



*Make the  
Season  
Bright*

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CONCERT BAND  
AND SINGING SERGEANTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Colonel Lowell E. Graham, *Commander/Conductor*

## *Make the Season Bright*

Whether it's the sparkle of lights that decorates the trees or the twinkle in every child's eye, there are many magical sights that only happen during one special time of year: the holiday season. The brilliant decorations on the neighborhood homes, the lights and candles reflecting off snowy, icy streets and even Rudolph's shiny red nose are special traditions that have brought yuletide spirit to all throughout the ages. Combine these images with a wonderful collection of holiday favorites from **The United States Air Force Band**, and the result is a great way to **Make the Season Bright**.

Arthur Harris has arranged a number of seasonal favorites for prestigious ensembles such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic and the Robert Shaw Chorale. Dr. William H. Silvester, director of bands at the College of New Jersey, provides a brilliant transcription of one such Harris masterpiece, **Adeste Fidelis**.

Russian composer Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov wrote the opera *La Nuit de Noël* (Christmas Eve) in 1894. Based on a story by Russian novelist Nikolai Gogol, the production premiered at the Maryinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg on December 10, 1895. In the third act of the opera, **Polonaise** sets the stage as the curtain rises on the grand ballroom of Katherine the Great's imperial palace. Here is Chief Master Sergeant (retired) Leigh D. Steiger's transcription of this festive Christmas dance.

While the holidays mean different things to each of us, everyone can share in the festive gatherings and happy celebrations that each season brings. **A Few Festive Things** evokes

the many colorful sights and sounds of this special time. Arranged by Chief Master Sergeant Michael Davis and Master Sergeant Larry MacTaggart, this medley includes the holiday favorites *Carol of the Bells*, *My Favorite Things*, *The Christmas Waltz*, *Silver Bells* and *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*.

For over 25 years, the British vocal group, *The King's Singers*, has set the standard for both classic and contemporary vocal stylings. Their polished and refined harmonies, coupled with an enormous repertoire covering a wide variety of genres, have thrilled audiences throughout the world. It is in this witty and inventive vocal style that Gordon Langford arranged the ever-popular **Jingle Bells**. Listen and enjoy as we feature our very own Singing Sergeants on a song that captures the flavor of the season.

Written during a sweltering heatwave in August of 1948, Leroy Anderson's holiday classic, **Sleigh Ride**, conjures up the image of a horse-drawn sleigh gliding over the snow. Expertly arranged by Hawley Aves and Chief Master Sergeant Michael Davis, this version features Mitchell Parish's clever lyrics, and is guaranteed to put a smile on the face of anyone longing for a taste of winter.

Contemporary jazz saxophonist Dave Koz wrote **December Makes Me Feel This Way** as a tribute to his late father. Beautifully adapted by Master Sergeant Robert Thurston, this sentimental ballad provides a fitting way to celebrate the spirit of the season.

*The Oxford Book of Carols* is not clear as to the exact origin of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. Dating back hundreds of years, it is said to have come from

the “West Country” of Great Britain. Technical Sergeant John Bliss takes this familiar melody on a whirlwind ride through his charming **Variations on a West Country Carol**.

In 1985, author Chris Van Allsburg penned a children’s tale set on a seemingly ordinary train. However, this train was far from ordinary. It was sleek and silvery, steaming its way across the snow-covered countryside to the summit of wonder and excitement—the North Pole. Senior Master Sergeant Nicholas Zaricki brings this award-winning story to life with his unique, original score. All aboard! **The Polar Express** is ready for departure.

Renowned British arranger Peter Knight was commissioned by *Reader’s Digest* to write a collection of familiar Christmas songs for a special recording project.

**The 12 Days of Christmas** was included on this list of stunning arrangements by Mr. Knight, and was transcribed by the former chief arranger of The United States Air Force Band, Chief Master Sergeant (retired) Floyd Werle.

The power and majesty of music at Christmas time is one of the many reasons we wait with great anticipation for the holiday season. Robert Shaw and Robert Russell Bennett, two giants of American music, joined talents to create one of the most lasting and best-loved collections of traditional carols, **The Many Moods of Christmas**. This transcription of the third suite by Chief Musician Linda Casselberry includes *What Child Is This*, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, *Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella* and *Angels We Have Heard on High*.

How about a smooth, silky jazz ballad to warm those cold toes? Or maybe a smokin' hot samba that promises to sizzle the snowy slopes? Senior Master Sergeant (retired) Mike Crotty has created the ultimate combination in **Christmas Wonderland**, a special collection of holiday favorites including *Christmas Is*, *Winter Wonderland* and *White Christmas*.

