

Home > Cadenza Newsletter > Cadenza May 08



[Papal Visit](#)   [Sax Quartet Heads South](#)   [Solo Chair](#)

### [Ceremonial Brass Shines During Papal Visit](#)

In flight-line formation, The United States Air Force Band Ceremonial Brass performed for Pope Benedict XVI's arrival ceremony April 15. Under the direction of Commander and Music Director Col. Dennis M. Layendecker, the Brass provided a full hour of pre-ceremonial Renaissance music while Air Force leadership anticipated the Pontiff's arrival. The Pope was greeted by Maj. Gen. Frank Gorenc, Commander, Air Force District of Washington.

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Maj. Gen. Frank Gorenc greets Pope Benedict XVI upon his arrival April 15 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

### [USAF Band Sax Quartet Heads South](#)

The North American Saxophone Alliance convened last month at the University of South Carolina's School of Music. The conference featured lectures and performances by noted academicians and industry professionals, including a concert by The United States Air Force Band's Saxophone Quartet. "It was a privilege to be invited to perform at the convention," said Senior Master Sgt. Bill Marr, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge and University of South Carolina alumnus. [Read more...](#)

### [Solo Chair](#)

This month we interview Clarinetist Master Sergeant Melinda Burts of the Concert Band. She is originally from Lima, Ohio and has been in the Air Force since 1997. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Miami University (Ohio) and a Master's Degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. [Read more...](#)

## Inside The USAF Band

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- [2006](#)