



The United States Air Force Band

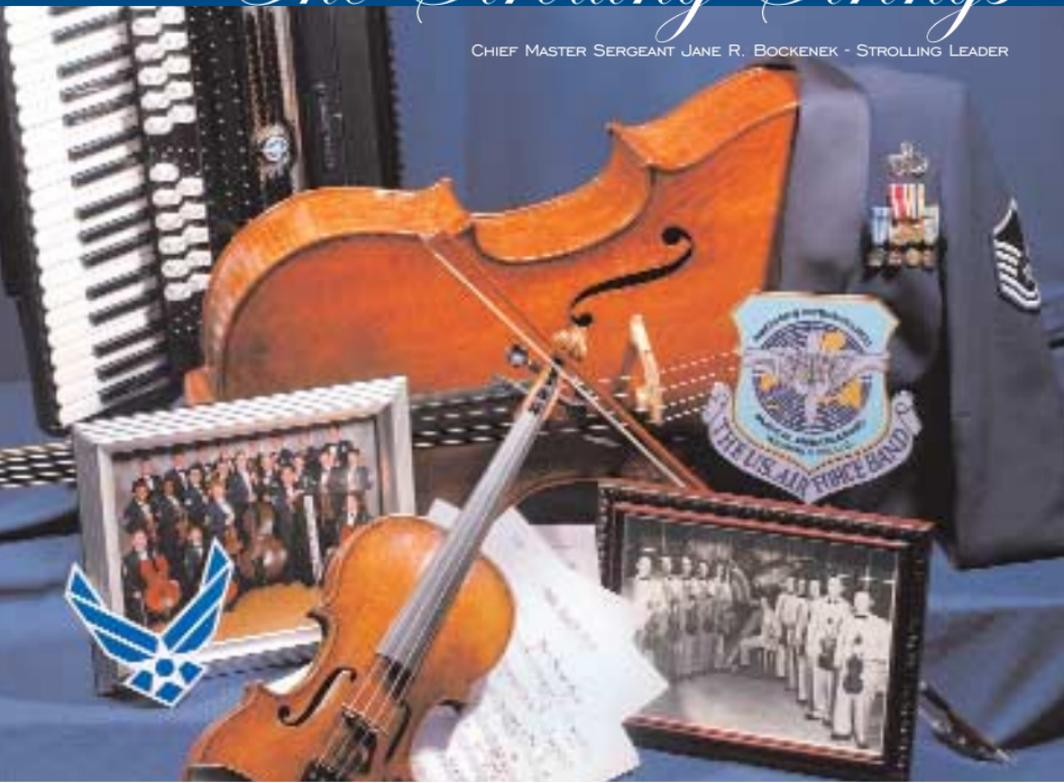
Washington, D.C.

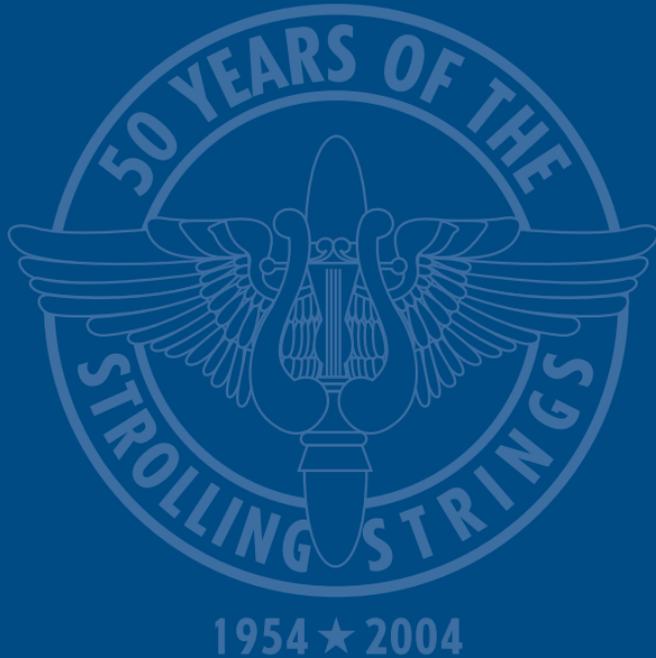
COLONEL DENNIS M. LAYENDECKER - COMMANDER AND MUSIC DIRECTOR

5 0 T H A N N I V E R S A R Y

# *The Strolling Strings*

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JANE R. BOCKENEK - STROLLING LEADER





