



U.S. AIR FORCE

☆ UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ☆
HEARTLAND of AMERICA BAND



The USAF Heartland of America Band is an innovative, professional, military music organization dedicated to providing local, national and global audiences with incomparable musical products while directly impacting the overarching Air Force mission. We further endeavor to serve our nation's Air Force by cultivating both patriotism and kinship while bridging cultural barriers utilizing the dynamism of music. Delighting audiences since 1943, this 45-member unit represents more than 325,000 dedicated Air Force professionals who diligently watch over the skies of our country and our national interests, and who stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our allies protecting and defending all those who cherish freedom.

Whether presenting multimedia extravaganzas or traditional concerts, the Heartland of America Band dramatically conveys the bravery, sacrifices and commitment of our expeditionary Airmen, encourages veterans in VA hospitals, educates students of all ages on the importance of airpower and the mission of our Air Force, and buoys the spirits of Airmen thousands of miles from home by deploying to their locations with special performances, bringing uplifting messages of support from Americans back in the States.

The Heartland of America Band is an Air Force squadron of professional musicians whose backgrounds include advanced degrees in music performance and whose broad mastery of musical styles range from classic to contemporary, jazz to country, and pop to rock. Its various component ensembles perform more than 450 concerts annually, touring extensively throughout a 680,000 square mile eight-state area of responsibility. Known throughout the United States for its outstanding performances and recordings, the Heartland of America Band reaches more than one million people annually through live, radio and television appearances, and has been joined in concert by guest artists such as Frank Mantooth, Kevin Mahogany, Frederick Fennell, Chip Davis, John Denver, Crystal Gayle, Joseph Alessi and Wycliffe Gordon.

The Heartland of America Band is comprised of Night Wing, which specializes in popular and country music, The Noteables jazz ensemble, the Brass in Blue brass ensemble, the Winds of Freedom woodwind quintet and the New Horizons clarinet ensemble. Members from these groups also form a brass quintet and a popular music group entitled Raptor. When joined together, the members of the squadron can form a Concert Band, Ceremonial Band or Marching Band.

The Heartland of America Band has received four Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards and five Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards. In addition, it boasts five Colonel George S. Howard Citations of Musical Excellence from the John Philip Sousa Foundation. The band has the singular distinction of being the only Air Force musical unit deployed throughout the entire area of responsibility in support of troop morale during Operation DESERT SHIELD. In 1995, it was named a "World War II Commemorative Community" for its comprehensive support of activities recognizing the 50th Anniversary of victory in World War II. The band also was honored to perform a major multimedia tribute celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Omaha, Nebraska, and later celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force by presenting the 2006 Inaugural 55th Wing Tattoo, "The Call of Freedom." Members of Night Wing, Raptor and Brass in Blue deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM in April 2006, May 2008 and August 2009, respectively, and recently the unit supported the celebration of Air Force Week in the Heartland.