



Spring 2008

# ENCORE!

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE SPONSORS AND FRIENDS  
OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY FIELD BAND



Top: Band members on the field with honored Soldiers during the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Bottom: Marissa Plank, flute, and Dr. Mallory Thompson, guest conductor with the Concert Band (see page 7)

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## All-American Music

### *Students Shine with the Field Band*

In fulfilling its mission, The United States Army Field Band reaches across generations to foster the growth of tomorrow's leaders. Teenagers and young adults today, the "Millennium Generation," will become America's next generation of artists, teachers, and Soldiers. The band is proud to encourage these talented future leaders through two major events, The United States Army Field Band Young Artist Competition and the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band.

"It was an adrenaline rush," said student Marissa Plank, flutist and winner of the inaugural Young Artists Competition. In 2007, talented high school instrumentalists applied from Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. Five finalists performed in a live audition at Fort Meade, and the winner was selected to perform onstage with the Concert

Band. Ms. Plank recalled after her brilliant performance of Chaminade's *Concertino*, "Everyone in the band was really supportive and kind... it was a really great experience."

The U.S. Army All-American Marching Band is a new companion to the All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas. Similar to its football counterpart, the All-American Marching Band selected 93 outstanding young musicians from band directors' nominations, naming them "All-Americans" and bringing them together to perform for the bowl game. The Field Band provided musical support and taught section rehearsals for the All-American band during their training. One of these All-Americans responded, "There is nothing like it, and I am so glad to be part of the first one ever. I would recommend this to each and every talented musician in the United States. It's been an awesome experience, and wearing the Army colors has been an honor."

# From Sponsor to Soldier

## *New Direction for Saxophonist*



*Mr. Fox and the South Lake Jazz Band*



*SSG Fox and the Jazz Ambassadors*

After the exciting experience of hosting one of the Field Band's performing ensembles, how many sponsors get to fulfill another dream: actually joining the Musical Ambassadors of the Army?

Joshua Fox graduated from the University of North Texas in 1998, and while several of his classmates joined military bands, including the Field Band, he chose instead to teach high school. He had been teaching in South Lake, Texas, for nearly a decade when Sergeant First Class Andrew Layton, saxophonist with the Jazz Ambassadors and an old classmate, asked if Fox would sponsor the band on an upcoming tour. A jazz band director himself, Fox "knew the Jazz Ambassadors were phenomenal" and jumped at the chance to bring the group to his school.

As a concert sponsor, Fox arranged two educational clinics and a joint concert with his top jazz band; the concert culminated with four of his students performing with the Army's premier touring jazz orchestra. Reflecting on the experience, he stated, "It was a sell-out crowd; the Jazz Ambassadors were just amazing."

Shortly afterward, a saxophone vacancy arose in the Jazz Ambassadors. Fox auditioned, won the position, and enlisted in the Army. Now Staff Sergeant Fox, his experience illustrates just one of the ways in which the Musical Ambassadors of the Army can entertain audiences, engage new sponsors, and even attract the finest musicians to become proud Soldiers.

## ENCORE!

*The U.S. Army Field Band • 4214 Field Band Drive  
Fort Meade, MD 20755-5330  
(301) 677-6231*

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# Become a Sponsor...

Becoming a sponsor for The United States Army Field Band is easier than ever! All we ask a sponsor to provide is:

- CONCERT VENUE
- MEDIA MARKETING CAMPAIGN
- PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF FREE TICKETS



The Field Band tour coordinators provide sponsors with a guide, which outlines logistical requirements, including stage/lighting specifications and a promotional timetable. We also provide:

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| PUBLICITY PHOTOGRAPHS   | POSTERS               |
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*All of this is only a few clicks away!*

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# *The Musical Ambassadors*

## **Sponsor a Concert in Your Area**

As we plan our tours for 2008 and 2009 (see the proposed list of states below), we encourage you to consider sponsoring a concert in your area. We ask that a sponsor provide us with a location to play and effectively publicize our performance. We strive to make these tasks as easy as possible by providing a wide range of support for our sponsors. Our tours are booked as many as eighteen months in advance, so please contact us as soon as possible. We attempt to fulfill all requests as we schedule our travels throughout the country.

### **Fall Tour 2008**

Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and portions of Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, and West Virginia

### **Spring Tour 2009**

Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and portions of Maryland and Pennsylvania

### **Fall Tour 2009**

Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and portions of Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia



**The United States  
Army Field Band**

*The Musical Ambassadors of the Army  
Washington, DC*

For more information  
about how to sponsor a concert:  
Phone: (301) 677-6586 • Fax: (301) 677-6533  
E-mail: [john.m.mcgee@us.army.mil](mailto:john.m.mcgee@us.army.mil)  
or visit our website:

*[www.armyfieldband.com](http://www.armyfieldband.com)*

# *of the Army*



**U.S. ARMY**

**ARMY STRONG.**

## Concert Band & Soldiers' Chorus:

### *Performing with Distinction*

In early 2008, one performance brought the Field Band recognition from leaders in the band world, while another introduced the band to new audiences and an enthusiastic new supporter.

