



The United States Army Field Band

Woodwind Ambassadors Bio
October 2, 2015
Word Count: 717

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army
Washington, DC

THE WOODWIND AMBASSADORS

The Woodwind Ambassadors are active participants in The U.S. Army Field Band's educational outreach program, performing for music students ranging from pre-school to postgraduate. In addition to formal recital performances at colleges and Universities throughout the nation, the Woodwind Ambassadors introduce students of all ages to the instruments and literature of the wind quintet through educational programs, ensemble coaching, and masterclasses. Along with performing standard works from the wind quintet literature, the Woodwind Ambassadors are also committed to presenting lesser known duos, trios, and quartets as part of these programs.

Staff Sergeant Kasumi Leonard, flute, is originally from Seattle, Washington and joined The U.S. Army Field Band in 2009. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree from The Eastman School of Music where she studied with Bonita Boyd and Anne Lindblom Harrow. During her studies at The Eastman School of Music, SSG Leonard performed as a substitute with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. She has also performed with the New York String Orchestra, the National Orchestral Institute, the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra, and the Inscape Chamber Orchestra.

Originally from Milton, Massachusetts, **Staff Sergeant Sarah Schram-Borg, oboe**, holds a Master of Music degree from Yale University and a Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music. Her principal teachers were Richard Killmer and Alex Klein. Prior to joining The U.S. Army Field Band, SSG Schram-Borg performed with many ensembles, including the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, American Modern Ensemble, New Jersey and New Haven Symphonies, and on the Broadway shows *Wicked* and *Les Miserables*. She is currently the oboist with the Woodwind Ambassadors.

Originally from Virginia Beach, Virginia, **Sergeant First Class John Blair, clarinet**, holds a Master of Music degree from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor of Music degree from James Madison University. His principal teachers include Richie Hawley, Steve Cohen, Ron de Kant, Dr. Janice Minor, Dr. D. Ray McClellan, and Patti Carlson. As a member of The U.S. Army Field Band, SFC Blair has performed as soloist with the Concert Band and on the Army Field Band's Chamber Recital Series. He is a member of the Woodwind Ambassadors and has performed numerous educational outreach concerts and masterclasses. SFC Blair has also performed professionally with the Tidewater Winds Concert Band, the Penn's Woods Festival Orchestra, the Howard County Ballet Orchestra, the Columbia Orchestra, and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra in conjunction with the Bay Youth Symphony Orchestra. SFC Blair is currently a substitute clarinetist with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra.

Staff Sergeant Thaddeus Macaulay Crutcher, Jr., bassoon, has been a member of The U.S. Army Field Band since 2007. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music where he studied bassoon, flute, and music education. From 2005 to 2007, SSG Crutcher served as bassoonist and flutist with the Army Ground Forces Band stationed at Ft. McPherson, Georgia. While there he was awarded the Army Accommodation Medal for being an outstanding soloist. He has given masterclasses and clinics of all levels across the United States and has performed with the Ludwig Symphony, The New Atlanta Philharmonic, The Gateway Symphony Orchestra, The Manassas Ballet, The Gilded Flute and Harp Duo, The U.S. Army Field Band Woodwind Quintet and the Army Ground Forces Band Woodwind Quintet. SSG Crutcher's teachers include John Hunt, David Vanhoesen, Dale Clark, David Conn, Carl Hall, Donna Shin, and Jim Zellers.

Master Sergeant Alan White, horn, earned a Master of Music degree from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the Peabody Conservatory of The Johns Hopkins University. Prior to joining The U.S. Army Field Band, he performed as Associate Principal Horn of La Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de Mexico (Toluca), Second Horn with the American Wind Symphony Orchestra, and the Cape Town (South Africa) Philharmonic. MSG White has served as group leader of the Pentagon Winds and is currently a member of the Woodwind Ambassadors. He also serves as the French Horn Section Leader with the Concert Band. In addition, he has performed with the Army Field Band Horn Quartet at two International Horn Society Symposiums, and with the Pentagon Winds at an International Double Reed Society Symposium. MSG White's primary horn teachers include Leigh Martinet, Robert Pierce, Peter Landgren, and Michael Hatfield.