

THE THUNDERBIRDS

by

Aldo Rafael Forte

THE THUNDERBIRDS was written for Capt Larry H. Lang and the USAF Heritage of America Band in 1998. The group premiered the piece and recorded it for CD release in May 1998. The work is a musical tribute to the United States Air Force's premier air demonstration team.

THE THUNDERBIRDS is highly energetic and quick paced, symbolizing the excitement generated by the flying team at their performances. The work contrasts the light and flighty "bird" chatter which opens the piece with menacing and martial "thunder" and "firepower" music. Five soloists (flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, and trombone) take turns "showing" off their individual stunts throughout the work. Some sections are suspenseful, while in other sections quickly changing musical fragments represent changing "aerial" maneuvers. The bold and powerful "Heroes' theme" stated in the brass stands out above all other melodies in honor of those brave heroes of the sky which are THE THUNDERBIRDS.

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