

Chamber Clarinets 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 CHAMBER CLARINETS

The United States Army Field Band Chamber Clarinets were formed in 2007, and since then have performed recitals and educational clinics across the United States. Originally created to supplement the Field Band's clinic teams, the Chamber Clarinets now regularly perform recitals at colleges, universities, and other venues, showcasing the versatility and technical facility that sets the Army Field Band apart.

Sergeant First Class C. Michael Sears is a native of Lithia Springs, Georgia. He received a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Georgia, where he studied with Theodore Jahn, and a Master of Music from Indiana University, where he studied with Howard Klug. In addition to founding the Chamber Clarinets and serving as its NCOIC, he has also served as assistant principal of the Concert Band and been featured regularly as a soloist. Prior to joining the Field Band in 2002, he appeared as featured soloist with the University of Georgia Wind Ensemble and as a guest artist with the Promising Artists of the Twenty-First Century series in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Staff Sergeant Lauren France received a Bachelor of Music from the University of Georgia, where she studied with Ray McClellan. A native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, she received a Master of Music from the University of Michigan, where she studied with Fred Ormand. SSG France has performed with the Gainesville (Georgia) Symphony Orchestra, among others.

Staff Sergeant Chad Martin calls Madison, South Dakota, home. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Augustana College and a Master of Music in Wind Instruments from the University of Michigan. Prior to serving with the Field Band, he served with the US Army Europe Band in Heidelberg, Germany. SSG Martin has performed with the South Dakota Symphony, Adrian Symphony, and the Blaeserphilharmonie Heilbronn, and taught with the Michigan All-State Program at the Interlochen Center for the Arts. His teachers include Beverly Gibson, Christopher Hill, and Deborah Chodacki.

Staff Sergeant Matthew Sikes is originally from Savannah, GA. He holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the University of Georgia, where he studied with Dan Gilbert, Fred Ormand, and Ray McClellan. Prior to joining the Field Band, SSG Sikes was a substitute clarinetist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.