



jazz heritage series

airmen of note

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND

**clarice smith performing arts center
university of maryland**

friday, september 25

stefon harris

friday, october 23

marvin stamm & bill mays

friday, november 20

walt weiskopf



THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND

AIRMEN *of Note*

The Premier Jazz Ensemble of the United States Air Force

The United States Air Force Band is a premier Air Force squadron. Our presentations inspire the nation's servicemembers and citizens to heightened patriotism and service; strengthen relations with allies, coalition partners and international friends; and pay tribute to those who have given their "last, full measure of devotion." Utilizing the powerful medium of music, The U.S. Air Force Band helps forge new bonds in the worldwide community, transcending language and connecting people. The excellence demonstrated on stage is a reflection of the excellence carried out by Airmen stationed around the globe. We are proud to represent those whose selfless service and sacrifices ensure the freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

The U.S. Air Force Band was created in 1941. Originally called The Bolling Field "Band", it consisted of five men—a saxophone quartet and a conductor. Over the next six decades, membership expanded to its current 181 positions, comparable in size to its counterpart ensembles in the Army, Navy and Marines.

With its present home on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, The U.S. Air Force Band is a proud member of the 11th Operations Group within the 11th Wing, which is part of the Air Force District of Washington. The Band's squadron consists of six autonomous performing flights: the Air Force Strings, Ceremonial Brass, Concert Band, Max Impact, Singing Sergeants and Airmen of Note.

The Airmen of Note is the premier jazz ensemble of the United States Air Force. Created in 1950 to carry on the tradition of Maj. Glenn Miller's Army Air Corps dance band, today the "Note" features 18 highly skilled musicians and is one of the nation's last touring big bands. Through the years, it has earned an international reputation as one of the finest big bands in the world, delivering powerful Air Force messages and inspiring the hearts and minds of audiences at every appearance.

With a steadfast commitment to excellence and a reputation for setting the highest standards, the Airmen of Note has enjoyed many collaborative efforts, recordings and performances with such luminaries as Dizzy Gillespie, Joe Williams and Sarah Vaughan. In 1990, the Airmen of Note established its Jazz Heritage Series, featuring the "Note" in concert with legendary jazz icons like Clark Terry, Phil Woods, Paquito D'Rivera, Al Jarreau and many others. Each year, this series highlights the Air Force to millions of listeners over National Public Radio, scores of independent jazz radio stations, satellite radio services and the internet.

In 2015, the Airmen of Note celebrates 65 years of service to our nation and continues to vigorously support the U.S. Air Force and reflects the core values of all American Airmen throughout the world.



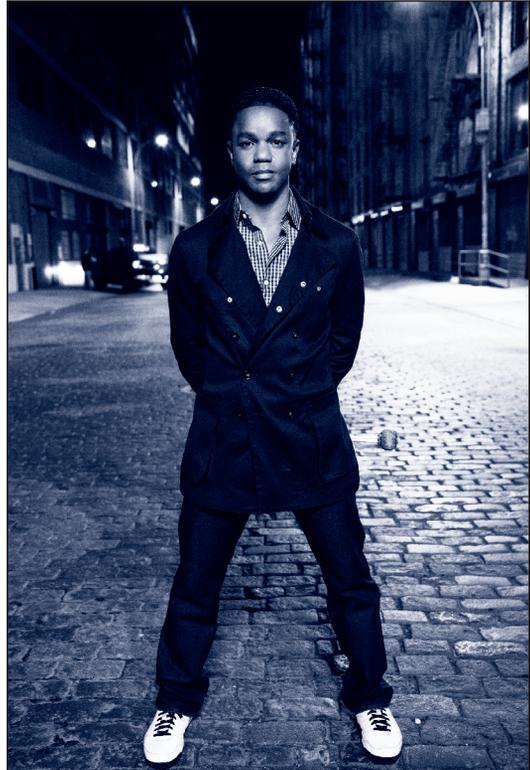
friday, september 25 at 8 p.m.

stefon harris

Vibraphonist and composer **STEFON HARRIS'** passionate artistry, energetic stage presence and astonishing virtuosity have propelled him into the forefront of the current jazz scene. Widely recognized and lauded by both his peers and jazz critics alike, the award-winning musician is committed to both exploring the rich potential of jazz education and blazing new trails on the vibraphone.