Dear listener, we sincerely hope you enjoy this golden anniversary recording of The United States Air Force Strolling Strings. The outstanding reputation the group has achieved over the years may be attributed to the musicianship and hard work of the men and women who have served as members of the Strings over the last five decades. I was particularly honored to act as officer in charge of the Strolling Strings at the very outset of my Air Force career. Those great folks raised me well ... and that was no small task! Some twenty years and a number of assignments later, I am honored today to serve as their commander. Thus, on the occasion of this recording, I extend my deepest respect, sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to all those wonderful Air Force musicians whose dedicated service and musical talent made the Strolling Strings' first fifty years so successful. With them, I look forward to many more years of serving and honoring our Air Force and our nation through the wonderful art of music.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis M. Layendecker".

Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker  
Commander and Music Director

*Celebrating* its golden anniversary, The United States Air Force Band Strolling Strings continues to display the highest standards of musicianship and showmanship, delighting audiences around the world.

The Strolling Strings traces its roots to 1944 with the inception of The Army Air Forces Symphony Orchestra, the first of its kind in a long and storied history of American military music. Colonel George S. Howard, then commander and conductor of The United States Army Air Forces Band in Washington, D.C., was inspired to form a strolling group when, one evening in a small Paris restaurant, he observed several gypsy violinists moving from table to table. The original Strolling Strings, officially organized in 1954, was comprised of 12 violinists from The Air Force Symphony Orchestra. The past half century has witnessed the ensemble grow to its current size of 17 strolling violinists and violists, with a stationary center group that includes a lead violin, keyboard, bass and three cellos.

The Strolling Strings provides a unique musical experience and is comfortable in virtually every style of music, from the great classical masters to today's popular artists. The group performs entirely from memory and without the aid of a conductor, instead relying on the leadership of a senior noncommissioned officer.

First requested by the Eisenhower administration to perform at the White House in 1957, the Strolling Strings have been honored to appear before every subsequent president. Additionally, they are proud to have represented the excellence of America's armed forces through numerous performances for the Departments of State and Defense, members of Congress and numerous foreign heads of state. They have performed on six continents, in every state of the union, and at Air Force installations worldwide. Enjoyed both by members of our armed forces and the general public, the Strolling Strings is an instrument of troop morale, recruiting and community relations, projecting a patriotic and positive image of the United States Air Force.

Commemorating 50 years of great music making, the Strolling Strings proudly presents this recording, an offering of music that showcases the flexibility and virtuosity of the ensemble. The Strings are pleased to welcome back accordionist Chief Master Sergeant (Ret.) Louis Coppola and pianist/arranger Senior Master Sergeant (Ret.) Robert Walters, whose musical leadership contributed to the early success of the group. Currently under the leadership of Chief Master Sergeant Jane Bockenek, The United States Air Force Strolling Strings continues to entertain audiences at home and abroad.



# *Selections*

1. **GRANADA**<sup>1</sup> (2:22)  
Augustin Lara  
arr. CMSgt (Ret.) Louis Coppola\*\*
2. **DOMINO**<sup>2</sup> (2:13)  
Jacques Plante/Louis Ferrari/Don Raye  
arr. CMSgt (Ret.) Gregory Christy\*\*
3. **LOVE IS BLUE**<sup>3</sup> (2:33)  
Andre Popp  
arr. CMSgt (Ret.) Louis Coppola\*\*
4. **MAKIN' WHOOPIE**<sup>4</sup> (3:23)  
Walter Donaldson/Gus Kahn  
arr. MSgt Alexander Dean\*  
MSgt Alexander Dean, violin solo
5. **WAVE**<sup>5</sup> (2:39)  
Antonio Carlos Jobim  
arr. SMSgt (Ret.) Robert Walters\*\*
6. **A TIME FOR US**<sup>6</sup> (2:31)  
Nino Rota  
arr. CMSgt (Ret.) Louis Coppola\*\*
7. **JUST THE TWO OF US**<sup>7</sup> (2:02)  
Ralph MacDonald/William Salter/  
Bill Withers  
arr. MSgt William Hones\*
8. **ANDALUCIA**<sup>8</sup> (2:48)  
Ernesto Lecuona  
arr. SMSgt (Ret.) Robert Walters\*\*
9. **ARTHUR'S THEME**<sup>9</sup> (2:39)  
Burt Bacharach/Carole Bayer Sager  
arr. SMSgt (Ret.) Robert Walters\*\*
10. **BLUE TANGO**<sup>10</sup> (2:53)  
Leroy Anderson  
arr. MSgt (Ret.) Charles Granofsky\*\*
11. **FLY ME TO THE MOON**<sup>11</sup> (2:12)  
Bart Howard  
arr. SMSgt (Ret.) Robert Walters\*\*
12. **ASHOKAN FAREWELL**<sup>12</sup> (3:23)  
Jay Ungar  
arr. MSgt William Hones\*
13. **YESTERDAY**<sup>13</sup>/**ELEANOR RIGBY**<sup>13</sup> (3:39)  
John Lennon/Paul McCartney  
arr. MSgt (Ret.) Keith Laurent\*\*

