |
| <p>12. 1812 Overture (15:32)
 Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
 <i>trans.</i> Kenneth Singleton</p> | <p>★
 ★</p> |
| <p>13. The Stars and Stripes Forever⁶ (3:35)
 John Philip Sousa
 <i>arr.</i> André Kostelanetz
 <i>trans.</i> SMSgt (Ret.) Arthur Wiggins**</p> | <p>★
 ★</p> |
| <p>* Former Member, The United States Air Force Band</p> | <p>★</p> |
| <p>** Former Member, The United States Air Force Band
 of the Rockies</p> | <p>★</p> |
| <p>Total Time 68:09</p> | <p>★</p> |

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CONCERT BAND
Colonel Lowell E. Graham—*Greeley, CO*—Commander/Conductor
Chief Master Sergeant James H. Moseley II—*Beaumont, TX*—Manager

PICCOLO

MSgt Ardyth Scott—*Shreveport, LA*

FLUTE

TSgt Sharon Weinberg Nokes*—*Philadelphia, PA*

MSgt Lucille Johnston Snell—*Albuquerque, NM*

TSgt Stacy Newbrough—*Iowa City, IA*

OBOE

TSgt Erin Gittelsohn—*Long Island, NY*

TSgt Jill Westeyn—*Davie, FL*

ENGLISH HORN

CMSgt James Moseley—*Beaumont, TX*

E-FLAT CLARINET

MSgt Jan Brooks Siegfried—*Valparaiso, IN*

B-FLAT CLARINET

TSgt George Stoffan°—*Stratford, CT*

TSgt Dawn Henry—*Quarryville, PA*

TSgt Bryan Guidry—*Bedford, TX*

MSgt Shawn Buck—*Brookside, PA*

MSgt Sandra Cox—*Columbia, SC*

MSgt Carl Long—*Hanover, NH*

MSgt Richard Drew—*Joliet, IL*

TSgt Brian McCurdy—*Virginia Beach, VA*

TSgt Melinda Burts—*Lima, OH*

MSgt Lorraine Haddad—*Poughkeepsie, NY*

TSgt Julianna Evans—*Vienna, VA*

TSgt Darrin Thiriot—*Bountiful, UT*

BASS CLARINET

TSgt John Romano—*Bluefield, WV*

CONTRA-ALTO CLARINET

TSgt David Stump—*Colorado Springs, CO*

BASSOON

CMSgt Danny Phipps*—*Annapolis, MD*

TSgt Eddie Sanders III—*Washington, DC*

SMSgt Joe Tersero—*Killeen, TX*

ALTO SAXOPHONE

MSgt William Marr*—*Alexandria, VA*

TSgt Jeremy Koch—*Chicago, IL*

TENOR SAXOPHONE

TSgt Jake McCray—*Fairfax, VA*

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

MSgt Mary Beth George—*Buffalo, NY*

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TSgt Kent Wyatt—*Arlington, TX*

TSgt Patrick Vail—*Cincinnati, OH*

TSgt Michael Himes—*Orlando, FL*

TSgt Andrew Fordham—*Cherry Valley, IL*

TSgt Philip Krzywicki—*Philadelphia, PA*

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MSgt Andrew Wilson*—*Gambier, OH*
MSgt Robert McConnell—*Wadsworth, OH*
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TSgt Michael Huff—*Ipswich, MA*
TSgt Kenneth Oedemann—*Southampton, PA*
TSgt Christian Pagnard—*Dayton, OH*

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TSgt Michael Bosch—*Bethlehem, PA*
MSgt Clarence Mitchell—*Portsmouth, VA*

TROMBONE

SMSgt Jeffrey Gaylord*—*Western Springs, IL*
SMSgt Lindsey Smith—*Williamston, MI*
TSgt Michael Piersol—*Williamsburg, IA*

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*
TSgt Brian Sands—*Goshen, IN*

CELLO

MSgt Christopher Moehlenkamp*—*Lynchburg, VA*
MSgt Vivian Podgainy—*Dix Hills, NY*
TSgt Erin Eyles Espinoza—*Springfield, VA*
TSgt Franklin McKinster—*Arnold, MD*

STRING BASS

TSgt Matthew Murray—*Winona, MN*

TIMPANI

SMSgt Patrick Shrieves—*Freehold, NJ*

PERCUSSION

MSgt Aubrey Adams*—*Medford, OK*
SMSgt Mark Carson—*East Fultonham, OH*
TSgt Erica Kadison—*Louisville, KY*
TSgt Marc Dinitz—*Rockville, MD*
TSgt Dennis Hoffmann—*Pittsburgh, PA*

HARP

MU1 Emily Makela§—*Denton, TX*

BANJO

CMSgt James Queen—*Washington, DC*

* Principal

° Concertmaster

§ Member, The United States Navy Band,
Washington, DC

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SINGING SERGEANTS
First Lieutenant Chad A. Steffey—*Ponca City, OK*—Director
Chief Master Sergeant Julianne Sages Turrentine—*Uniontown, PA*—Manager

SOPRANO

CMSgt Julianne Sages Turrentine—*Uniontown, PA*
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TSgt Amy Statz—*Sauk City, WI*
TSgt Anne Seaton—*Lodi, WI*

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MSgt Carol Hawkins Wiley—*Wilson, NC*
MSgt Jennifer Lyons—*Knoxville, TN*
MSgt Angela Burns Williams†—*Wilmington, NC*
TSgt Janice Reksten Carl—*Parsippany, NJ*
TSgt Jennifer Marksteiner—*Fairfax, VA*

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CMSgt Richard Pearson—*Carrollton, OH*
MSgt Russell Colleran—*Lindenhurst, NY*
TSgt Ryan Carson—*Rapid City, SD*
TSgt Kenneth Maxwell—*Enon Valley, PA*
TSgt Bradley Bennett*—*Kent, OH*

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TSgt Brian Davis—*Clarksville, MD*
TSgt Ryan Dolan*—*Virginia Beach, VA*
TSgt Robert Harrelson—*Boiling Springs, NC*
TSgt K.C. Armstrong—*Mount Holly, NC*
TSgt Eric Sullivan—*Wilson, NC*
TSgt Matthew Irish—*Dallas, TX*

* Section Leader

† Assistant Conductor

BELL RINGERS FOR 1812 OVERTURE

Chaplain (Captain) Bill Johnson
CMSgt Julianne Sages Turrentine
MSgt Carol Hawkins Wiley
MSgt Angela Burns Williams
MSgt Linda Mayes Waring
TSgt Janice Reksten Carl
TSgt Ryan Dolan
TSgt Eric Sullivan
TSgt Jennifer Marksteiner

CREDITS

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For information about The United States Air Force Band and its components, or to receive its newsletter, contact:

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The United States Air Force Band Home Page is available on the World Wide Web at:
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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 Band."

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