



BAY NOTES



News from the USAF Band of the Golden West

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Major Mench leads the concert band in performance at Disneyland in Anaheim, CA during the band's July tour (photo by Staff Sergeant Scott Ruedger)



Commander's Corner

Major R. Michael Mench

We have a wonderful job in our Air Force. Not only do we get to play music full time, we also get to spread the word of the extraordinary things our Air Force, and the men and women who work for it, do every day. Being assigned to the USAF's Air Mobility Command (AMC) gives us an extra special story to tell. It's about our planes taking off and landing every 90 seconds every day around the globe. It's about the Aero-medical evacuation teams bringing our wounded soldiers out of harms way. It's about building Air Tanker bridges across the oceans. It's about bringing humanitarian relief to anyone throughout the world who asks for our help. It's about the individual maintainers, doctors, loaders, operators, support staff and personnel in any of 100 other career fields in our Air Force doing amazing work. And even better than being assigned to AMC, is living and working with the men and women of Travis AFB who are AMC's best of the best.

These past two months were great opportunities for us to spread this message. Early June brought Air Force Week to Sacramento, California. Late June and into July our Celebrating our Nation's Birth tour brought patriotism and love for our country back to the hearts and minds of over 75,000 people! Late July saw our own Team Travis compete in the AMC *Rodeo* against air mobility units from all over the world and win an amazing 17 trophies including the "Best of the Best" award. We were there to see it all and to offer, in our small way, music to inspire all of their best efforts.

In this issue of Bay Notes we'll highlight one of the many performing ensembles we utilize to inspire people of all ages, our Golden West Winds woodwind quintet. From setting tones of pleasant background music for an important military dinner; to performing our Anthem and music for any number of ceremonies; to reaching out to young students in schools or adults at community performances, these five individuals are asked to represent the Best of the Best in our Air Force.

Concert Band heard by over 75,000 in July

The USAF Band of the Golden West concert band recently returned from an extremely successful tour to the southern California area. Concerts were presented in Tracy, Redlands, Coronado, Anaheim, Thousand Oaks, Temple City and Santa Barbara. On this tour, an estimated 75,000 concertgoers heard the band perform selections that included **The Cowboys Overture** and **Liberty Fanfare**, both composed by John Williams, former USAF musician, and five-time Academy Award winning movie composer.

The concerts also featured three of the band's trumpet players, Technical Sergeant Jim Masters, Senior Airman Bob Barnett and Airman First Class Jamie Lantz in an exhilarating performance of **Bugler's Holiday**. A highlight for these concerts was the performance of Kenneth Singleton's arrangement of Tchaikovsky's beloved **1812 Overture**, complete with synthesized bells and cannons, which *The Redlands Daily Facts* referred to as the "jewel of the concert" and which "demonstrated the band's ...top-notch musicianship."

These concerts also featured the band's vocalists Technical Sergeant Paula Goetz, Staff Sergeant Niko Ellison, and Airman First Class Rachel Trimble, Andrew Jones and Pamela Kelley in arrangements of the **Pledge of Allegiance**, a **George M. Cohan Medley**, and selections from George Gershwin's **Porgy and Bess**. Andrew Jones was also featured in **The Last Full Measure of Devotion** which segued into Rachel Trimble's presentation of **Battle Hymn of the Republic**. Paula Goetz closed each concert with Master Sergeant Dean Smith's setting of **Freedom** from the 1998 movie **The Prince of Egypt**. In Anaheim, the band performed at Main Street



The Band of the Golden West's vocalists sing the Armed Services Medley prior to the retreat ceremony at Disneyland in Anaheim, CA (photo by Staff Sergeant Leo Smith)

Square in Disneyland's Magic Kingdom Park, as well as for an afternoon parade and retreat ceremony at Disneyland's Main Street Flagpole. Band Members were free to visit the park after the performances, which offered a brief relaxation in the middle of a busy week.

For the final concert on July 4th at Santa Barbara's 2007 Freedom Celebrations and Fireworks Show, the band performed on a stage built directly on the sandy beachfront. An estimated 40,000 people enjoyed patriotic selections which included the **National Emblem** march and Morton Gould's energetic setting of **Yankee Doodle**.