The Concert Band and Soldiers' Chorus performed in March at the American Bandmasters Association Convention in Miami. At the convention's headline concert, several of America's finest band directors were featured with the ensembles. "It was a thrill to have the organization representing the finest musicians in the country perform. The conference gives the band a chance to perform for those who have attained a high level of distinction in our field," said Gary Green, Director of Bands at the University of Miami.

Earlier in the year, the Soldiers' Chorus debuted with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. The concert's music ranged from patriotic favorites and American folk-songs to excerpts from the ever-popular opera *Carmen*. Conductor Albert-George Schram described the experience of working with the Soldiers' Chorus. "When you perform the *Armed Forces Salute*, it makes veterans feel celebrated and respected. There is a certain depth to what you do that is more substantive than other performances. You engage the audience and it has a military snap to it. They immediately respect you and your high quality. Every patriot that has ever lived likes to come to concerts like these!"



Maestro Schram with MSG Janet Hjelmgren and 2LT Curtis Kinzey

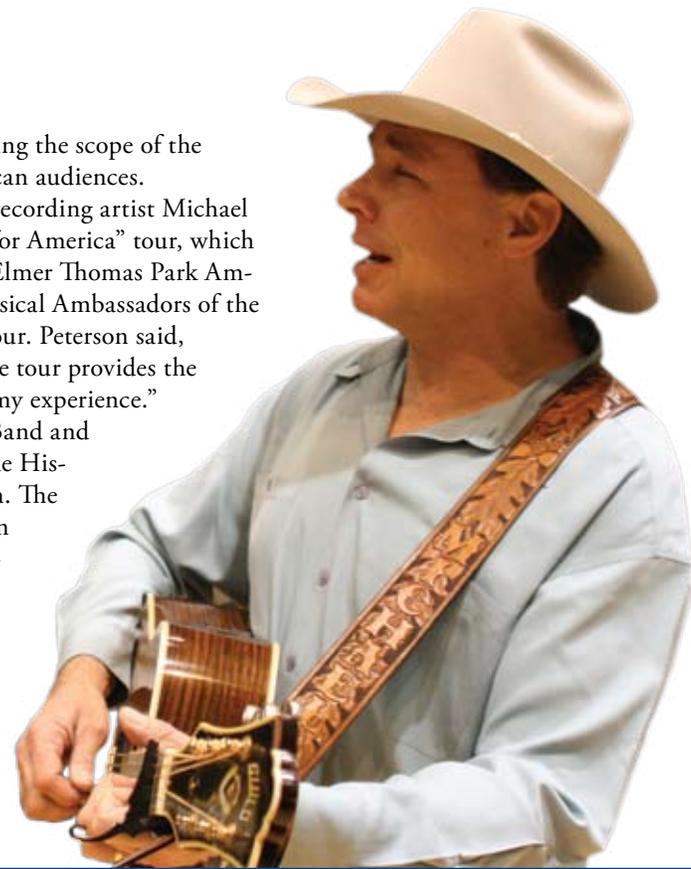
## New Venues, New Audiences

### *Broadening Our Mission*

The Field Band continues to develop new audiences in its travels, broadening the scope of the unit's mission of sharing the story of the American Soldier with diverse American audiences.

From February through May, the Volunteers collaborated with Nashville recording artist Michael Peterson in a series of patriotic concerts on Peterson's "My Real Life—Strong for America" tour, which visited venues ranging from the Knoxville Civic Auditorium Coliseum to the Elmer Thomas Park Amphitheater in Lawton, Oklahoma. Peterson has performed before with the Musical Ambassadors of the Army at a variety of events sponsored by the U.S. Army, a co-sponsor of this tour. Peterson said, "The Volunteers are world-class musicians and individuals. Having them on the tour provides the opportunity for the communities to experience firsthand the quality of the Army experience."

In April, following a tour of the southeastern United States, the Concert Band and Soldiers' Chorus will return south for two concerts in Atlanta, sponsored by the Historically Black Colleges and Universities National Band Directors' Consortium. The ensembles will perform at Cascade United Methodist Church, a large church in southwest Atlanta, followed the next day by a concert for the Consortium's annual meeting. Members of the band will also coach small ensembles and teach clinics for students in attendance at the Consortium. Dr. O'Neill Sanford, president and founder of the organization, spoke enthusiastically of the band's participation. "The collaboration and sharing of ideas and concepts of The U.S. Army Field Band members, our directors, and students will prove to be of great educational value."



