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Band is a Strategic Communication Asset, Says New Commander

The new commander of The U.S. Air Force Band will be looking for new ways to use the musical expertise of the organization to connect with the public and promote Air Force missions.

Lt. Col. A. Phillip Waite took the helm of the Air Force's most dynamic musical organization from Lt. Col. Alan Sierichs during a change of command ceremony held June 1 on Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C. Colonel Waite comes to the band from a job with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs where he oversaw community relations policy regarding military aviation assets, bands, honor guards, speakers, and the use of new and emerging media.

[Read more...](#)

Band Commander Reflects Before Departure

United States Air Force Band members will soon say goodbye to their leader, Lt. Col. Alan Sierichs, who took command in June 2009, as he heads to the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Public Affairs to be the officer overseeing all Air Force bands.

"Like most kids I thought I would be a major league baseball player," said Lt. Col. Alan Sierichs, United States Air Force Band commander. "By my late teens I realized that being a trumpet player would be a much more fulfilling life than a third baseman."

[Read more...](#)



From the Former Commander

...it's how you look at things

I recall a story about a professional athlete who'd won a tournament. After collecting his prize money and walking to his car in the parking lot, someone he thought a fan wanting an autograph approached him. Instead of asking for an autograph or congratulating the athlete on winning the tournament, this person presented a sad story. It was about a very sick child and how the medical treatment was unaffordable and the prognosis was very bad. The athlete was so taken by the story, he immediately signed over his winnings check to this person to pay the medical bills.

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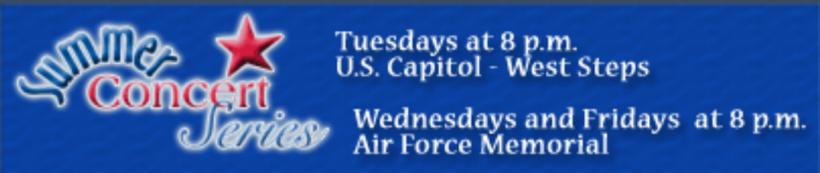
Cadenza Archives

We invite you to enjoy these past issues of our Cadenza newsletter.

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The 2010 Summer Concert Series



The United States Air Force Band invites you and your family to make this a summer to remember by joining us for the 2010 Summer Concert Series. Featuring the Air Force Strings, Airmen of Note, Concert Band, Max Impact and Singing Sergeants, the Series takes place at landmarks such as the Air Force Memorial and the west steps of the U.S. Capitol Building. All performances are at 8 pm and are free of charge, no tickets required.

[Read more...](#)

Band Manager to Retire

With a career that has spanned eight U.S. Presidents and five different Air Force Bands, and having held a staggering list of positions to include Concert Band Percussionist, Director of Tours and Director of Operations, Chief Master Sgt. Jerry Thomas will retire in June. The Knoxville, Tenn. native rose to the position of Band Manager--the Senior Enlisted Advisor of The USAF Band--in 2006, and never lost perspective in the process.

[Read more...](#)

The Stars Shine at Strathmore



On May 14, The United States Air Force Band Concert Band, Strings, Airmen of Note, Singing Sergeants and Max Impact joined forces with a host of world-class guest artists at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, Md. The performance was the fourth annual concert gala, "America's Veterans--A Musical Tribute." The event will be featured in an upcoming television broadcast on Veterans Day weekend this November. Guest artists included Lonestar, Melinda Doolittle, Peter Cetera and Blair Underwood. The evening also profiled the lives of veterans who have served in conflicts ranging from World War II, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

[Read more...](#)

Clinician's Corner



Cellos - We're with the Band By Technical Sgt. Joshua Kowalsky

Many leaders in today's Air Force have coined the phrase, "Flexibility is the key to air power." Having served as Associate Principal Cellist of The United States Air Force Concert Band for over four years, this is very good advice. You probably would not believe it, but the question I get asked the most is: "A cellist, in The Air Force Band. How does THAT work?" As a matter of fact, it works very well.

[Read more...](#)

Upcoming Events

Summer Concert Series:

**At the Air Force Memorial
in Arlington, Virginia**

June 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25 & 30

At the U.S. Capitol Steps

June 8, 15, 22, 29

Hails and Farewells

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

[Lieutenant Col. Alan C. Sierichs](#), Commander and Music Director - *Permanent Change of Station*
[Chief Master Sgt. Jerry Thomas](#), Band Manager - *Retirement*
[Chief Master Sgt. Sandra Cox](#), Concert Band - *Retirement*
[Master Sgt. Jeffrey Keen](#), First Sergeant - *Retirement*

And we would like to welcome our newest member:

[Lieutenant. Col. A. Phillip Waite, Jr.](#) - Commander and Music Director, *The USAF Band*

Recollections

The United States Air Force Band is continually working to expand our archives and capture details of the historic music made throughout the years. "Recollections" was designed to enlist your help in this process. If you have any behind-the-scenes stories from these events or memories to share from the featured photographs, please email Band Historian Technical Sgt. Tracey MacDonald at USAFBandHistorian@afncr.af.mil. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!

Please click the image below to see it on our website. When there, select "Download Full Image" to view a larger, more detailed picture.



Recollections Revealed

To read newly-discovered background information pertaining to the photos we included in last month's Cadenza, please [click here](#).

Cadenza

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