The Concert on the Santa Barbara beachfront was heard by over 40,000 (photo by Staff Sergeant Scott Ruedger)

A flyover by Air Force F-16 fighter jets from Edwards Air Force Base energized the appreciative audience, and the band's rousing salute to veterans with the **Armed Services Medley** and encore **Stars and Stripes Forever** led directly into a brilliant display of fireworks presented by the City of Santa Barbara.

Band provides music for Air Force Week in Sacramento

Air Force Week festivities presented in the Sacramento, CA area included performances by several USAF Band of the Golden West ensembles.

Air Force Week, initiated in 2006 to showcase the men and women of the Air Force to communities nationwide, is presented in several cities each year. This year, for the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force, Air Force Week was presented in Sacramento, CA from June 6 through June 10.



Air Force Week Logo



Technical Sergeant Gary Rosenak presents a guitar solo in Sacramento for Air Force Week (USAF photo by Staff Sergeant Joseph Prouse)

The week kicked off with a proclamation by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "Our nation's Air Force is one of the most elite military organizations in all the world," the Governor wrote. "It forms a cornerstone of our national defense strategy." He went on, "The men and women of the Air Force serve with bravery and distinction...We enjoy our freedom thanks to their sacrifice."

Mobility, the Band of the Golden West's popular music ensemble, performed June 7th for a lunchtime audience at Cesar Chavez Plaza in downtown Sacramento. The set included songs ranging from recording artists Little Richard to the Black Eyed Peas.

One concertgoer, the mother of a soldier currently deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, said "I never knew the military had performing groups like this that traveled the world.

It truly makes me feel a little better to know these groups will go to the remote bases and bring our guys a sense of home."

The Commanders jazz ensemble presented a short musical show of patriotic music and provided dance music for a dinner celebrating the Air Force's 60th Birthday at Beale Air Force Base, which was attended by former USAF test pilot General Chuck Yeager.

The week culminated with the California Capital Air Show which featured the Thunderbirds, the Air Force's official demonstration team, held at Mather Airport, site of the former Mather Air Force Base.



Technical Sergeant Paula Goetz and Airman First Class Andrew Jones sing the duet *All Jacked Up* by Gretchen Wilson (USAF Photo by Staff Sergeant Joseph Prouse)



Visit our new website at: <http://www.bandofthegoldenwest.af.mil>

Band performs at Air Mobility Command Rodeo



Air Mobility Command Rodeo logo

The USAF Band of the Golden West provided four separate ensembles to ensure a successful Rodeo at McChord AFB, near Tacoma WA, from July 22nd to July 27th. Air Mobility Command Rodeo, a readiness competition among US Air Mobility Wings also included nine international mobility air forces. The Rodeo focused on improving warfighting capabilities and support of the Global War on Terror. "Western" is the theme for Rodeo and there was no shortage of 10 gallon hats.

The opening ceremonies, held on the McChord flightline, included special music by the Band of the Golden West's Ceremonial Band. Each of the participating squadrons and countries were represented in a formation while riders on horseback carried each visiting country's flag into the formation. General Duncan J. McNabb, commander of Air Mobility Command, also arrived on horseback to kick-off the week of friendly competition.



Major Mench leads the Ceremonial Band in the National Anthem at the Rodeo's opening ceremony
(photo by Technical Sergeant Paula Goetz)

On alternating evenings, Mobility, the band's popular music ensemble, and the Commanders jazz ensemble, performed onstage at Rainer Ranch, Rodeo's tent city. With the backdrop of 14,410 foot Mount Rainer in the distance, a picturesque setting was available for the participants to relax after the busy days of competition.

In addition to the on-base performances, the Commanders jazz ensemble presented a public concert at Pioneer Park in the nearby town of Steilacoom, set on the shore of the Puget Sound. Over 500 concertgoers, sitting on blankets with picnic baskets, presented the band an enthusiastic standing ovation following a burning set that included charts ranging from big band sounds of the 30's to modern sounds of today. The encore, **Sing**,

Sing, Sing, showcased the clarinet virtuosity of Staff Sergeant Kevin Bolen and capped off the concert. The Golden West Winds woodwind quintet also presented several concerts during the week, including a special performance for veterans awarded the Purple Heart Medal for their service.