A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, Harris received a Bachelor's degree in classical music and a Master's degree in jazz performance. He is a recipient of the prestigious Martin E. Segal Award from Lincoln Center and has earned four Grammy nominations and two Best Jazz Instrumental Solo nominations. In 2002, North Sea Jazz (Netherlands) awarded Harris the Bird Award International for artists deserving wider recognition. Harris was named the winner of the 61st Annual Downbeat Critics Poll for vibes in 2013 and winner of the 2014 Expanded Critic's Poll for vibes from Jazz Times. He has been voted best mallet player by Jazz Times Critics Poll and by the Jazz Journalist Association, as well as being named Debut Artist of the Year by Jazz Times, Chicago Tribune's Debut of the Year and Downbeat's Critics Poll Winner for vibraphone (2013).

In addition to leading his own band, Harris has recorded as part of The Classical Jazz Quartet, a series of jazz interpreted classics with Kenny Barron, Ron Carter and Lewis Nash. He has also recorded and toured with many of music's greatest artists, including Joe Henderson, Wynton Marsalis, Milt Jackson, Lionel Hampton, Bobby Hutcherson, Cassandra Wilson, Dr. Billy Taylor, Kenny Barron, Max Roach, Cedar Walton, Mulgrew Miller, Benny Golson, Bobby Watson, Chaka Khan, Kurt Elling, Buster Williams, Dianne Reeves, Charlie Hunter, Yakub Addy Odadaa, Common and Pablo Zeigler. He has performed with the Albany Symphony, Berkshire Symphony, Lancaster Festival Orchestra and Chamber Society of Lincoln Center.



The U.S. Air Force Band has an extensive library of online music. To enjoy our complete list of recordings, please visit

www.soundcloud.com/theusafband



Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win

friday, october 23 at 8 p.m.
marvin stamm & bill mays



MARVIN STAMM was discovered by Stan Kenton while attending noted jazz school North Texas State University. Upon graduating, he performed with Kenton's orchestra as his jazz trumpet soloist from 1961 to 1962, recording five albums with the orchestra. From 1965 to 1966, he toured worldwide with Woody Herman. He settled in New York in late 1966, quickly establishing himself as a busy jazz and studio trumpeter. New York was bustling with jazz activity during that period, and Stamm performed at key venues with many of the significant players in the business. He gained considerable recognition for his playing with the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra, the Benny Goodman Sextet and Frank Sinatra, among others.

Some of the artists with whom Stamm has recorded as a studio player include Quincy Jones, Stanley Turrentine, Bob James, Michel Legrand, Lena Horne, Grover Washington, Jr., Paul Desmond and George Benson. He has also recorded with many of the popular artists of the period as well, including Paul McCartney, The Rolling Stones, Manhattan Transfer, The Average White Band, James Brown, Burt Bacharach, Dionne Warwick, and many others.

Stamm turned his focus back to being a jazz group member in the late 80s, and now spends much of the year touring as a soloist or with his quartet.

BILL MAYS' career as a professional pianist and composer spans the last 55 years and includes a multitude of musical endeavors. Following four years as a bandsman in the U.S. Navy, Mays spent 15 years as a session player in Hollywood studios. In 1984, he relocated to New York, firmly establishing himself as an in-demand sideman and leader of his own ensembles. He has worked with jazz legends Benny Golson, Red Mitchell, Gerry Mulligan, Bud Shank, Frank Sinatra, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Sarah Vaughan and Phil Woods. His many recordings (solo, duo, trio and sextet) are well-documented on multiple labels.

A prolific composer and arranger, Mays has written many extended suites for bass, flute, woodwind septet and pieces for big band and orchestra (New York Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, Turtle Creek Chorale and WDR Big Band). His latest recordings include "Phil & Bill" (with saxophonist Phil Woods), "Side by Side: Sondheim Duos" (with bassist Tommy Cecil) and "Life's a Movie" (the Inventions Trio, with cellist Alisa Horn and trumpeter Marvin Stamm). His songs have appeared in the movies "Looker," "Burn After Reading," "Anamorph" and "The Fifth Estate."

