



The United States Army Field Band

JA Jazztet bio
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The Musical Ambassadors of the Army
Washington, DC

THE AMBASSADORS JAZZTET OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY FIELD BAND

The Ambassadors Jazztet of The United States Army Field Band was developed in the legendary style of Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. It is composed of members of the Jazz Ambassadors of The United States Army Field Band, the Army's premier touring jazz orchestra. Though the Jazztet performs traditional jazz standards, its primary focus is on new compositions by members of the group. The compositions vary greatly, sometimes paying homage to older styles and sometimes developing an entirely new sound, but always creating a vehicle for improvised solos. The Ambassadors Jazztet has presented clinics at colleges and high schools throughout the United States, addressing such subjects as improvisation, arranging, composition, jazz theory, and practice and performance techniques. Notable performances include the Midwest Clinic, Aspen Summer Music Festival, Iowa Bandmasters Conference, and jazz festivals in Toronto, Victoria, and Vancouver, Canada.

Born and raised in Spokane, Washington, **Master Sergeant Pat Shook** currently plays tenor saxophone and woodwinds with the Jazz Ambassadors. MSG Shook earned a Master of Music degree at the University of North Texas and a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Idaho. When not touring the country with the Jazz Ambassadors, he maintains an active teaching, recording and performing schedule in the Washington, DC and Baltimore areas. As a Summit Records recording artist, MSG Shook has released two albums as co-leader: "The Shook-Russo-Young Quartet featuring Greg Gisbert" and "So Far From Home."

Sergeant First Class Thomas Davis, trumpet, was born in Arkansas and raised in Arlington, Texas and began playing trumpet at the age of 11 and later attended James Martin High School. SFC Davis received his undergraduate education from the University of North Texas, where he performed with the prestigious One and Two o'clock Lab Bands. Before joining the Jazz Ambassadors in 2013, SFC Davis was an active freelance musician and horn arranger in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. He has performed with Gladys Knight, The Temptations, and Dave Brubeck, and has recorded with various gospel acts in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. SFC Davis also enjoys composing music, playing electric bass, and working out with kettlebells.

Originally from Troy, Michigan, **Staff Sergeant Matt Corrigan** has been playing music his entire life, starting on piano at the age of six and picking up the trombone a few years later. In 2015, Matt received a Bachelor of Music from the University of North Texas where he was a member of the prestigious, Grammy-nominated One O'Clock Lab Band. After getting his undergraduate degree, Matt briefly studied at the University of Southern California before leaving to join the Jazz Ambassadors in the fall of 2017. While at North Texas and Southern California, Matt studied with Tony Baker and Andy Martin, respectively. He also studied composition and arranging in classes taught by Rich DeRosa and Bob Mintzer.

Staff Sergeant Anthony Pocetti, piano, is from Hamilton, New Jersey. He began classical piano instruction at age six. At the age of 13, some friends invited him to form a small jazz group with them. They introduced him to jazz through recordings by Thelonius Monk, Horace Silver, Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and others. At the age of 14, SSG Pocetti began studying with jazz pianist and composer Jim Ridl. As a soloist in his high school jazz band, he received many awards at competitions including Berklee College of Music's High School Jazz Festival. SSG Pocetti moved to New York City to attend New York University where he studied with many renowned musicians including Don Friedman, Jean Michel Pilc, Gil Goldstein, Kenny Werner, Andy Milne, Rich Shemaria, Billy Drummond, Mike Richmond, and others. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Piano Performance from NYU in

2011. He went on to study at Manhattan School of Music with Ted Rosenthal where he received his Master of Music degree in Jazz Piano Performance in 2013. SSG Pocetti has performed at top jazz clubs including The Blue Note, The Iridium, Smalls Jazz Club, Chris' Jazz Cafe, and Blues Alley. SSG Pocetti has proudly served as pianist for The Jazz Ambassadors since 2018.

Sergeant First Class Jonathan Epley, guitar, earned a Master of Music degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Louisville. He studied guitar under Craig Wagner and arranging/composition under John LaBarbera. He has performed with Jamey Aebersold, David "Fathead" Newman, and Delfeayo Marsalis, among others. Before joining The U.S. Army Field Band in 2011, SFC Epley served with the U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus in Heidelberg, Germany.

Originally from Jonesboro, Arkansas, **Staff Sergeant Hamilton Price**, began playing tuba at 14 and switched his focus to the upright bass at 17. He received his Bachelor's degree in Classical Double Bass Performance from the University of Texas at Austin. SSG Price studied improvised music with bassist John Fremgen and pianist Jeff Hellmer. He played in Gerry Gibbs' Thrasher Band for five years in and around Texas, backing up Ravi Coltrane and Tom Harrell, among others. In 2006, Hamilton moved to Los Angeles, where he was thrust into the vibrant and diverse L.A. music scene. With L.A. as a base, he toured nationally and internationally with the likes of Billy Childs and Eric Reed. SSG Price has been featured on numerous albums, including the twice Grammy-nominated "When Lights Are Low" with vocalist Denise Donatelli and pianist Geoffrey Keezer. SSG Price is one of the newest members of the Jazz Ambassadors, and is an avid runner.

Staff Sergeant Wesley Anderson, drums, was born in Scottsdale, Arizona, and earned a Bachelors Degree in Jazz Studies Performance from Arizona State University in 2010. In 2012 he relocated to Los Angeles, California, where he began working as a professional musician at Disneyland and began touring nationally and internationally with pianist, Eric Reed. Before SSG Anderson became a member of the Jazz Ambassadors in 2016, he was blessed with the opportunities to perform with numerous Jazz luminaries, including: Kenny Burrell, Ron Eschete, Barry Zweig, John Clayton, Bobby Pierce, Ernie Andrews, Les McCann, Mary Stallings, Allan Harris, Wycliffe Gordon, Rodney Whitaker, Reginald Thomas, Ronald Carter (Sax), Brice Winston, Eric Schneider, Daniel Barrett, Rusty Stiers, John Noryeko, Sam Pilafian, Patrick Sheridan, Gregg Bissonette, Gordon Goodwin and select others. SSG Anderson lives outside Baltimore, Maryland with his wife Alexis, and is honored to serve his country as the drummer for America's Big Band.