The culmination of the week's activities was the closing ceremony awards presentation, which was attended by numerous dignitaries, as well as two Medal of Honor recipients. The event was televised via the internet to bases throughout the Air Force. The award presentations were preceded by band vocalists Staff Sergeant Niko Ellison and Airman First Class Rachel Trimble, who energized the enthusiastic crowd of participants.

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Staff Sergeant Niko Ellison sings with the Commanders Jazz Ensemble onstage at Rainer Ranch
(photo by Staff Sergeant Scott Ruedger)

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The popular music ensemble Mobility and the Commanders jazz ensemble both presented special music during the ceremony when each winner was escorted to the stage by Rodeo wranglers to receive their trophy. The Commanders jazz ensemble also presented a special salute to the Air Force's 60th Anniversary by performing a stirring arrangement of *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Following the presentation of trophies by General McNabb, participants enjoyed a barbeque picnic with music performed by Mobility.



Staff Sergeant Leo Smith, bassist with Mobility, lays the groove during the closing ceremonies (photo by Staff Sergeant Scott Ruedger)



The Commanders jazz ensemble perform at Pioneer Park in Steilacoom, Washington (photo by Chief Master Sergeant Paul Runyan)

The band and all of its equipment were airlifted to Rodeo 2007 by the 940th Air Refueling Wing, 940th Operations Support Flight, in a KC-135 aircraft from Beale Air Force Base, and returned to Travis with the 60th Air Mobility Wing from Travis Air Force Base on a C-5 aircraft. We would like to express our appreciation to these excellent Airmen for their professionalism and assistance.

We would also like to thank Senior Master Sergeant Mark Hansen from the Air Mobility Command Band at Scott Air Force Base for his fine saxophone work. Mark was called at the last minute due to the sudden illness of one band member, and performed superbly.

Following the band's return to Travis Air Force Base, Colonel Steven J. Arquette, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, relayed his immense appreciation to the band for its musical support of the Rodeo activities.

Band provides music for opening of Sacramento Valley National Veteran Administration Cemetery in Dixon

The ceremonial marching band of the USAF Band of the Golden West was on hand in Dixon, CA recently to provide special music for the dedication of the Sacramento Valley Veterans Administration National Cemetery in Dixon. Dixon is located 27 miles southwest of Sacramento. The ceremony also included flyovers by C-17, C-5 and KC-10 aircraft from Travis AFB. Technical Sergeant Jim Masters, trumpet, provided a flawless rendition of Taps to close the ceremony and officially dedicate the cemetery.



Technical Sergeant Jim Masters performs "Taps" in Dixon, CA (USAF Photo by David W. Cushman/DAFC)

With this issue, we are starting a series of articles which will highlight a different performing group within the Band of the Golden West. We start the series with the Golden West Winds, our resident woodwind quintet.

Meet the Golden West Winds



The Golden West winds in front of the C-141 "Golden Bear" at Travis Air Force Base
(photo by Technical Sergeant Ken Buchanan)

The **Golden West Winds** is the resident woodwind quintet of the United States Air Force Band of the Golden West. This five member group contains one each of the following instruments: flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and French horn. Technical Sergeant Lindsey Bartlett, bassoonist, serves as operations director of the group, as well as non-commissioned officer in charge. Lindsey enjoys the variety of styles the ensemble can perform and the flexibility of the ensemble to adapt to the performance situation.

The Golden West Winds are capable of performing for a multitude of events, and are as comfortable performing chamber music in an evening concert as they are performing popular songs for dinner music. The group is also able to present informative lecture/performance clinics

and can provide patriotic music with full military honors for official ceremonies. The repertoire chosen by the group is specifically selected for the audience and venue which can range from traditional woodwind quintet repertoire to transcriptions of orchestral overtures to popular songs and crowd pleasing favorites.

A distinctive facet of the group is its flexibility. The quintet can join with other instrumental or vocal soloists to expand the possibilities of audible timbres for listeners.

The group has performed throughout California, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada and Idaho. Some recent appearances include clinics for the Music Educator's National Conference in Portland, Oregon and lunchtime concerts the University of California at Davis.

In addition to Lindsey, members of the group include: Staff Sergeant Christy Bailes on clarinet, Senior Airman Heather Holowecky on flute, Senior Airman Monica Ding on oboe and Senior Airman Robbie Mayes on French horn.



