



## **2019 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT CHORUS AND MILITARY GROUP BIOGRAPHIES**

### **The Military District of Washington (MDW)**

The Military District of Washington works with Capital Concerts in coordinating the Department of Defense participation of the Premier Service Bands and Service Honor Guards.

### **The U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters**

The U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters chorus performs a variety of music including traditional choral music, sea chanteys, patriotic fare, opera, Broadway and contemporary music. The chorus is frequently found at the center of our most important national events. They have played a vital role in comforting the nation in times of mourning, including appearances at memorials for the astronauts of the space shuttle Columbia, the presidential wreath laying ceremonies at the United Airlines flight 93 crash site in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance at the National Cathedral in Washington after the events of 9/11. The chorus participated in the funerals for former Presidents Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon. They have appeared at the Kennedy Center Honors and with the National Symphony Orchestra for the nationally televised *National Memorial Day Concert* at the U.S. Capitol. In addition, the group has appeared on Larry King Live, Fox and Friends and CBS This Morning, performed at the 2014 Super Bowl, as well as at the premier of the movie *Pearl Harbor*. The Sea Chanters chorus has performed with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir under the direction of Mack Wilburg, as well as noted choral directors Dale Warland and Donald Neuen, and has also performed with the Kansas City Symphony, the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Perry Como, Marian Anderson, Kenny Rogers and Lionel Richie. For more information, visit [www.navyband.navy.mil](http://www.navyband.navy.mil).

### **The U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants**

The Singing Sergeants, the official chorus of The United States Air Force, is one of the world's most versatile and traveled choral organizations. Originally formed in 1945 from within the ranks of The United States Air Force Band, the chorus is now composed entirely of professional vocalists from leading colleges, universities and music conservatories throughout the world; and who are all sergeants in The United States Air Force. Available positions are filled by audition only and are reserved for those singers who demonstrate the finest qualities of musicianship and vocal production. The Singing Sergeants have appeared before every chief executive of The United States since President Truman, as well as with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia, Cleveland, Houston and National Symphony Orchestras, and both the Boston and Cincinnati Pops. The group has performed at the White House, State Department, Supreme Court, Congressional, Department of Defense and high-level civilian functions. Additionally, an important part of the chorus' performing schedule is supporting the President and Vice President of the United States, as well as top government and military officials. Through these varied venues The Singing Sergeants reach a broad audience with the beauty and language of music. Presenting the music of America to the people of the world, the chorus has appeared before millions of people in live performances and countless more on radio and television programs. The Singing Sergeants have performed in all 50 states and 49 countries. It is through goodwill tours that the Singing Sergeants bring the people of America and the world together. For more information visit:

<http://www.usafband.af.mil/ensembles/BandEnsembleBio.asp?EnsembleID=63>

### **The U.S. Army Herald Trumpets**

The U.S. Army Herald Trumpets are the official fanfare ensemble for the President of the United States. Founded in 1959 and patterned after traditional British "fanfare" trumpet ensembles, the U.S. Army Herald Trumpets were formed to add pageantry to official military ceremonies. A performing element of The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" in Washington, DC, the ensemble has performed for countless events of national and international significance. Notable events include 12 presidential inaugurations, the "G8" Economic Summits in 1984, 1990 and 2004, the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations, and State Arrivals for heads of state at The White House. In addition to their official duties, The U.S. Army Herald Trumpets have performed in the opening ceremonies for the 1980 and 2002 Winter Olympic Games, the 1984 Summer Olympic Games, and the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. The ensemble has also performed at nationally and internationally televised events such as Super Bowl XXXIX, ESPN Sports Nation Live, The Kennedy Center Honors, and the relighting of the Statue of Liberty. Their appearances for *A Capitol Fourth*, *Christmas in Washington*, and the *National Memorial Day Concert* are seen annually over national broadcasting networks and global military networks. The Herald Trumpets have been featured with orchestras from around the world including the National Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops, the Cincinnati Pops, and with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square in Salt Lake City.

### **The U.S. Army Chorus and Army Voices**

In 1956, The U.S. Army Chorus was established as the vocal counterpart of The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own," and is one of the nation's only professional men's choruses. From its inception, The U.S. Army Chorus has established and maintained a reputation of excellence in the performance of male choral literature. Beyond the traditional military music and patriotic standards, the repertoire of the Army Chorus covers a broad spectrum which includes pop, Broadway, folk, and classical music. The Army Chorus performs frequently at the White House, the Vice President's Residence, the U.S. Capitol, the Supreme Court, and the State Department. World leaders, such as former Presidents Nicolas Sarkozy of France, Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, Lech Walesa of Poland, and Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union have been serenaded by the Army Chorus during state visits. The U.S. Army Voices are a mixed vocal ensemble that presents a wide variety of styles. These dynamic performers have entertained audiences in a variety of spaces, from concert programs in The Music Center at Strathmore, to the Oslo Spektrum Arena for the 2012 Norwegian Military Tattoo, and in numerous other venues ranging from concert stages, music educator conferences, prestigious music institutions and camps, and live national television broadcasts.

### **Soldiers' Chorus of The United States Army Field Band**

Founded in 1957, the Soldiers' Chorus is the vocal component of The United States Army Field Band of Washington, DC. This 22-member mixed chorus travels throughout the nation and abroad, performing both independently and jointly with the Concert Band. The Soldiers' Chorus has performed in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, India, and throughout Europe. The musical backgrounds of Soldiers' Chorus personnel range from choral, opera, musical theater, gospel, and rock music to music education and vocal coaching, providing the ensemble and its chamber groups with unique programming flexibility. The Soldiers' Chorus has collaborated with the Boston Pops, the Cincinnati Pops, and the Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit, Nashville, and National Symphony Orchestras, and is a mainstay of PBS' annual *National Memorial Day Concert* and of all state funerals.