**2024 *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. 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 inaugurals, 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, The Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra, Saint Louis Symphony, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and in 2022 was invited for a special celebration of legendary composer John Williams’ birthday with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

**The U.S. Army Chorus**

In 1956, The U.S. Army Chorus was established as the vocal counterpart of The United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own.” From its inception, the 34-member chorus has established and maintained a reputation of excellence in the performance of choral literature. Members of the Army Chorus, most of whom hold advanced degrees in music, are selected from among the nation’s finest musicians. Beyond the traditional military music and patriotic standards, the Army Chorus repertoire covers a broad spectrum of genres to include pop, Broadway, folk, and classical music. The Army Chorus performs frequently at the White House, the Vice President’s Residence, the U.S. Capitol, and the State Department. When in Washington, DC, world leaders, foreign dignitaries, and military counterparts visiting our nation’s senior

Page Two

leaders are serenaded with songs performed in their native languages. The Army Chorus customizes its musical programs to fit the occasion and has performed in over 40 languages and dialects. Regularly, the Army Chorus participates in presidential library dedication ceremonies, memorials honoring significant events in our country’s history, and interment ceremonies for former presidents.

**The Soldiers’ Chorus of The U. S. Army Field Band**

The Soldiers’ Chorus, founded in 1957, is the vocal complement of the United States Army Field Band of Washington, DC.  The 29-member mixed choral ensemble travels throughout the nation and abroad, performing as a separate component and in joint concerts with the Concert Band of the “Musical Ambassadors of the Army.”  The chorus has performed in all fifty states, Canada, Mexico, India, the Far East, and throughout Europe, entertaining audiences of all ages.  The musical backgrounds of Soldiers’ Chorus personnel range from opera and musical theatre to music education and international touring productions.  In addition to presenting selections from the vast choral repertoire, Soldiers’ Chorus performances often include the music of Broadway, opera, barbershop quartet, and Americana.  Critics have acclaimed recent appearances with the Boston Pops, the Cincinnati Pops, and the Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit, Nashville, and National symphony orchestras.  Other notable performances include four world fairs, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, American Choral Directors Association conferences, Kennedy Center Honors Programs, the 750th anniversary of Berlin, the rededication of the Statue of Liberty, and the 100th anniversary of Grand Canyon National Park.  Most recently, the Soldiers’ Chorus co-commissioned *The Falling and The Rising: A New American Opera*, appeared on the CBS broadcast *Songs of Service*, and was featured on the Grammy-award winning album *Soundtrack of the American Soldier*.

**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 premiere 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.

Page Three

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

The Singing Sergeants is one of six ensembles that form The U.S. Air Force Band in Washington D.C. Featuring 24 active-duty musicians, the chorus supports ceremonial and diplomatic functions, educational outreach events and concerts throughout the United States and around the world. The chorus performs for high-level military and civilian functions, using music to bridge cultural differences and foster positive diplomatic relations. As part of The U.S. Air Force Band, the Singing Sergeants’ mission is to HONOR those who have served, INSPIRE American citizens to heightened patriotism and service, and CONNECT with the global community on behalf of the U.S. Air Force and the United States. For more information visit: usairforceband.com.

# # #