The Golden West Winds performing for children at a school concert
(photo by Staff Sergeant Leo Smith)

The group is highly educated with all members holding Bachelors' degrees and two with Masters' degrees. In addition, Lindsey just finished her doctorate in music.

To request the Golden West Winds woodwind quintet for your event, please contact our director of operations, Master Sergeant Aaron Johnson, at 707-424-3327 or by e-mail at: aaron.johnson-02@travis.af.mil.



The Golden West Winds perform for a recent military ceremony
(photo by Staff Sergeant Leo Smith)

Departures

We would like to say Farewell to three members of the Band of the Golden West who will soon be departing our band family. Danny, Monica and Andrew will each be missed greatly, and we wish them the best for the future.

Technical Sergeant Danny Hall, keyboardist, will be retiring after twenty years of dedicated service to the United States Air Force. Danny has been stationed at Travis since 2003. Prior to his arrival here, Danny had performed throughout the world in his many assignments which include Air Force bands in Louisiana, Mississippi, Germany, and the Republic of the Philippines. He plans to retire to his newly built home in Taos, New Mexico with his wife and two children, Dannica and Krisana.



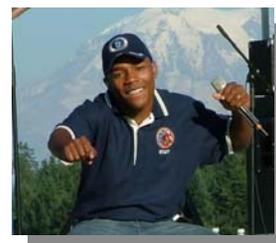
Technical Sergeant Danny Hall



Senior Airman Monica Ding

Senior Airman Monica Ding, oboist, has been offered a position with the USAF Academy Band, one of the Air Force's two premier bands, and will soon be transferring to Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Monica has been with the band since December 2002 and has performed with the Concert Band, the Golden West Winds woodwind quintet and the Ceremonial Marching Band. In addition to her musical duties, Monica is the travel orders voucher clerk.

Airman First Class Andrew Jones has been selected to fill a vocalist position with the Air Force Band of the Pacific stationed at Yokota Air Base, near Tokyo, Japan. Andrew has been with the band since January 2006 and has performed with the Concert Band, the Commanders jazz ensemble, *Fuerza Musical* and Mobility, the band's popular music ensemble. Andrew was selected to early promotion to Senior Airman (effective in September) for outstanding musicianship and community service.



Airman First Class Andrew Jones

Arrivals

We would like to welcome Aaron and Jerry to the Band of the Golden West family:



Master Sergeant Aaron Johnson

Master Sergeant Aaron Johnson, percussionist, is a native of Virginia and joined us in July 2007 and brings with him a wealth of experience. Before joining our band family, he was a member of the USAF Heritage of America Band at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia and has also been stationed at bands in Texas, Japan and Germany. Aaron holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas. In addition to his musical duties, Aaron has been appointed to Director of Operations for the Band of the Golden West.

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Master Sergeant Jerry Textor, percussionist, hails from Dayton, Ohio. Jerry holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the Ohio State University and joins our band from Sembach Air Base Germany. He has also been stationed with bands in Ohio, Hawaii and Georgia. In his spare time, Jerry enjoys camping and spending time with his wife and two sons.



Master Sergeant Jerry Textor

Coda

Some Upcoming Concert Highlights:

As always, please check our website www.bandofthegoldenwest.af.mil for the most current location and times, which are subject to change without notice.



- Jazz Ensemble: September 9th Vaca Jazz Festival's Tribute to the Military at Nut Tree Village, Vacaville, CA
- Marching Band: September 11th 9/11 Ceremony at the Travis Air Force Base Flagpole
- Travis Brass: October 7th Veteran's Memorial Building Re-dedication, Pleasanton, CA
- Concert Band: October 16th Daytime Performance Clinics at Las Vegas School for the Arts
October 17th 7:30 pm, University of Nevada, Las Vegas with the Boston Brass
October 18th 7 pm, at the Henderson Events Plaza, Henderson, Nevada with the Boston Brass
October 19th 7:30 pm, Sammy Davis Plaza at Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas, NV with the Boston Brass
October 20th 4 pm at Hafen Park in Mesquite, NV
October 21st 3 pm, Veterans Memorial Park, Boulder City, NV
- Golden West Winds:
October 27th Dinner and Performance at the Lafayette Veterans Home, Lafayette, CA

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