



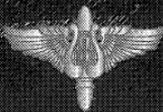
The United States Air Force

Airmen of Note

Chief Master Sergeant
Peter C. BarenBregge, Director



The United States Air Force Band
Washington, D.C.



The men and women of the United States Air Force extend you an invitation to share in celebrating the Air Force's 50th Anniversary. This historic event provides us all an opportunity to highlight the contributions of our air power pioneers, as well as reflect on the stories and sacrifices of American airmen who have demonstrated the effectiveness of air power in combat, and whose deeds in defense of freedom still inspire us today.

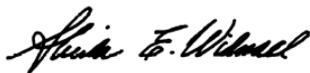
We will also look to the future as we turn our eyes to the next horizon. We see aircraft and space systems capable of meeting America's defense needs well into the 21st century, serving a new generation of professional airmen from all walks of life defending America and her democratic values in peace and war.

As we travel to various Air Force installations and operational locations, we are impressed by the tremendous esprit, professionalism and can-do attitude that our people exhibit. They are following in the footsteps of decades of dedicated airmen who have made our Air Force the world's most respected air and space force. As we mark this important milestone in the history of our service, we take great pride in being part of a military organization with a tremendous heritage, and we are determined to sustain that heritage into the future as we lead the Air Force into the 21st century.

This musical tribute by the Airmen of Note in celebration of our 50th Anniversary is dedicated to the men and women of the United States Air Force - past, present and future.



Ronald R. Fogleman
General, USAF
Chief of Staff



Sheila E. Widnall
Secretary of the Air Force

For the past 50 years, the men and women of the United States Air Force have served with the integrity and commitment to excellence that have made ours the most respected Air Force in the world. These same ideals have been the hallmark of the Airmen of Note, from their inception in 1950 to today. The Airmen of Note is proud to be a part of the history of the United States Air Force as the direct descendant of the Glenn Miller Army Air Forces Band of World War II, and the “Note” is dedicated to continuing this uniquely American musical legacy. The Airmen of Note, like the Air Force, has enjoyed a lineage that has included some of the most innovative leaders, talented performers and arrangers, and dedicated support staff that America has to offer.

Major Miller’s legendary Army Air Forces Band introduced a whole new dimension to the military music program, and his band was, in the words of General Jimmy Doolittle, “the greatest morale builder.....next to a letter from home.” That unit disbanded at Bolling Air Force Base as part of the demobilization at the end of the war, but was resurrected four years later as the Airmen of Note, with the blessing of Glenn Miller’s widow, Helen.

The Airmen of Note was born in 1950 under the leadership of **CWO Fred Kepner** (Ret) 1950-54, who was charged with carrying on the Miller tradition by organizing a first-rate dance band to bring top quality entertainment to the officers and enlisted members of the United States Air Force. Kepner sought out and enlisted the finest musicians available, resulting in immediate success for the Airmen of Note. In addition to supporting the

troops, the band received tremendous public exposure through tours and national television appearances. Kepner began building the band's musical identity through his own arrangements as well as the writing of his chief arranger Sammy Nestico, and sidemen George Roumanis, Walt Levinsky and Tommy Newsom.

MSGt Sammy Nestico 1954-55, succeeded CWO Kepner, and under the leadership of this talented trombonist/arranger/composer, the band made a highly successful European tour playing for civilian and military audiences. The prestigious British journal Melody Maker reported, "This band could blow any British band, including Ted Heath's, off the stand for musicianship and showmanship."

Capt Johnny Osiecki (Ret) 1955-66, focused on troop entertainment, recordings for radio broadcast and public performances. During this time the 53-piece ensemble Symphony in Blue was created, consisting of the Airmen of Note augmented by strings, horns, additional woodwinds and percussion. This ensemble, with the "Note" as the centerpiece, was showcased on extensive recordings of the popular "Serenade in Blue" radio show. Broadcast in stereo over more than 2000 radio stations, these programs often featured the top names in the music industry.

CWO Bob Bunton (Ret) 1966-71, initiated community relations concert tours, which firmly established the Airmen of Note as a premier concert jazz ensemble. Recognized as one of the finest big bands in the world, the "Note"

continued to record with renowned artists such as Joe Williams, Sarah Vaughn and Carmen McRae. Radio shows and recordings for “Serenade in Blue,” “Music in the Air” and the Armed Forces Radio & Television Service all helped spread the word about the Airmen of Note. The band continued its long tradition of performing at annual conventions of the Air Force Association.

