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Band Welcomes Keiko Matsui Back to Guest Artist Series

Sunday, March 22, 2009

A frequent guest artist through the years with The U.S. Air Force Band, Keiko Matsui remains one of the top contemporary jazz pianists in the world. Dubbed the "first lady of contemporary jazz," Matsui was named Billboard's Jazz Artist of the Year in 1996, and she received the Essence Award from the American Society of Young Musicians in 1997. She will headline the concert at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 22, 2009.

[Read more...](#)



Clinician's Corner - "Arranging: Give It a Try"

This month's Clinician's Corner is by Master Sergeant Steven D. Erickson, the pianist for the Airmen of Note, a position he has held since 1999. He is originally from Lethbridge, Alberta (Canada), and joined the Air Force in 1997.

Sgt. Erickson has a Bachelor of Music degree from Brigham Young University and a Master of Music degree from Rice University, both in piano performance. He served as director of jazz studies at Truman State University from 1996 to 1997, where he taught jazz improvisation, pedagogy, and music history, and directed the top jazz ensembles and combos.

Sgt. Erickson has served as an adjudicator, clinician, and performer at the Kansas University Jazz Festival, and has worked with Bobby Shew, Carl Fontana, Gary Foster, John Fedchock, Dave Liebman, Richard Carpenter, and Toni Tenille. His teachers include Robert Smith, Robert Roux, and Jack Winerock.

[Read more...](#)



Master Sgt. Steven Erickson plays the piano during an Airmen of Note concert.

Deep in the Heart of Texas



The Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) assembled February 11-14 in San Antonio for the organization's annual convention. As they represent the very best in music education in the "Lone Star State," The United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants were honored by the invitation to perform on the 2009 TMEA President's Concert held Thursday, February 12.

[Read more...](#)

Farewells

The United States Air Force Band wishes to say thank you and farewell to the following members:

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Mesite, *Ceremonial Brass* - Retirement
Master Sgt. Ryan Haines, *Ceremonial Brass* - Retirement

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