\*Current Member, The United States Air Force Band

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

14. <b>TARANTELLA</b> (1:45) Traditional arr. CMSgt (Ret.) William Popp**	21. <b>JEALOUSY</b> <sup>18</sup> (2:26) Jacob Gade arr. MSgt (Ret.) Charles Granofsky**
15. <b>TICO TICO</b> <sup>14</sup> (1:50) Zequinha Abreu arr. MSgt (Ret.) Charles Granofsky**	22. <b>CANON</b> (3:48) Johann Pachelbel arr. Maj (Ret.) Frank Hudson**
16. <b>WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD</b> <sup>15</sup> (2:16) George Weiss/Bob Thiele arr. SMSgt Larry MacTaggart*	23. <b>MISERLOU</b> (2:25) Traditional arr. SMSgt (Ret.) Robert Walters**
17. <b>L'ESTUDIANTINA</b> <sup>16</sup> (2:29) Emil Waldteufel arr. SMSgt (Ret.) Robert Walters**.	24. <b>CZARDAS</b> <sup>19</sup> (3:24) Vittorio Monti arr. MSgt (Ret.) Charles Granofsky** CMSgt Jane Bockenek, violin solo CMSgt (Ret.) Louis Coppola, accordion solo
18. <b>AMAZING GRACE</b> (2:04) John Newton arr. MSgt Cleveland Chandler*	25. <b>MALAGUENA</b> <sup>8</sup> (3:21) Ernesto Lecuona arr. SMSgt (Ret.) Robert Walters**
19. <b>STRAUSS WALTZ MEDLEY</b> (4:55) Johann Strauss arr. MSgt (Ret.) Charles Granofsky**	26. <b>AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL</b> <sup>20</sup> (3:22) Samuel Ward arr. Carmen Dragon/CMSgt (Ret.) William Popp**
20. <b>PLAY GYPSIES</b> <sup>17</sup> (3:00) Emmerich Kalman arr. MSgt (Ret.) Charles Granofsky**	

All selections were released with permission of the following publishers:

1. Peer Music
2. Universal MCA Music Publishing
3. Warner Chappell Music Inc./Intersong USA Inc./Radmus Publishing Inc.
4. Donaldson Publishing Co./Keyes Gilbert Music Co./The Songwriters Guild/Larry Spier Inc./Tobago Music Co.
5. Corcovado Music Corp.
6. Famous Music Corp.
7. Antisa Music Inc./Bleunig Music/Cherry Lane Music Publishing Co. A
8. Edward B. Marks Music Co.
9. Irving Music/Warner Chappell Music Inc./Warner Tamerlane Publishing Corp./Begonia Melodies Inc./Unichappell Music Inc./Woolnough Music
10. EMI Mills Music Inc./EMI Music Publishing
11. Hampshire House Publishing Corp./The Richmond Organization
12. The Songwriters Guild A/C/Swinging Door Music
13. Sony/ATV Tunes LLC
14. Peer Music/Irmaos Vitale S A
15. The Songwriters Guild/Abilene Music Inc./Quartet Music Inc./Range Road Music Inc./Carlin America Inc.
16. MCA Music Publishing/Universal Duchess Music Corp.
17. Warner Bros Inc./Harms Inc.
18. Edition Wilhelm Hansen A/S
19. Alpha Music Inc.
20. EMI Music Publishing/EMI Music Inc./Screen Gems

Total Time 72:35



Globe Photos, Inc.