During the next eight years, **Capt Ken Green** 1971-72, **Capt Gene Egge** (Ret) 1972-74, **CMSgt Dave Napier** (Ret) 1974-76, and **CMSgt Ernie Hensley** (Ret) 1976-79, all continued to move forward through performances at major jazz festivals, expanded tours and appearances on television programs such as “The Tonight Show.” The “Serenade in Blue” radio programs as well as studio recordings continued to receive superb reviews. Staff arrangers such as Roger Hogan, Gil Cray and SMSgt Mike Crotty added their own arrangements to works commissioned by the Airmen of Note to produce a truly outstanding music library. A troop morale tour of Southeast Asia, as well as a focus on music education and recruiting all contributed to the band’s expanding role. The “Note” began to perform at The United States Air Force Band Guest Artist Series with jazz legends such as Dr. Billy Taylor, Joe Williams and Clark Terry.

CMSgt Dave Steinmeyer (Ret) 1979-89, furthered the reputation of the Airmen of Note as a world-class big band with successful concert tours, stellar recordings and performances at jazz festivals. He reemphasized the music of Glenn Miller as an integral part of performances and conceived the

idea for the band to wear replicas of the Miller-era Army Air Forces uniforms, known as “pinks and greens.” This performance uniform has been highly successful for the band, allowing audiences to see as well as hear America’s musical heritage preserved by the Airmen of Note. In 1988, the former Symphony in Blue ensemble was reincarnated as the Serenade in Blue touring group, consisting of the Airmen of Note, Strolling Strings and additional winds, percussion and vocalists. This Americana group featured jazz, pop and show music. **CMSgt Pete BarenBregge** 1989-present, has renewed the focus on both community relations tours and on performances for military audiences. In addition, he has created the highly successful Jazz Heritage Concert Series, which features top jazz artists such as Bob Mintzer, Randy Brecker, Ernie Watts and Peter Erskine in concert with the Airmen of Note. The band continues to produce critically acclaimed recordings which showcase many of the band’s superb soloists, as well as SMSgt Crotty’s brilliant arrangements. International tours to South America and Japan, and performances at the nation’s top jazz festivals, often broadcast on National Public Radio, have increased the band’s exposure worldwide. The band now performs at the White House throughout the year.

On this CD, 14 guests shared in the making of the music, each having contributed their own part to the history of the “Note.” I was particularly honored to have performances by Fred Kepner, the man who first organized and directed the Airmen of Note in 1950; alumnus Tommy Newsom, saxophonist extraordinaire and former lead alto of The Tonight Show Orchestra; and the remarkably gifted trombonist Dave Steinmeyer, former

director 1979-89. The Airmen of Note also appreciates the donation of time and contribution of world-class talent from these alumni who reside in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area: CMSgt Rick Whitehead (Ret) 1969-91, SMSgt Jim Lay (Ret) 1970-89, MSgt Rick Lillard (Ret) 1976-92, MSgt Vaughn Nark (Ret) 1978-93, MSgt Doug Gately (Ret) 1978-93, SMSgt Bobbie McCleary 1978-88, SMSgt Juanita Williams (Ret) 1990-96, Lee Lachman 1978-83, Tim Eyermann 1971-74 and Tom Williams 1981-87. And finally our very special guest, one of *the* jazz legends of our time, Mr. Joe Williams, who once again honored the Airmen of Note with his amazing voice.

As the senior military big band, the “Note” has had the privilege of performing in a variety of settings, from the White House to remote airfields, and from international jazz festivals to summer concerts in the park. Live performances and recordings, including the world famous “Serenade in Blue” radio series, have allowed the Airmen of Note to touch the hearts and souls of millions throughout the world. The Airmen of Note continues to fulfill its musical destiny of leadership and innovation in American big band jazz, preserving the tradition and building on the precedent set by Major Glenn Miller. The Airmen of Note takes pride in their lasting contribution to both the golden legacy and boundless future of the United States Air Force. I offer with great honor and pride this collection of standards, jazz classics and original jazz compositions, offered in tribute to the history and heritage of the United States Air Force.

CMSgt Pete BarenBregge
Director, Airmen of Note

SELECTIONS

- 1. Theme** (Based on the 3rd verse of the AF Song) Robert Crawford
*arr. CWO Fred Kepner (Ret)** (1:45)*
CWO Fred Kepner (Ret)**, piano
- 2. The Red Door** Zoot Sims
*arr. Tommy Newsom** (5:49)*
Tommy Newsom**, tenor saxophone
MSgt Wade Beach, piano
MSgt Vaughn Nark (Ret)**, trumpet, valve trombone
SMSgt C. E. Askew, drums
- 3. Chelsea Bridge** Billy Strayhorn
*arr. Sammy Nestico** (5:25)*
CMSgt Peter BarenBregge, tenor saxophone
- 4. The Brazilian Factor** Randy Brecker
arr. SMSgt Mike Crotty (6:56)*
SMSgt Joe Eckert, alto saxophone
TSgt Tim Leahey, trumpet
- 5. Yesterdays** Jerome Kern
arr. SMSgt Mike Crotty (4:30)*
TSgt Tracey Wright, vocalist
TSgt Shawn Purcell, guitar
- 6. The Poet** SMSgt Mike Crotty* (7:58)
MSgt Dudley Hinote, bass trombone
MSgt Wade Beach, piano
- 7. Silver 'n Blues** Horace Silver
arr. John Fluck (5:42)
TSgt Tracey Wright, vocalist
MSgt Saul Miller, tenor saxophone
MSgt Rick Lillard (Ret)**, vocalist
TSgt Tim Leahey, trumpet

