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A Breeze of patriotism

Air Force ensemble delights in concert series

WILLIAMSBURG

The Summer Breeze program is always a treat. It offers a variety of music that brings out the best in all of us, along with lawn chairs, picnic baskets, and a desire to just have a relaxing evening.

Without question, one of the highlights of the popular program is the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band and its many different ensembles that offer music to fit all tastes. This is a first class musical operation that highlights the exceptional talent here in the area, talent that has made a musical and patriotic mark throughout the world.

The group was created by the Secretary of War in 1941 as one of the first Army Air Corps bands and has, since 1946, been affiliated with Langley Air Force Base. Appreciation of the organization is obvious whenever and wherever they play. Crowds always show up to show support, as was the case in this inaugural program to its month-long Summer Breeze appearances.

The ensemble selected to start the series was the Satellite Jazz group with its intended selections of blues, jazz, and get down music.

Sadly, a power outage in Merchants Square caused a change of musical plans for the Satellite ensemble. Much of what they play involves electricity. With no backup generator or

IN CONCERT

The Summer Breeze Concert Series presents the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band's Satellite Ensemble, Merchants Square, Aug. 4.

Soundings



John Shulson

hope that the general electricity would be restored, the group had to cut short its program.

Minus power, the nine musicians who ran on internal, self generated power surged ahead and offered the substantial crowd an abbreviated program of an upbeat, swinging "Old Kentucky Home" and "One O'clock Jump," a soothing "In the Mood," and a cool sounding "String of Pearls."

Although the music was brief, it was expectedly well done with spirit and a desire to please.

These folk are real troopers and, in the best of the show must go on tradition, they did their best to bring an entertaining evening of music to the crowd. Despite the altered plans, folk in the square seemed content to stay put and probably would have welcomed a repeat of the numbers the group played. Such is the nature

of these wonderful venue programs.

It was hot and humid and nary a breeze was to be felt. With no stores open and no lights on anywhere in Merchants Square, dusk and darkness took on increased emphasis and awareness. Yet, once Satellite finished its last number and began to pack up its equipment, many people remained in place, finishing their picnic meals and conversations, enjoying the peace of the setting.

For those who know and those who don't, this superb musical organization does more than just playing in the square for these terrific Summer Breeze programs. They have a world-wide military mission that involves deployment to hot spots around the globe, inspiring esprit de corps and feelings of patriotism for and appreciation of the men and women of the United States Air Force and, by extension in our area, our entire military community.

The Heritage of America plays each Wednesday throughout August. The next show will feature the Concert Band, always a major draw, followed by the Blue Aces Ensemble, and a return appearance of the Concert Band.

These programs and this Summer Breeze series are among the things that add value to our lives and enjoyment to living in this historic area.

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WEDNESDAY
Dr. Jerome Lee, Pastor
New Life Baptist Church
Guest Choir: New Life Baptist Church Music Team

THURSDAY
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