Ironically, entertainer Mel Torme and lyricist Robert Wells wrote **The Christmas Song** on a hot summer day in 1946. Technical Sergeant John Bliss combines this melody with another holiday favorite, **Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas**. This spectacular version of these timeless holiday classics is guaranteed to inspire joyful visions of this magical time of year.

What better way to make this season bright than with a visit from Frosty, Rudolph and Santa, three fixtures of our holiday celebration, year in and year out. Master Sergeant Robert Thurston weaves together a charming medley of *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, *Frosty the Snowman*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, his tribute to our favorite **Christmas Visitors**.

As you celebrate this joyous holiday season, please remember the thousands of Americans in uniform serving their country around the world. These men and women proudly perform their duties every day so that we may enjoy the precious freedom and peace we all hold so dear.

# *Make the Season Bright*

The United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants—Washington, D.C.  
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## SELECTIONS

1| **Adeste Fidelis**<sup>1</sup> 3:14

*arr.* Arthur Harris

*trans.* William H. Silvester

2| **Polonaise** from *La Nuit de Noël* 4:23

Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov

*trans.* CMSgt (ret.) Leigh D. Steiger\*\*

3| **A Few Festive Things** 8:24

*arr.* CMSgt Michael Davis\*/

MSgt Larry MacTaggart\*

### **Carol of the Bells**<sup>2</sup>

*music and lyrics* Mykola Leontovych

### **My Favorite Things**<sup>3</sup>

*music* Richard Rogers

*lyrics* Oscar Hammerstein II

MSgt Robin Askew, soprano

### **The Christmas Waltz**<sup>4</sup>

*music* Sammy Cahn

*lyrics* Jule Styne

TSgt Robert Harrelson, baritone

### **Silver Bells**<sup>5</sup>

*music and lyrics* Jay Livingston/Ray Evans

MSgt Carol Wiley, soprano

MSgt Angela Williams, alto

### **The Most Wonderful Time of the Year**<sup>6</sup>

*music and lyrics* Eddie Pola/George Wyle

4| **Jingle Bells**<sup>7</sup> 1:46

*music* James Pierpont

*arr.* Gordon Langford

5| **Sleigh Ride**<sup>8</sup> 3:00

*music* Leroy Anderson

*lyrics* Mitchell Parish

*arr.* Hawley Awes/CMSgt Michael Davis\*

6| **December Makes Me Feel This Way**<sup>9</sup> 3:39

*music and lyrics* David Koz/

Jud J. Friedman/Allan Rich

*arr.* MSgt Robert Thurston\*

TSgt Amy Statz, soprano

MSgt Russell Colleran, tenor





- 7| **Variations on a West Country Carol** 4:38  
*arr.* TSgt John Bliss\*
- 8| **The Polar Express**<sup>10</sup> 10:29  
*music* SMSgt Nick Zaricki\*\*\*  
*story* Chris Van Allsburg  
CMSgt Dana L. Steinhauser\*, narrator
- 9| **The 12 Days of Christmas** 4:43  
*arr.* Peter Knight  
*trans.* CMSgt (ret.) Floyd E. Werle\*\*
- 10| **The Many Moods of Christmas, Suite Three**<sup>11</sup> 11:51  
*arr.* Robert Russell Bennett/Robert Shaw  
*trans.* MUC Linda Casselberry\*\*\*\*
- What Child Is This**  
MSgt Robin Askew, soprano
- Hark the Herald Angels Sing**
- Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella**
- Angels We Have Heard on High**
- 11| **Christmas Wonderland** 3:59  
*arr.* SMSgt (ret.) Mike Crotty\*\*
- Christmas Is**<sup>12</sup>  
*music* Percy Faith  
*lyrics* Spence Maxwell  
MSgt Russell Colleran, tenor
- Winter Wonderland**<sup>13</sup>  
*music and lyrics* Dick Smith/Felix Bernard
- White Christmas**<sup>14</sup>  
*music and lyrics* Irving Berlin
- 12| **The Christmas Song**<sup>15</sup> 4:21  
*music and lyrics* Mel Torme/Robert Wells  
*arr.* TSgt John Bliss\*
- Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas**<sup>16</sup>  
*music and lyrics* Hugh Martin/Ralph Blaine
- 13| **Christmas Visitors** 5:33  
*arr.* MSgt Robert Thurston\*
- I'll Be Home for Christmas**<sup>17</sup>  
*music and lyrics* Kim Gannon/Walter Kent
- Frosty the Snowman**<sup>18</sup>  
*music and lyrics* Steve Nelson/Jack Rollins
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer**<sup>19</sup>  
*music and lyrics* Johnny Marks