# 1961

*Impromptu performance of Mendelssohn Violin Concerto by accordionist TSgt Lou Coppola and violinist Issac Stern, accompanied by Leonard Bernstein. Photographed by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy.*



# 1970

*An Anderson House performance in 1973.*

▲ *State dinner performance for President and Mrs. Kennedy honoring the Minister of Cultural Affairs for France.*



▲ *Performing for Vietnam-era hospitalized troops at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.*



## PAST MEMBERS OF THE STROLLING STRINGS

### *Violin*

Adams, Daniel W.	1976-79	Blair, John F.	1962-65	Ellison, Douglas A.	1993-2003	Granofsky, Charles	1946-66	Horak, Robert P.	1949-73	Koubek, Cary J.	1966-70
Adams, Charles R.	1951-55	Braunlich, Helmut K.	1954-58	Falkenstrom, John F.	1954-58,	Greenhouse, Norman	1950-58	Jean, Pierre E.	1968-72	Kobialka, Daniel	1966-70
Adams, Dauba D.	1976-79	Bredberg, Karolyn A.	1980-84,		1959-76	Greenwalt, David L.	1976-81	Jensen, Rawls S.	1950-69	Komesaruk, Michael	1946-74
Allen, Brett L.	1982-86		1986-87	Faulkner, Michael H.	1969-73	Gruzin, Samuel	1949-68	Johnson, Roy M.	1970-75	Lund, Elizabeth	1985-93
Allen, Donald L.	1965-73	Budner, Katherine	1979-86	Fornal, Joseph	1956-58	Grzesnikowski, Edwin R.	1955-63	Kapusciarz, Edward A.	1959-63	Mandel, Martin	1961-65
Atwood, Robert E.	1955-80	Christy, Gregory P.	1951-81	Frey, Ernest Peter	1981-84	Haines, Edward B.	1947-55	Karensky, Fred	1962	McCarty, Clark S.	1962-70
Bates, Paul A.	1958-62	Coppola, Joseph A.	1953-56	Geshmay, Edward S.	1965-69	Hawthorne, Teresa A.	1975-82	Keene, James	1962-66	Mega, Michael S.	1956-60
Biel, Wilfred R.	1951-55	Dan, Jessica J.	1997-2001	Goldschmidt, Bernhard H.	1950-56	Hilmo, Russell J.	1975-79	Kidder, Timothy L.	1979-99	Muenzer, Edgar C.	1946-55
Biel, Gerald E.	1951-55	Duszynski, Wallace	1945-56	Gorsuch, Charles	1955-56	Hoff, David C.	1975-84	King, Roger D.	1970-74	Musheno, Ramon G.	1954-55



# 1978

Performing in general officers' quarters for visiting dignitaries is a staple of the Strolling Strings' mission.



# 1981

Performing at the table of President Reagan.



▲ 1978 performance at the White House with First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

▲ A State Dinner at the President Ronald Reagan White House.

Muse, Ruth Ann	1985-93	Petre, Joseph K., Jr.	1970-73	Riley, George M.	1966-92	Stack, Edward J.	1963-67	Waugh, Robert L.	1974-94	<i>Viola</i>	Alderson, George W.	1965-69
Myers, Bruce T.	1970-74,	Preece, Llewellyn	1985-93	Rizov, Serge	1995-99	Stanford, James T.	1970-74	Waxler, Myer	1956-60		Atwood, Mary P.	1974-84
	1975-78	Price, Robert B.	1959-63,	Roby, Paul E.	1958-62	Starnes, William B.	1966-69	Willumsen, Laura	1981-85		Ceo, Joseph S.	1958-61
Myers, Stephanie M.	1975-78		1966-70	Saam, Dustin O.	1980-84,	Starns, Charles D.	1946-69	Wilson, David K.	1980-84		Delaine, Wilbert H. Jr.	1973-75
Nichiporuk, Harry	1948-62	Queen, James K.	1974-93		1986-2003	Steele, Ronald A.	1956-60	Wilson, William S.	1971-74		Guilbeau, Jerome D.	1958-63
Oakland, Ronald W.	1969-73	Rae, Donald R.	1979-82	Schwede, Walter J.	1971-75	Steinmeyer, Judith	1981-85				Hague, Lynn G.	1967-70
Oben, Abe	1946-74	Reitz, Howard	1960-64	Skidmore, James R.	1970-74	Summers, Vernon L.	1971-74				Harrington, Donald R.	1979-2003
Ohmes, Allen F.	1953-57	Richardson, Scott	1985-86	Slima, Octavian	1987-97	Swanson, David L.	1974-2001				Holland, Richard M.	1968-72
Pechar, Charles J.	1950-68	Rickard, Jennifer	1993-97	Slusser, William E.	1974-96	Vosburgh, William R.	1947-55				Kimber (Jones), Michael	1969-75



