



The United States Army Field Band

Woodwind Ambassadors Bio
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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.

Sergeant First Class Sarah Eckman McIver, flute, is from Springfield, Virginia. SFC McIver is currently pursuing a D.M.A. at the University of Maryland, College Park. She earned a M.M. at Royal Northern College of Music in Great Britain and a B.M. at McGill University. She has studied with Timothy Hutchins, Peter Lloyd, and Dr. William Montgomery.

Staff Sergeant Leah Kadlac Forsyth, oboe, received a Bachelor of Music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music from The Florida State University. Her primary teachers include Mark Ostoich and Eric Ohlsson. She has served as the English horn player for the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra and has performed with the Tallahassee and the Columbus Symphony Orchestras.

Staff Sergeant John C. Blair, clarinet, is a native of Virginia Beach, Virginia. He has performed with the Tidewater Winds Concert Band, the Penn's Woods Festival Orchestra, and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. SSG Blair earned a bachelor's degree in music education at James Madison University, where he studied with Leslie Nicholas, D. Ray McClellan, and Janice Minor. He earned a master's degree in clarinet performance at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Ronald DeKant and Steve Cohen.

Staff Sergeant Patricia Dusold, bassoon, is a native of Glenn Dale, Maryland. Prior to joining The Musical Ambassadors of the Army, Staff Sergeant Dusold performed with the Chattanooga Symphony. She has appeared at music festivals across the country, including the Tanglewood Music Center, Pacific Music Festival, and Blossom Music Festival. She can be heard on the Atlanta Chamber Winds recording, "Music From Paris." SSG Dusold holds degrees from the Peabody Institute and Rice University, where she studied with Linda Harwell and Benjamin Kamins.

Staff Sergeant Christy LaBarca, french horn, is a native of State College, Pennsylvania. SSG Christy LaBarca is originally from State College, PA. Prior to joining the Field Band SSG LaBarca performed with the National Repertory Orchestra, Brevard Symphony, and was a substitute with the New World Symphony and Boston Brass. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Music Therapy from Duquesne University and is currently pursuing a Master of Music from Yale University, where she studies with William Purvis.