Recording artist Michael Peterson

23 MAY

ON MAY 23, THE CONCERT BAND AND SOLDIERS' CHORUS JOIN CONDUCTOR CARL TOPILOW AND THE CLEVELAND POPS FOR THE SEVENTH ANNUAL "SALUTE TO OUR ARMED FORCES" IN HISTORIC SEVERANCE HALL. THE CONCERT WILL INCLUDE FAVORITE PATRIOTIC TUNES, INCLUDING THE ROUSING *1812 OVERTURE*.



VOLUNTEERS



FEBRUARY • MARCH  
MAY

THE  
MY REAL LIFE  
YOUR  
STRONG FOR AMERICA

THE VOLUNTEERS JOIN COUNTRY STAR MICHAEL PETERSON IN HIS "MY REAL LIFE—STRONG FOR AMERICA" TOUR IN LATE FEBRUARY, EARLY MARCH, AND MID-MAY. THIS EXCITING PARTNERSHIP WILL PRIMARILY PERFORM IN THE SOUTHEASTERN AND MIDWESTERN UNITED STATES.

# What They're Saying:

## *Conversations with Guest Conductors*

### *Dr. Mallory Thompson*

On January 19, 2008, the Concert Band performed at the Jim Rouse Theatre in Columbia, Maryland, with guest conductor Dr. Mallory Thompson. Dr. Thompson is professor of music, Director of Bands, and coordinator of the conducting program at Northwestern University. After working with the Concert Band for three days, she shared the following thoughts with the *Encore!*:

***Encore!*** What differences do you find working with a military band compared to a college band?

***MT:*** The main difference between working with university students and professionals like the Field Band is the high level of technical discipline. It's so rewarding to get to work with one's peers!

***Encore!*** Can you elaborate on the benefits that an organization such as the Field Band has to the general public?

***MT:*** Groups like this are such an inspiration to everyone, from young students to teachers. I also know that honoring the veterans through playing all of the service songs every night is great.

***Encore!*** Do you have any final thoughts?

***MT:*** It was a real pleasure [to experience] such a high level of discipline, artistry, structure, and intelligence!



*Dr. Mallory Thompson*



*Maestro Marvin Hamlisch with SFC Andrew Layton*

### *Marvin Hamlisch*

On February 8, 2008, the Jazz Ambassadors joined conductor Marvin Hamlisch and the New York Pops for a performance at Carnegie Hall. Between rehearsals and the concert, Mr. Hamlisch shared these thoughts with the *Encore!*.

***Encore!*** We've worked together for almost ten years now. How do you feel about working with the Jazz Ambassadors and the Army in general?

***MH:*** I adore the Jazz Ambassadors. Number one: they are so professional. They're so good. They play, they go. And... the great thing about working with the Army musicians is they call me "Sir." You know, the caliber of your musicianship is fantastic. I mean, these people are the *crème de la crème*. They're used to getting it done, and getting it done correctly.

***Encore!*** I also notice you always tell the audience that you support the troops overseas. That's really important for us to hear.

***MH:*** Absolutely, absolutely. I don't think there's a person around who in any way doesn't support the troops.

***Encore!*** How do you feel about the types of audiences that our concerts attract, and do you really think that that is a good way to introduce jazz to a new generation of kids, or people who haven't heard much jazz?

***MH:*** If it was up to me, I would have the Jazz Ambassadors go from high schools to colleges... kids don't normally hear jazz. So, anytime I've found kids are able to hear the music, they usually come back for more. I think anytime that we can do a concert, and we can make sure that people bring kids, it's always great.

THE CONCERT BAND AND SOLDIERS' CHORUS PROVIDE THE SPOTLIGHT PERFORMANCE AT THIS ORGANIZATION'S ANNUAL

SUMMER SYMPOSIUM IN NORMAL, ILLINOIS. THIS CONCERT ON JUNE 24 WILL REACH MUSIC EDUCATORS AS WELL AS THOUSANDS OF HIGH SCHOOL BAND MUSICIANS FROM ACROSS THE NATION.



24 JUNE



27 JUNE

IN WHAT IS SURE TO BE A UNIQUE COLLABORATION, THE JAZZ AMBASSADORS DEBUT AT THE INTERNATIONAL TUBA EUPHONIUM ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE ON JUNE 27. THEY WILL BE JOINED BY JAZZ TUBA AND EUPHONIUM STARS, INCLUDING JOE MURPHY (TUBA), MARC DICKMAN (EUPHONIUM), AND JUN YAMAOKA (EUPHONIUM).

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
THE US ARMY FIELD BAND  
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*“I served in the U.S. Army and was very proud to see the way all of you went about your work, with pride, integrity, love and most of all, with the utmost feelings that you showed at that concert. You showed just what freedom means to each and every one of us.”*

—William G. Glassbrenner  
Altoona, WI

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The United States  
Army Field Band

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army  
Washington, DC