8. **Groovin' High** Dizzy Gillespie
arr. John Wasson (6:29)
SMSgt Joe Eckert, alto saxophone
TSgt Andy Axelrad, alto saxophone
9. **This Is All I Ask** Gordon Jenkins
*arr. SMSgt Mike Crotty** (6:55)
CMSgt Dave Steinmeyer (Ret)**, trombone
CMSgt Rick Whitehead (Ret)**, guitar

Lead Trpt-SMSgt Jimmy Lay (Ret)**, Alto/Flute/Clarinet-Lee Lachman**,
Alto/Flute/Clarinet-Tim Eyer mann**, Tenor/Flute/Clar-MSgt Doug Gately (Ret)**
10. **Two Bass Error** SMSgt Mike Crotty* (7:41)
MSgt Paul Henry, bass
Tom Williams**, bass
11. **Mood Indigo** Duke Ellington
*arr. SMSgt Mike Crotty** (4:36)
SMSgt Bobbie McCleary*, vocalist
12. **Reunion Dues** SMSgt Mike Crotty* (6:49)
TSgt Tim Leahey, trumpet
MSgt Rick Lillard (Ret)**, trombone
13. **America the Beautiful** lyrics Katherine Lee Bates
music Samuel Ward
*arr. SMSgt Mike Crotty** (3:23)
Joe Williams, vocalist
SMSgt Juanita Williams (Ret)**, vocalist
CMSgt Peter BarenBregge, tenor saxophone

Total Time 74:32

*Member, The USAF Band

**Former member, The USAF Band

PERSONNEL

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AIRMEN OF NOTE / WASHINGTON, D.C.

Chief Master Sergeant Peter C. BarenBregge, Director

WOODWINDS

Senior Master Sergeant Joe Eckert, alto sax	Cleveland, Ohio
Technical Sergeant Andy Axelrad, alto sax	Buffalo Grove, Illinois
Chief Master Sergeant Peter BarenBregge, tenor sax	Wilmington, Delaware
Master Sergeant Saul Miller Jr., tenor sax	Riverside, California
Master Sergeant Don New, baritone sax	Levittown, Pennsylvania

TRUMPETS

Technical Sergeant Rich Haering, lead	Flint, Michigan
Master Sergeant Bruce Gates, assistant lead	Geneva, Illinois
Technical Sergeant Rich Sigler, jazz	Mt. View, California
Technical Sergeant Tim Leahey, jazz	Altoona, Pennsylvania

TROMBONES

Technical Sergeant Joe Jackson, lead, jazz	Denton, Texas
Technical Sergeant Doug Elliott, jazz	Silver Spring, Maryland
Senior Master Sergeant Gary Hall, jazz	Fairfax, Virginia
Master Sergeant Dudley Hinote, bass	Titusville, Florida

RHYTHM

Senior Master Sergeant C.E. Askew, drums	Stuttgart, Arkansas
Master Sergeant Wade Beach, piano	Baltimore, Maryland
Master Sergeant Paul Henry, bass	Green Bay, Wisconsin
Technical Sergeant Shawn Purcell, guitar	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

VOCALIST

Technical Sergeant Tracey Wright	Alexandria, Virginia
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Special thanks to the following for their assistance:

Master Sergeant Mark Rafael, trumpet (for TSgt Sigler)	USAF Band of the Rockies
Master Sergeant Pat Shrieves, percussion (tracks 3,4,9)	USAF Concert Band

CREDITS

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Chief Master Sergeant Peter C. BarenBregge	Director, Airmen of Note / Producer / Mixing
Senior Master Sergeant Michael M. Crotty	Producer / Mixing
Mr. Bob Dawson <i>Bias Recording / Springfield, Virginia</i>	Recording Engineer / Mixing
Mr. Dave Glasser <i>Airshow / Springfield, Virginia</i>	Mastering
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Master Sergeant Dudley J. Hinote & Master Sergeant William E. Marr	Graphic Layout
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LEGACY

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AIRMEN OF NOTE - WASHINGTON, D.C.

Chief Master Sergeant Peter C. BarenBregge, Director

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<i>arr. John Wasson(6:29)</i> |
| 2 | The Red Door | Zoot Sims
<i>arr. Tommy Newsom**(5:49)</i> | 9 | This Is All I Ask | Gordon Jenkins
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