

Credits

Commander & Conductor, Executive Producer Captain Donald E. Schofield, Jr.
Co-Producers Captain Bryan Miller, SMSgt Mark Hansen, MSgt Dean Smith
Command Band Manager CMSgt Paul Runyan
Band Superintendents SMSgt Sharon Johnson, SMSgt Mark Hansen
Noncommissioned Officer in Charge MSgt Jodi Pratt
Recording Engineers TSgt (ret) Doug Antes, SSgt Ethan Hall
Intern/Slate Adam Shubert
Touhill Performing Arts Center Staff
Head Engineer James Campbell
Assistant Engineers Gary Miller, Andrew Berg
Program Notes TSgt Tom Vincent
Design & Layout SrA Linda Foster
Additional Graphics MSgt Constance Galbraith
Recording Production TSgt Tom Vincent, SSgt David Hartung

Recorded at Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 12-14 January, 2005

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The Air Force Band Program seeks talented individuals from all backgrounds reflecting our nation's rich cultural diversity. Discover the performing careers available in your U.S. Air Force.



BMA05101



<http://public.af.mil/band>
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BAND OF MID-AMERICA

U.S. AIR FORCE



12 Russian Christmas Music

During World War II, Corporal Al Friedman was assigned to the combined 28th-29th Army Air Force Band in Atlantic City, NJ. When the bands were split in 1943, Corporal Friedman went with the 29th AAF Band to Buckley Field in Denver and the 28th AAF Band went to Seymour Johnson Air Base, NC. The 28th AAF Band would eventually be relocated to Scott Air Force Base, IL, and renamed the U.S. Air Force Band of Mid-America. Corporal Friedman went on to become Dr. Alfred Reed, one of the most important composers of American band music.

Russian Christmas Music was written for a December 1944 concert in Denver in tribute to the Russian-American alliance during World War II, and performed by a band made up of the best musicians from the five military bands in the Denver area. Composer Roy Harris was in charge of organizing the concert and Reed assisted him with the administrative work. The concert's program called for premieres of Russian and American works: a transcription of the second movement of Harris' *Sixth Symphony*, and Prokofiev's *March, Opus 99*.

With the concert just around the corner, Harris discovered that Prokofiev's work had already been premiered, leaving him in need of another Russian work for the concert. Harris' solution was to assign the composition of the work to Alfred Reed, with whom he had become familiar during Reed's time at Juilliard in New York. When Reed expressed

his concern that the concert was just two weeks away, Harris responded, "Don't worry, I have every confidence in you...just don't make it too long, only about 14 or 15 minutes!" With the assistance of five copyists and his wife, Marjorie, Reed completed the score and parts for Russian Christmas Music in 13 days.

In his research for Russian Christmas Music, Reed traveled to a small Colorado church where he discovered that instrumental music was virtually nonexistent within the Russian Orthodox Church. However, he was very taken by a choral piece, *Carol of the Little Russian Children*, which he used in the opening woodwind chorale. It is, in fact, the only authentic Russian melody in Russian Christmas Music. All other thematic material is original Reed.

"I did not have the slightest realization at the time of what this piece would later become," said Reed. "By the time I had revised it – twice, as a matter of fact, the first time in 1947, and again in 1968, for publication – I saw that wherever and by whomever it was performed the success was always a great one with conductors, performers, and audience alike. This finally convinced me that perhaps I had indeed accomplished something of value after all."

Alfred Reed passed away on September 17, 2005, as this recording was being produced. The Band of Mid-America mourns the loss of a distinguished alumnus and a fellow airman.

Flute/Piccolo

MSgt Jodi Pratt
-Perkins, OK
Sr.A Linda Foster*
-Merrill, WI

Oboe

TSgt Dawn Striker*Allan*
-Salem, IL
TSgt Kathy Nix**
-St. Louis, MO

Bassoon

MSgt David Metzger
-Salina, KS
SSgt Jesse Schartz*
-Grove, OK

Clarinet

MSgt Constance Galbraith
-Unchland, PA
TSgt Michael Witte
-West Allis, WI
SSgt Shannon Dooley
-Fayetteville, GA
SSgt Rebecca Schartz*
-Tampa, FL
Sr.A Misty Weaver
-Pontotoc, MS
Sr.A Keith Hulén
-Waukegan, IL

Bass Clarinet

TSgt Gail Tucker
-Hollidaysburg, PA

Alto Saxophone

MSgt Lon Throop
-Lincoln, NE
Sr.A Dwight Wiest*
-Portland, OR

Tenor Saxophone

Sr.A David Fatek
-Philadelphia, PA

Baritone Saxophone

SSgt Joshua Fedele
-Louisville, KY

Horn

TSgt Frank Groome*
-Indianapolis, IN
SSgt Andrew Fordham
-Cherry Valley, IL
SSgt Peter Dahlstrom
-Columbus, OH
TSgt Tom Sanders**
-Kirkwood, MO

Trumpet

MSgt Scott Vignassi
-Perkin, IL
SSgt Tommy Money*
-Raintsville, KY
SSgt Christopher Cronsell
-Bath, ME
SSgt Scott Dooley
-Hawkins, TX
Sr.A Benjamin Peterson
-Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Trombone

TSgt Rick Thorp*
-Wheaton, IL
Sr.A David Horger
-Dearborn, MI
Sr.A Erik Dahlgren
-Duluth, MN
AIC Jeff Dahlseng
-Lowry, MN

Euphonium

MSgt Joef Rossi
-Monongahela, PA
TSgt Thomas Vincent*
-North Chicago, IL
Sr.A Shauna Kuebler
-Union City, OH

Tuba

SSgt David Hartung*
-Frankfort, KY
Sr.A Matthew Kuebler
-Eoanville, IN

Percussion

SSgt Christi McGowan*
-Charleston, IL
SSgt Scott Drewes
-Alexandria, VA
Sr.A Jarrett Robinett
-Jonesboro, AR

Guitar

Sr.A Paul Wells
-Jacksonville, FL

String/Electric Bass

SSgt Mark Frandsen
-Anaheim, CA

Keyboards

MSgt (ret) Roz Haroey
-Detroit, MI

Vocalist

SMSgt Sharon Johnson
-Sidney, IA
MSgt Steve Thulón
-Sacramento, CA

Narrator

CMSgt (Ret) David Rogers
-Tallahassee, FL

Audio Engineer

TSgt (ret) Doug Antes
-Lykens, PA

Asst. Audio Engineer

SSgt Ethan Hall
-Austin, TX

Staff Arranger

MSgt Dean Smith
-Massachusetts, IL

* Principal

** Air National Guard
Band of the Midwest



- 1 Christmas Prelude 3:18
- 2 Go Tell it on the Mountain 4:07
- 3 Gesu Bambino 4:25
- 4 My Favorite Things 2:47
- 5 Mel Torme Christmas Medley 4:27
- 6 Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus 6:31
- 7 Sleigh Ride 3:45
- 8 Look at Them, It's Christmas 3:05
- 9 Parade of the Wooden Soldiers 3:51
- 10 Belleau Wood 3:24
- 11 The Prayer 4:25
- 12 Russian Christmas Music 12:37

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