# 1989

▲ After a breakfast performance in Italy and lunch in Spain, the Strings serenaded an Air Force flight crew en route to a dinner show in England.



Strolling Strings members pictured with ▶ former President Richard Nixon and Senator Robert C. Byrd.



▲ The Blue Room at the White House during a 1993 dinner performance for all living U.S. presidents.

# 1993

A 1994 event at the Anderson House hosted by Secretary of Defense William J. Perry.



Laffoon, R. Larry	1966-86	Parcells, Robert N.	1946-66	Thomas-Weller, Nancy B.	1986-88
Laffredo, Warren N.	1954-56	Pencoff, Charles N.	1956-83	Thompson, Judith J.	1975-79,
Lauffer, Robert A.	1963-67	Pride, Victoria F.	1985-2001		1988-98
Leibow, Stanford J.	1954-56	Rizzo, John	1963-66	Yeingst, Lee D.	1954-58
Lindemann, Peter J.	1949-56	Scherner, Gary R.	1959-63		
Marrinson, Haskell	1946-66	Shafer, Neil	1955-59		
Mays, Robert P.	1965-69	Sitser, Jacob	1954-56		
Montoni, Raymond J.	1952-56	Spencer, Richard E.	1975-79		
Neal, Leon D.	1971-75	Tartaglia, Henry J.	1958-62		

## *Bello*

Barber, John D.	1974-76
Cervantes, James	1963-67
Custer, Stephen H.	1967-71
Espinoza, Erin Eyles	1997-2001
Kass, Ralph P.	1966-89
Kobiialka, Jan	1966-92
Kuykendall, James H.	1956-64
Laut, Edward A.	1969-73
Moehlenkamp, Christopher	1988-95

Moss, Charles
Riley, Ben W. C.
Riley, Lauria Y.
Sessions, John
Siples, Steven E.
Watters, Daniel R.
Zurfluh, John D. Jr.

## *Bass*

1954	Brown, Borden A.	1964-65
1973-97	Dixon, Vanessa	1975-79
1975-94	Etheridge, John H.	1959-62
1963-67	Gibson, Robert L.	1972-76
1972-86	Goldberg, Warren	1965-68
1967-71	Granofsky, George W.	1949-67
1968-72	Hawthorne, William L.	1966-86
	Heikkinen, Karl V.	1979-99
	Shear, Douglas A.	1968-72

# 2001



▲ The Strolling Strings 2001 tour of Pacific Air Forces featured many performances for fellow Airmen including this appearance at Misawa AFB, Japan.



▲ Performing for high school music students in 2004. Educational outreach is an important component of the Strolling Strings' mission.



◀ Performing for a 1994 meeting of global air chiefs at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

# 1998



◀ Taking a special request at the Baltimore VA Hospital on Valentine's Day 2004.

# 2004

Webster, Richard 1962–64  
Zschunke, William J. 1947–61

## Accordion

Coppola, Louis F. 1957–85  
Desiderio, Daniel J. 1954  
Popp, William E. 1983–2003  
Soprani, Joseph 1955–56

## Guitar

Estridge, Charles L. 1969–73  
Rocchino, Anthony D. Jr. 1973–76  
Hartman, Thomas 1965–68

## Harp

Barlow, Robert W. 1964–65  
Young, Philip M. 1954–64  
Odom, Lawrence T. 1965

## Officers in Charge

Yesulaitis, John F. 1954–63  
Musick, Frank 1964–65  
Rodgers, Gregory S. 1965–75  
Graham, Lowell E. 1975–80  
Hudson, Frank M. 1980–83  
Layendecker, Dennis M. 1983–88  
Smith, Kevin D. 1988–92  
Guidry, Scott A. 1996–98

