

Trombone Ensemble Bio
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The United States Army Field Band

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army
Washington, DC

THE U.S. ARMY FIELD BAND TROMBONE ENSEMBLE

The United States Army Field Band Trombone Ensemble, has been one of the Army Field Band's official chamber ensembles for nearly nine years. In 2009, they produced *Trombone: A Player's Guide*, as part of the Army Field Band's instructional video series. Performing recitals, brass clinics, and masterclasses at colleges, universities, and conservatories across the country, The U.S. Army Field Band Trombone Ensemble represents the best United States military bands have to offer.

Sergeant Major Mark A. Bowling, trombone, holds a Master of Music degree from Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Theory and Composition from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania. He has been a member of The U.S. Army Field Band since 1989 and has appeared as a soloist on numerous national concert tours. He was a founding member of the Embassy Brass, which performed at dozens of colleges and conservatories throughout the country, and served two week-long residencies at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute. SGM Bowling has twice appeared as a featured performer and clinician at the International Trombone Festival, and has been a guest artist at the Midwest Clinic and the International Women's Brass Conference.

Master Sergeant Aaron Kadrmas, trombone, has been a member of The U.S. Army Field Band since 1995. He attended the Interlochen Center for the Arts and Western Michigan University, where he studied with Jeannie Little and Dr. Steve Wolfinbarger. MSG Kadrmas was the winner of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Young Artist Competition and the Interlochen Center for the Arts Concerto Competition. He has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the Cincinnati Pops. As a member of the Army Field Band Brass Quintet, he has given clinics and recitals at high schools, colleges, and universities across America.

Sergeant First Class Todd Sturniolo, trombone, earned his Master of Music degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with Steve Witser. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance from Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pennsylvania, where he studied with James Erdman. SFC Sturniolo is an active trombonist, performing in the trombone section and as soloist with the Concert Band. He has also appeared as a guest artist and soloist with the Jazz Ambassadors. Prior to joining The U.S. Army Field Band in 2003, he was a member of the Canton Symphony Orchestra (Ohio) and performed with the Cleveland Orchestra Blossom Festival Band. SFC Sturniolo has served as an adjudicator for International Trombone Association trombone competitions.

Sergeant First Class Carmen Russo, trombone, studied with Per Brevig at the Aspen School of Music and later studied with Don Kneeburg, ultimately earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Florida in 1997. From 1994-2004 he performed with a variety of professional organizations including, The Florida Orchestra, Florida West Coast Symphony, The Symphony of Southwest Florida, Sarasota Opera, Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, and for the Holland America and Carnival Cruise Lines. SFC Russo also performed with the Grandlink World opening festival band in Qingdao, China, in addition to several traveling off-Broadway shows including The Lion King, Cinderella, 42nd Street, The Producers, Chicago, and Showboat.

Sergeant First Class Wesley Ballenger, bass trombone, is the bass trombonist with the Concert Band, The U.S. Army Field Band Trombone Ensemble, and the Federal Brass Instrumentalists. SFC Ballenger has performed as soloist with the Concert Band on works by Chris Brubeck, Daniel Schnyder, and Eric Ewazen. SFC Ballenger earned his Bachelor of Music degree from Indiana University in 2005, where he studied with M. Dee Stewart and Peter Ellefson. He also spent four months abroad in Vienna, Austria studying with Ian Bousfield. SFC Ballenger served as bass trombonist with the Richmond (IN) Symphony Orchestra, the Columbus (IN) Philharmonic Orchestra, and the 2004 Disney Collegiate All-Star Band in Orlando, Florida. When he is not traveling all over the country with the Army Field Band, SFC Ballenger enjoys traveling all over the country with his wife, Becky.