Last year, Mays received rave reviews with the publication of his first book, "Stories of the Road, the Studios, Sidemen & Singers: 55 Years in the Music Biz."



friday, november 20 at 8 p.m.

walt weiskopf

WALT WEISKOPF began his New York career performing with the Buddy Rich Big Band in 1981 at the age of 21. Since then, he has made an impressive mark as both a leader and sideman with 16 critically-acclaimed recordings and countless sideman credits, including performing and recording with Frank Sinatra, Steely Dan, Donald Fagen, Boz Scaggs and Michael McDonald. A dynamic player with enormous technical prowess, Weiskopf is equally well-regarded as a composer, and his recordings contain predominantly original work. His six books on advanced topics in jazz improvisation are among the most respected in the field. He is currently coordinator of jazz studies at New Jersey City University.

Weiskopf's compositions and arrangements have attracted fans and critical notice. In 1993, "Simplicity," his third CD as a leader, met with immediate success. It was number one on Eurojazz radio for four straight weeks, and Mel Martin of Saxophone Journal wrote, "Walt Weiskopf's prime influence as a player appears to be John Coltrane, but he is no slavish imitator. He gets to musical matters in a powerful and positive way He displays much technical accomplishment, yet makes it sound basic and accessible." Bret Primack of Jazz Central Station listed "Song for My Mother" as one of the ten best jazz albums of 1997, and Crusader Magazine chose the recording as its number one jazz pick of the year.

Weiskopf's subsequent recordings, from "A World Away" in 1994 to the recent "Walt Weiskopf Quartet – Live," have caused a critical stir. In the September 1997 issue of Jazz Times, Bill Milkowski counted him among his "five most underrated players." By 2000, Milkowski found that Weiskopf had fulfilled his early promise describing him as "... a major talent ... a monster tenor saxophonist as well as a prolific composer and accomplished arranger." "Overdrive," Weiskopf's latest recording, was awarded four stars in Downbeat.



SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT TIMOTHY LEAHEY*NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER IN CHARGE*

SENIOR MASTER SGT. TIMOTHY LEAHEY is the noncommissioned officer in charge and a trumpeter with the Airmen of Note, The U.S. Air Force Band, Washington, D.C. A native of Altoona, Pennsylvania, his Air Force career began in 1993. Leahey earned a Bachelor of Music degree in trumpet performance from Youngstown State University in 1991. While there, he won the International Trumpet Guild Jazz Improvisation Competition, and was named the All Ohio Collegiate Musician of the Year. He has studied with Ray Detwiler, Ron Dekker, Esotto Pellegrini, Sue Sexton, Tony Leonardi and Sam D'Angelo.

Highlights of Leahey's Air Force career include four inaugural parades, performing the first dance for President Obama's Inaugural Ball as a soloist with the Ceremonial Brass, and numerous performances at the White House for President Clinton. His other service career highlights include a tour of Japan, re-created Glenn Miller Orchestra national and European tours, military tattoos in Sweden and Norway and his performances in the Airmen of Note's annual Jazz Heritage Series. Leahey's additional music career highlights include performing with Rosemary Clooney, Michael Feinstein, the Baltimore Symphony, Cecil Payne, Frankie Valli, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Guy Lombardo Orchestra, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra and the Woody Herman Orchestra.

MASTER SERGEANT TYLER KUEBLER*MUSIC DIRECTOR*

MASTER SGT. TYLER KUEBLER is the music director and lead alto saxophonist with the Airmen of Note, The U.S. Air Force Band, Washington, D.C. A native of Agoura Hills, California, his Air Force career began in 1998 as lead tenor saxophonist with the Airmen of Note. He separated from service in 2002 and returned to active duty in 2008. Kuebler earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Miami in 2005. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the University of North Texas, where Kuebler was a member of the famed One O'Clock Lab Band for four years. He has studied with Jim Riggs, Neil Slater, Whit Sidener, Dan Haerle, Mike Steinel, Ronnie Miller, Dr. Billy Taylor and John Mosley.

