



The United States Army Field Band

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The Musical Ambassadors of the Army
Washington, DC

THE JAZZ AMBASSADORS DIXIELAND BAND

The Jazz Ambassadors Dixieland Band is an ensemble known for their positive energy and sound musicianship. Inspired mainly by the swinging styles of the great Louis Armstrong and Jack Teagarden, they play a wide variety of traditional jazz, from the classics of the 1920's and '30's to the early small group swing of the 40's and 50's. Comprised of key members of the Jazz Ambassadors, this popular small ensemble is featured at nearly every Jazz Ambassadors concert. The ensemble's most memorable concerts have been in VA hospitals, Soldiers' home care facilities, elementary schools, and Independence Day appearances on *Good Morning, America!* and *Fox and Friends*.

Master Sergeant Bradford Danho, clarinet, is a native of Cranston, Rhode Island and has played tenor saxophone with the Jazz Ambassadors since 2008. MSG Danho earned a Master of Music degree from the University of North Texas, where he played lead alto saxophone with the world-renowned One O'Clock Lab Band and shared the stage with jazz legends such as Phil Woods and Benny Golson. He also received a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the Hartt School of the University of Hartford. He has studied saxophone with James Riggs and Michael Menapace and flute with Mary-Karen Clardy. MSG Danho has shared the stage with such artists as Bob Mintzer, Maria Schneider, Pete Christlieb, Bill Holman, Eddie Daniels, and Dick Oatts. He is a two-time alumnus of the Henry Mancini Institute and was a finalist in the 2004 North American Saxophone Alliance Jazz Competition.

A Minneapolis native, **Staff Sergeant Preston Haining, trumpet**, joined the U.S. Army Field Band in 2019. He received his Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies from the University of North Texas, where he had the privilege of performing with the One and Two o'clock Lab Bands. After graduating from UNT, he spent time in Minneapolis before landing in Los Angeles, CA. He enjoyed an active freelance career in the LA area before and after spending a year and a half on the road with the national tour of Roundabout Theater Company's production of Cabaret the Musical. He currently resides in Baltimore, Maryland with his wife, Amy. In his free time, SSG Haining enjoys playing the bass, reading about space exploration, roasting coffee, and hanging out at home with his two cats.

Originally from College Station, Texas, **Staff Sergeant Kyle Johnson, trombone**, holds degrees from Texas State University and The Juilliard School. In 2011, he was selected to perform with the Disneyland All-American College Band. As a band member, he performed over 200 shows at Disneyland and accompanied guest artists such as John Clayton and Arturo Sandoval. In 2013, he won the International Trombone Association's Carl Fontana Competition, and his jazz trombone ensemble Hill Country Jazz Bones, won the Eastern Trombone Workshop's Jazz Trombone Ensemble Competition. SSG Johnson enjoys performing jazz and latin music as well as composing and arranging.

Sergeant First Class Jonathan Epley, banjo, 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.

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.

Originally from Jonesboro, Arkansas, **Staff Sergeant Hamilton Price, bass**, 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.

Staff Sergeant Wesley Anderson, drums, was born in Scottsdale, Arizona, and earned a Bachelor's 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.