



The United States Army Field Band

Woodwind Quintet Bio
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The Musical Ambassadors of the Army
Washington, DC

THE WOODWIND QUINTET

The United States Army Field Band Woodwind Quintet formed in 2008 specifically to perform at the junior high and high school level. Though the quintet's audience goes beyond the classroom, education remains at the heart of this ensemble's mission. Exposing the next generation of musicians to professional-standard performances, clinics, and masterclasses, the Woodwind Quintet is a prime example of the Army Field Band's ability to enrich a community through musical excellence and educational outreach.

A native of Silver Spring, Maryland, **Sergeant First Class Katayoon Hodjati, flute**, joined The U.S. Army Field Band in 2004. Prior to her appointment, she performed with the Musica Nova, Mesa, and Phoenix Symphonies. SFC Hodjati received both a Doctor of Musical Arts and a Master of Music degree from Arizona State University. She also holds a Bachelor of Music degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from Oberlin College and Conservatory. SFC Hodjati is the flutist in The U.S. Army Field Band Woodwind Quintet and serves as flute section leader. When not performing, she is pursuing her other passions of teaching, cooking, yoga, and Middle Eastern dance.

Staff Sergeant Erika Grimm, oboe, began playing the oboe at age nine and pursued music through high school and college at festivals such as the Interlochen Arts Camp and Brevard Music Festival. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from The Florida State University, where she studied with Eric Ohlsson. Erika went on to pursue a Master of Music Degree and Performer Diploma at Indiana University. Her primary teachers were Linda Strommen and Roger Roe. SSG Grimm teaches oboe privately and is active as a performer in Washington, DC and Baltimore. She is currently a member of The U.S. Army Field Band Woodwind Quintet and plays with the Baltimore Blasserquintet.

Sergeant First Class C. Michael Sears, clarinet, is from Lithia Springs, Georgia. He earned a Master of Music degree from Indiana University studying under Howard Klug and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Georgia, where he studied with Dr. Theodore Jahn. Before joining The U.S. Army Field Band, he was a guest artist in Costa Rica for Promising Artists of the 21st Century program. While serving as clarinetist for the Concert Band, SFC Sears has been featured as a soloist on numerous concert tours and as Assistant Principal clarinetist. When not performing with the Concert Band, SFC Sears enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters. He also enjoys running, biking, and basketball.

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, **Staff Sergeant Sergio Acosta** joined the United States Army Field Band bassoon section in 2015. SSG Acosta previously performed with the Beloit-Janesville Symphony Orchestra, the Odyssey Winds woodwind quintet, Four Seasons Theatre of Madison, The Madison Savoyards, and The Children's Theater of Madison. SSG Acosta attended the University of Wisconsin - Madison where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in flute performance, studying with Stephanie Jutt, and a Master of Music degree in bassoon performance, studying with Marc Vallon.

A native of Edina, Minnesota, **Staff Sergeant Rebecca Bainbridge, horn**, has been a member of The U.S. Army Field Band since 2014. She has also served with the 323rd Army Band "Fort Sam's Own" in San Antonio, TX. Prior to joining the Army, SSG Bainbridge was an active freelancer in Colorado performing with the Colorado Symphony, Boulder Philharmonic, Greeley Philharmonic, and various other small groups throughout the Front Range. She has participated in music festivals around the world, including the Tusciana Opera Festival in Italy, Burgos Chamber Music Festival in Spain, Chautauqua Music Festival, and Crested Butte Music Festival. SSG Bainbridge attended school at the University of Colorado at Boulder and the Manhattan School of Music. Her primary teachers include Michael Thornton and Michelle Baker. When not performing, she enjoys yoga, weightlifting, cooking, and spending time with her husband.