Bland, Keith H. 1998–2001  
Schofield, Donald E. 2001–03  
Steffey, Chad A. 2003–Present

## Noncommissioned Officers in Charge

Haines, Edward 1954  
Granofsky, Charles 1954–63  
Christy, Gregory P. 1964–79  
Coppola, Louis F. 1979–82  
Kass, Ralph P. 1982–89  
Slusser, William E. 1989–96  
Swanson, David L. 1996–2001  
Popp, William 2001–02  
Bockenek, Jane 2003–Present

# Personnel

## FIRST VIOLIN

CMSgt Jane Bockenek§ –Bethesda, MD  
MSgt Alexander Dean‡\* –Los Angeles, CA  
MSgt Deborah Volker‡ –Lansdale, PA  
MSgt Cleveland Chandler Jr.‡ –Baltimore, MD  
TSgt Mari Uehara –Rockville, MD  
TSgt Henry Tyszler –Los Angeles, CA  
TSgt Mark Helm –Binghamton, NY

## SECOND VIOLIN

MSgt William Tortolano\* –Underhill, VT  
TSgt Gregory Pinney –Bristol, PA  
TSgt Emily Barnes –Cincinnati, OH  
TSgt Luke Wedge –Hutchinson, KS  
TSgt Mark Dorosheff –Herndon, VA

## VIOLA

SMSgt Paul Swantek\* –Plymouth, MI  
MSgt Sharon Bingham Wolfolk –Washington, DC  
TSgt Bryce Bunner –Evansville, IN  
TSgt William Hurd –East Meadow, NY  
TSgt Wayne Graham –Massapequa, NY

## CELLO

MSgt Vivian Podgainy\* –Dix Hills, NY  
MSgt Frank McKinster –Baltimore, MD  
TSgt Amy Joseph –Saratoga Springs, NY

## STRING BASS

MSgt William Hones\* –Toledo, OH

## PIANO/KEYBOARD

MSgt Marek Vastek\* –Krakow, Poland  
SMSgt Rob Henley –El Paso, TX (Tracks 3 and 21)  
SMSgt (Ret.) Robert Walters\*\* –Longmont,  
CO (Tracks 4, 6 and 10)

## ACCORDION

CMSgt (Ret.) Louis Coppola\*\* –Bridgeport, CT

## PERCUSSION

Capt Chad A. Steffey –Ponca City, OK  
(Track 7)

§ Manager/Strolling Leader  
‡ Assistant Strolling Leader  
\* Section leader  
\*\* Former Member,  
The United States Air Force Band

# Credits

Commander and Music Director  
Deputy Commander  
Flight Commander/Producer  
Band Manager  
Co-Producers

Recording Engineer  
Director of Public Affairs  
Superintendent of  
Recording Production  
Liner Notes  
Booklet Editors

Recording Production Staff

Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker  
Major Frank J. Grzych II  
Captain Chad A. Steffey  
Chief Master Sergeant Mark R. Williams  
Master Sergeant Alexander E. Dean  
Technical Sergeant Mark J. Helm  
Mr. Bob Dawson  
Chief Master Sergeant David L. Nokes

Master Sergeant Robert K. McConnell  
Technical Sergeant Luke E. Wedge  
Master Sergeant Michael A. Piersol  
Technical Sergeant Marc D. Dinitz  
Master Sergeant Christine L. Kosky  
Technical Sergeant Eric Sullivan  
Technical Sergeant Douglas W. Morgan

*Master tapes were recorded at Bias Studios, Springfield, VA, March 22-26, 2004*  
Catalog Number: BOL-0403

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

Director of Public Affairs  
The United States Air Force Band  
201 McChord Street  
Bolling Air Force Base  
Washington, DC 20032

The United States Air Force Band Home Page is available on the World Wide Web at [www.USAFBand.com](http://www.USAFBand.com)

*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 with America's International Musical Ambassadors.*

Interested in Air Force opportunities? Contact Air Force Recruiting via [www.airforce.com](http://www.airforce.com) or call 1-800-423-USAF

### **THIS COMPACT DISC IS NOT FOR SALE**

This compact disc is approved by the Department of the Air Force for use in public service broadcasting, recruiting, educational activities, troop morale and retention. This compact disc is not for sale and is to be used only within the scope of these Department of the Air Force activities.

