



Commissioned by
**Captain N. Alan Clark and the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve in
 Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Air Force Reserve**

On Eagle's Wings

(Our Citizen Airmen)

ROBERT W. SMITH (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

1 Conductor	2 1st E \flat Alto Saxophone	2 Baritone
1 C Piccolo	2 2nd E \flat Alto Saxophone	1 Baritone Treble Clef
3 1st C Flute	1 B \flat Tenor Saxophone	4 Tuba
3 2nd C Flute	1 E \flat Baritone Saxophone	1 String Bass
1 1st Oboe	3 1st B \flat Trumpet	2 Mallet Percussion (Chimes, Xylophone)
1 2nd Oboe	3 2nd B \flat Trumpet	1 Timpani
3 1st B \flat Clarinet	3 3rd B \flat Trumpet	2 Percussion I (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)
3 2nd B \flat Clarinet	2 1st & 2nd Horn in F	2 Percussion II (Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals)
3 3rd B \flat Clarinet	2 3rd & 4th Horn in F	
2 B \flat Bass Clarinet	2 1st Trombone	
1 E \flat Contrabass Clarinet	2 2nd Trombone	
2 Bassoon	1 Bass Trombone	

PROGRAM NOTES

On Eagle's Wings (Our Citizen Airmen) was composed in tribute to the United States Air Force Reserve in celebration of their 50th anniversary. Commissioned by Capt. N. Alan Clark and the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve (Warner Robins AFB, GA), the composition was written as a concert opener and as the opening selection for their commemorative compact disc recording entitled *Our Citizen Airmen*.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The opening statement should be as majestic as possible. Trumpets should take great care not to force the first statement. The timpani/bass drum response should be very strong and as dramatic as possible.

The full ensemble statement beginning in measure 12 should be carefully balanced to ensure presence in the horns/euphonium/saxophones. Trumpets should not be too heavy in the balance, allowing the other three musical elements the freedom to be as expressive as possible. The decrescendo in measure 18 should begin on beat 3, followed by a full four-beat crescendo in measure 19. The percussion below should again be as dramatic as possible. The trumpets/flutes/oboes should come into primary focus beginning in measure 22.

The tempo at bar 26 is crucial. If the tempo is too slow, the piece will lose momentum as it develops into the half time at measure 55. The dynamic shaping of the snare drum should be exaggerated to help the momentum and feeling of forward motion.

The flowing statement at measure 55 should be carefully balanced to ensure the presence of the oboe solo. The flute solo above should be subservient to the oboe.

The brisk four returns at measure 89 with the restatement of the percussion ostinato. The recapitulation builds to the 3/4 at measure 120, which should be as energetic as possible, leading to a vibrant conclusion.

I hope that you, your ensemble and your audience find On Eagle's Wings to be a rewarding musical experience. Best wishes for a great performance!

Robert W. Smith

