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Cortland Native Col. Arnald D. Gabriel Receives Award *The Midwest Clinic Provided Unprecedented Special Recognition to a World-Class Musician*

January 14, 2013

DES PLAINES, IL – The Midwest Clinic: An International Band and Orchestra Conference has given unprecedented special recognition to Cortland native Col. Arnald D. Gabriel. On [December 19](#), 2012, during a concert by The United States Air Force Band at the sixty-sixth annual Midwest Clinic in Chicago, a glass sculpture was presented to Gabriel to express special appreciation for his unique achievements and leadership in the music profession. Col. Gabriel had already, in 1973, received the Midwest Clinic’s highest award, the Medal of Honor, recognizing his distinguished service to music and education, and his influence on the development of bands and orchestras.

Col. Gabriel’s combination of achievements is unique. His twenty-one-year tenure at the highest point of military music, Commander of The United States Air Force Band of Washington, D.C. was the longest in that organization’s history. His military service began as an army infantryman in World War II, a combat machine gunner in the famed 29th Infantry Division, landing on a Normandy beach, receiving the Combat Infantryman Badge, two Bronze Star medals for battlefield bravery, and the French Croix de Guerre. As a conductor, he has thrilled audiences in all fifty states and over fifty countries. He had a second career as professor and music department chair of George Mason University, and he is held in unsurpassed admiration as a guest conductor of community bands in all parts of America. Gabriel is also

unique in holding three degrees from Ithaca College: the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in music education (1950, 1953), and the Honorary Doctor of Music (1989).

The Midwest Clinic has, over the years, awarded its Medal of Honor to ninety-one people, including symphony conductor Leonard Slatkin; composers Morton Gould, Howard Hanson, and Karel Husa; trumpet artists Wynton Marsalis, Doc Severinsen, and Clark Terry; distinguished university conductors; conductors of The United States Army, Air Force, Marine and Navy Bands of Washington, D.C.; and leading music educators. The 2012 Midwest Clinic was attended by more than 17,000 music educators, professional and avocational performers, composers, students, school patrons, school administrators, publishers, instrument manufacturers, and other music-related professionals from all regions of America and thirty-five other nations.

“In Honor of Our Mentors” was a theme woven throughout the 2012 Midwest Clinic. Nearly forty years after receiving the Medal of Honor, Col Gabriel continues to be a quintessential role model and mentor who influences student, avocational and professional musicians throughout America and the world. Upon the occasion of his returning as guest conductor of The United States Air Force Band, it was an honor for the Midwest Clinic to present the additional special recognition award to this wonderful American who has enhanced society with exemplary military enlisted service and commissioned command leadership, and highest artistic achievement.

About the Midwest Clinic:

The Midwest Clinic exists to serve music educators and to help raise the standards of music education around the world. For more information, please visit www.midwestclinic.org.

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