13| **Christmas Visitors (continued)**

**Santa Claus is Coming to Town<sup>16</sup>**

*music* J. Fred Coots

*lyrics* Haven Gillespie

**We Wish You a Merry Christmas**

\*Member, The United States Air Force Band

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

\*\*\*Member, The United States Air Force Band  
of Liberty, Hanscom Air Force Base, MA

\*\*\*\*Member, The United States Navy Band,  
Washington, D.C.

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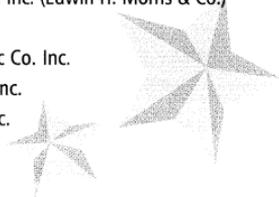
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# *The United States Air Force Concert Band*

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*

MSgt Elizabeth Campeau—*Pinckney, MI*

MSgt Shawn Buck—*Brookside, PA*

MSgt Sandra Cox—*Columbia, SC*

MSgt Carl Long—*Hanover, NH*

MSgt Richard Drew—*Joliet, IL*

TSgt Bryan Guidry—*Bedford, TX*

TSgt Brian McCurdy—*Winchester, VA*

MSgt Lorraine Haddad—*Poughkeepsie, NY*

TSgt Jeffrey Snavely—*Milwaukee, WI*

TSgt Julianna Evans—*Vienna, VA*

MSgt Jan Brooks Siegfried—*Valparaiso, IN*

## **Bass Clarinet**

TSgt David Stump—*Colorado Springs, CO*

## **Contra-Alto Clarinet**

TSgt John Romano—*Bluefield, WV*

## **Bassoon**

CMSgt Danny Phipps\*—*Annapolis, MD*

TSgt Eddie Sanders—*Washington, DC*

## **Contra-Bassoon**

SMSgt Joe Tersero—*Killeen, TX*



### **Alto Saxophone**

MSgt William Marr<sup>•</sup>—*Alexandria, VA*

TSgt Jeremy Koch—*Chicago, IL*

### **Tenor Saxophone**

TSgt Jake McCray—*Fairfax, VA*

### **Baritone Saxophone**

MSgt Mary Beth George—*Buffalo, NY*

### **French Horn**

TSgt Kathleen Monroe<sup>•</sup>—*Columbus, OH*

TSgt Patrick Vail—*Cincinnati, OH*

TSgt Michael Himes—*Orlando, FL*

TSgt Kent Wyatt—*Arlington, TX*

TSgt Philip Krzywicki—*Philadelphia, PA*

### **Cornet**

MSgt Andrew Wilson<sup>•</sup>—*Gambier, OH*

MSgt James Bittner—*Harrisburg, PA*

MSgt Robert McConnell—*Wadsworth, OH*

TSgt Curt Christensen—*Mt. Clemens, MI*

TSgt Kenneth Oedemann—*Southampton, PA*

### **Trumpet**

TSgt Michael Bosch—*Bethlehem, PA*

MSgt Clarence Mitchell—*Portsmouth, VA*

### **Trombone**

CMSgt Mark Williams<sup>•</sup>—*Okemos, MI*

MSgt Jeffrey Gaylord—*Western Springs, IL*

SMSgt Lindsey Smith—*Williamston, MI*

TSgt James VanZandt—*Austin, TX*

### **Bass Trombone**

SMSgt Chris Matten—*Catasauqua, PA*

### **Euphonium**

TSgt William Jones<sup>•</sup>—*Stormville, NY*

TSgt Joseph Bello—*Naperville, IL*

### **Tuba**

TSgt Christopher Quade<sup>•</sup>—*Burke, VA*

SMSgt Jan Duga—*Columbus, OH*

SMSgt William Porter—*Alcoa, TN*

### **Cello**

MSgt Christopher Moehlenkamp<sup>•</sup>

—*Lynchburg, VA*

TSgt Joan Hovda—*Decorah, IA*

### **String Bass**

SMSgt Frank Pappajohn<sup>•</sup>—*Morgantown, WV*

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*

## **Harp**

MSgt Eric Sabatino—*Long Island City, NY*

## **Keyboards**

MSgt Marek Vastek—*Krakow, Poland*

- Concertmaster
- Principal





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**U.S. AIR FORCE**