



The United States Army Field Band

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army
Washington, DC

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THE JAZZ AMBASSADORS DIXIELAND BAND

The Jazz Ambassadors Dixieland Band is an ensemble known for their positive energy and sound musicianship. Inspired mainly by the swinging styles of the great Louis Armstrong and Jack Teagarden, they play a wide variety of traditional jazz, from the classics of the 1920's and '30's to the early small group swing of the 40's and 50's. Comprised of seven key members of the Jazz Ambassadors, this popular small ensemble is featured at nearly every Jazz Ambassadors concert. The ensemble's most memorable concerts have been in VA hospitals, Soldiers' home care facilities, elementary schools, and Independence Day appearances on *Good Morning, America!* and *Fox and Friends*.

Sergeant First Class Patrick Shook, tenor saxophone, was born and raised in Spokane, Washington. SFC Shook earned a Master of Music degree at the University of North Texas and a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Idaho. When not touring the country with the Jazz Ambassadors, he maintains an active teaching, recording and performing schedule in the Washington, DC and Baltimore areas. As a Summit Records recording artist, SFC Shook has released two albums as co-leader: "The Shook-Russo-Young Quartet featuring Greg Gisbert" and "So Far From Home."

Master Sergeant Michael Johnston, trumpet, has served as jazz trumpet soloist with the Jazz Ambassadors since 2000 and leader of the Jazz Ambassadors Dixieland Band since 2003. He served as a member of The U.S. Army Field Band's Concert Band from 1991 until 2000.

Johnston won first place at the International Trumpet Guild's Jazz Improvisation Competition in 1989 while earning his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of North Florida, graduating in 1991. He has performed with Clark Terry, Dizzy Gillespie, Nat Adderly, Louis Bellson, James Moody, Doc Severinsen, Della Reese, Harry Connick, Jr., Dianne Schuur, Natalie Cole, and the Count Basie Orchestra.

Sergeant First Class Jeff Adams, trombone, is a native of Hemet, California. SFC Adams has extensive experience in pit orchestras, and has worked with Lou Rawls, Tony Bennett, Kenny Rogers, Frankie Vallie, the Four Tops, and Mary Wilson. SFC Adams earned a M.M.E. from the University of Redlands and a B.M. in Commercial Music from California State University at Long Beach, and attended the Berklee College of Music.

Master Sergeant Timothy L. Young, piano, joined the Jazz Ambassadors in 1998 and has been a member of the Jazztet since its inception in 1999. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Jazz Studies at Shenandoah University, and toured Japan, China, and Germany with the Shenandoah University Jazz Orchestra. MSG Young earned a Master of Music in Jazz Studies from the University of North Texas in 1997. He has performed and done clinics with Lou Marini, Charles MacPhearson, Steve Swallow, Ray Anderson, "Doc" Cheatham, Mark Tamaro, Vince DiMartino, Clint Strong, Joe LaBarbera, and Rebecca Parris.

Staff Sergeant Jonathan Epley, banjo, earned a Master of Music degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Louisville. He studied guitar under Craig Wagner and arranging/composition under John LaBarbera. He has performed with Jamey Aebersold, David "Fathead" Newman, and Delfayo Marsalis among others. Before joining The U.S. Army Field Band in 2011, SSG Epley served with the U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus in Heidelberg, Germany.

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Sergeant Major Jeff Lopez, bass, earned his Master of Music degree at Manhattan School of Music and a Bachelor of Music degree at Berklee College of Music. In addition to playing bass, he composes for the Jazz Ambassadors. SGM Lopez has performed with Kenny Werner, Craig Handy, Rita Moreno, and many others. He has a solo album entitled *The Sun and the Rain*, and was a contributing author to *Jazz Player Magazine*. He is a three-time recipient of the Maryland State Arts Council's Award for Artistic Excellence in composition and solo performance. SGM Lopez also enjoys competing in triathlons.

Sergeant First Class Todd Harrison, drums, started his professional music career at the age of 14 in Houston, Texas. He quickly became known for his ability to excel at any style of drumming, including Middle Eastern and Latin styles, rock, R&B, Broadway, country & western, and funk. After high school, SFC Harrison studied jazz under Shelly Berg at San Jacinto Junior College and classical percussion at Houston Baptist University. He has performed with Paul Gilbert, Clark Terry, Russell Malone, Kirk Whalum, Grupo Mazz, Joel Frahm, Rob Levit, the Unified Jazz Ensemble, and many others. SFC Harrison is also an accomplished illustrator and cartoonist, and enjoys participation in local triathlons, cycling, scuba diving, and fishing.