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April 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL --Guest conductor of the Eastern Illinois University's Honor High School Band Concert will be Col. Arnald D. Gabriel, commander/conductor of the U.S. Air Force Band. The band, made up of outstanding high school musicians throughout Illinois, will perform on Friday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m. in Dvorak Concert Hall.

The concert will be in conjunction with Eastern's Symphonic Wind Ensemble concert under the direction of Harold L. Hillyer.

Gabriel has conducted in all 50 states and in 45 countries. When he was promoted to the rank of colonel in 1970 he became the youngest musician in the military to hold that grade. He is the only active Air Force musician to hold the Legion of Merit. It was presented while he was conductor of the U.S. Air Force Europe Band.

Gabriel first entered the military in 1943. Discharged in 1946, he enrolled at Ithaca College, New York, as a music major. He re-entered the service in 1951 as a warrant officer/bandleader. He earned a master's degree by commuting to Ithaca from Sampson AFB in New York.

After various positions, he was appointed commander and conductor of the U. S. Air Force Academy Band in Colorado. He was given his present post in 1964. The group has twice been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. He is president-elect of the American Bandmasters' Association.

Admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for students.