



Fact Sheet

United States Air Force

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND OF FLIGHT

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The Soaring Winds, the United States Air Force Band of Flight's newest performing ensemble, will soon be performing a concert in your local area. This very special ensemble will be performing a wide variety of exciting music showcasing the extraordinary musicians within the group. This unique unit is made up of the band's three most versatile brass, woodwind, and percussion components, allowing the sophistication of a chamber ensemble alongside the enthusiastic appeal of a brassy march or light-hearted dance. Each of these magnificent groups will perform individual features, and the concert will culminate in with the three groups performing together.

This concert will feature a newly commissioned work written by world renowned composer and arranger Charles Sayre especially for the Soaring Winds entitled, "Irving Berlin, a Patriotic American". Mr. Sayre had this to say about his Irving Berlin tribute: "Berlin had a great ability to compose patriotic music that stirred Americans during some of the darkest hours in our history, 'God Bless America' being perhaps the most well known. Much has been said of Irving Berlin's musical talent but perhaps Jerome Kern summed it up best: 'Irving Berlin has no place in American music, he *is* American music.'" After attending Youngstown State and the Berklee College of Music, Mr. Sayre went on to distinguish himself as an arranger and composer for the various components of the USAF Band in Washington, DC. Since his time in Washington, Mr. Sayre has gone on to work with various musical organizations and artists all over the world. Some of his musical credits include arranging musical shows for STYX, Patti Labelle, Alison Krauss, and Roger Whittaker and commissions by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Alan C. Sierichs, the USAF Band of Flight travels nearly 70,000 miles each year to present almost 500 performances before both military and civilian audiences. The band's geographic area of responsibility includes almost one-quarter of the nation's population. Since its founding in 1942, the United States Air Force Band of Flight has performed for presidents and vice presidents, visiting heads of state, cabinet officers, members of congress, U.S. and foreign military leaders, and millions of American and foreign citizens. In recognition of its sustained superior performance as the Air Force Materiel Command's musical ambassadors, the Band of Flight has received numerous military & civilian awards including twice receiving The Colonel George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert bands presented by The John Philip Sousa Foundation.

Comments may also be left on the band's web page at:
<http://bandofflight.wpafb.af.mil>