

Capitol Clarinets Bio
August 31, 2011
Word count: 254



The United States Army Field Band

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army
Washington, DC

CAPITOL CLARINETS

The Capitol Clarinets were founded in Summer 2010. Originally a clarinet trio meant to supplement the Army Field Band's clinic teams, the group later added a fourth player to allow for more versatility. The group is dedicated to continual growth, frequently adding to their repertoire with new and original works. The Capitol Clarinets offer elementary through college-level clinics, as well as recitals open to the public.

Staff Sergeant Steven Joel Klenke holds a Bachelor's degree with Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. His principal teachers include Kenneth Grant and John Yeh. SSG Klenke has performed with the Eastman Virtuosi, the Bard College Conductor's Institute Orchestra, and the National Repertory Orchestra. In his spare time, SSG Klenke enjoys backpacking and landscape photography.

Staff Sergeant Jeremy Klenke is a native of Aurora, Illinois. Prior to joining The U.S. Army Field Band, SSG Klenke attended The Eastman School of Music, where he studied with Ken Grant. While attending The Eastman School of Music, he performed as soloist at Carnegie Hall and appeared on the Latin Grammy-nominated performance of Jorge Liderman's *Barcelonazo*. SSG Klenke began studying clarinet with his mom at the age of 10, subsequently studying with John Bruce Yeh and Susan Warner. SSG Klenke is an avid long-distance runner, chess player, and pianist.

Staff Sergeant Matthew Sikes earned his Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan and his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Georgia, where he was a recipient of the Theodore Jahn Memorial Woodwind Award and the Alice Whitaker Award. Prior to joining The U.S. Army Field Band, SSG Sikes performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and was a substitute musician with the Augusta Symphony Orchestra. His primary teachers include D. Ray McClellan, Dan Gilbert, Fred Ormand, and Lee Livengood.

Staff Sergeant Kevin Walko earned a Master of Music degree from Northwestern University under the tutelage of Steven Cohen and J. Lawrie Bloom. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Duquesne University, where he studied classically with Jack Howell and jazz studies with Mike Tomaro and Sean Jones. SSG Walko is an active teacher, composer, and copyist in central Maryland. He has performed with Sean Jones, Paquito D'Rivera, Bob Mintzer, Yo-Yo Ma, Eddie Daniels, and William Preucil. In his free time, SSG Walko captains ultimate frisbee teams for the Central Maryland Ultimate Association.