Highlights of Kuebler's Air Force career include three inaugural parades, being appointed the Note's Music Director in 2012 and participating in a re-created Glenn Miller Orchestra European tour in 1999 which included a visit to Incirlik, Turkey to support front-line troops. His other Air Force career highlights include performing in San Francisco on the Fourth of July in 1998 and 1999 for tens of thousands of spectators, and performing with such incredible guest artists in the Airmen of Note's annual Jazz Heritage Series. Kuebler's additional career highlights include serving as assistant professor of Saxophone, Jazz Studies, Music Theory and director of the Studio Jazz Orchestra at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale and performing with the Maria Schneider Orchestra, Maynard Ferguson, Julio Iglesias, Bobby Caldwell, James Moody, Joe Lovano, Louie Bellson, Rosemary Clooney, Gerry Mulligan and Jon Hendricks.



SAXOPHONE



Master Sgt. Tyler Kuebler | *Agoura Hills, Calif.*
Lead Alto
Member 1998 - 2002 & 2008 to present
University of Miami
University of North Texas



Master Sgt. Andy Axelrad | *Buffalo Grove, Ill.*
Second Alto
Member since 1993
University of North Texas



Technical Sgt. Tedd Baker | *Marshfield, Mass.*
Lead Tenor
Member since 2002
New England Conservatory
Queens College, C.U.N.Y.



Technical Sgt. Grant Langford | *Chapel Hill, N.C.*
Second Tenor
Member since 2008
New England Conservatory



Master Sgt. Doug Morgan | *Grove City, Pa.*
Baritone
Member since 2000
University of North Texas
Northern Illinois University
University of Maryland



TRUMPET

Senior Master Sgt. Brian MacDonald
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Lead
Member since 1999
University of Miami



Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Burns | *Cleveland, Tenn.*
Split Lead
Member since 2002
Oral Roberts University
Lee University



Technical Sgt. Luke Brandon | *Philadelphia, Pa.*
Third
Member since 2013
Temple University



Senior Master Sgt. Tim Leahey | *Altoona, Pa.*
Fourth
Member since 1994
Youngstown State University



AUDIO ENGINEER

Technical Sgt. Chad Randolph | *Midland, Mich.*
Member since 2005
Full Sail School, Orlando, Fla.



TROMBONE

Master Sgt. Ben Patterson | *Sapulpa, Okla.*
Lead
Member since 1997
University of North Texas



Master Sgt. Jeff Martin | *Newton, Kan.*
Second
Member since 1996
University of North Texas



Technical Sgt. Kevin Cerovich | *Overland Park, Kan.*
Third
Member since 2013
University of Missouri Kansas City



Technical Sgt. Ben Polk | *Greenbush, Maine*
Bass
Member since 2013
University of North Texas
University of Minnesota
James Madison University



RHYTHM

Master Sgt. Steve Erickson | *Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada*
Piano
Member since 1999
Rice University



Master Sgt. Geoff Reecer | *Arlington, Va.*
Guitar
Member since 2004
University of Maryland



Technical Sgt. Cameron Kayne | *Williamsville, N.Y.*
Bass
Member since 2013
Purchase College, SUNY



Technical Sgt. David McDonald | *Decatur, Ill.*
Drums
Member since 2006
DePaul University
New England Conservatory



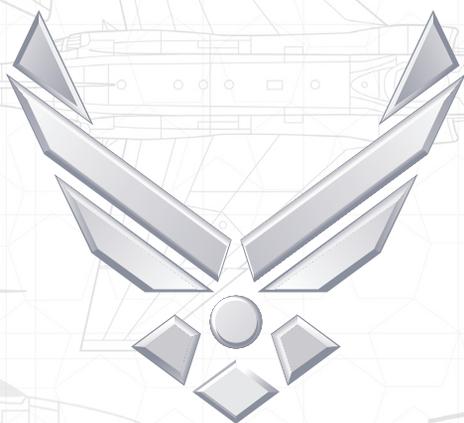
VOCALIST

Technical Sgt. Paige Wroble | *Broadalbin, N.Y.*
Member since 2003
Schenectady County Community College
Maryville College



ARRANGER

Master Sgt. Alan Baylock | *Ebensburg, Pa.*
Member since 1996
Shenandoah University
University of North Texas



SAVE THE DATES!

It's not too early to make your plans for the holidays!

The U.S. Air Force Band's holiday concerts are scheduled for:

Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 8 p.m.

Strathmore Music Center, Bethesda, Md.

Saturday, Dec. 12 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

D.A.R. Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C.

Visit our website for ticket information.

Connect with us!



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Twitter: [@AirmenofNote](https://Twitter:@AirmenofNote)