

Congratulations to Mason Jazz alumni Sarah Moyers on her recent graduation from basic training and position as a vocalist with the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band!

"I will be working as a vocalist with the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band, stationed at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, VA. For over seventy-five years, the band has represented the Air Force by bringing music to the mid-Atlantic in live concerts and to the nation in televised events. Heritage of America travels more than 150,000 miles to perform hundreds of concerts for listeners across a fifteen-state region from Maine to South Carolina.

I was one of nine applicants who were invited to the live round of auditions on May 10, just a week before graduating from Mason. It was a wonderful surprise to know that I would be headed straight from my degree into a full-time gig!

I left for basic military training (BMT) on July 30, and spent the following nine weeks at Joint Base Lackland-San Antonio becoming an Airman. The most challenging aspect of BMT for me was the inability to communicate with my family and friends, and the complete lack of music outside of our scheduled band rehearsals. I was in a band flight, so I got to perform the music for both my own graduation ceremony and the ceremony of the class one week ahead of mine. Overall, I actually didn't mind the highly structured nature of BMT, and ended up being recognized as an Honor Graduate in my class. I entered the Air Force as an E-3, so my official rank is now Airman First Class Moyers!

Heritage of America breaks down into multiple ensembles, four of which I will be performing with: the Blue Aces (rock/pop/Motown), Full Spectrum (pop/rock), the Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble (jazz/Latin), and the Concert Band (jazz/Broadway/patriotic). I'm excited to diversify my repertoire by performing in all of these different styles! I am moving to my duty station this upcoming week and hope to be included on the band's November tours. One of the things I'm really looking forward to is the opportunity to travel on the band's state-side tours, as well as on deployments and future assignments. After my initial term at Langley, I hope to be stationed in Yokota, Japan."

