

Recess Bio
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The United States Army Field Band

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army
Washington, DC

RECESS

Recess, one of The U.S. Army Field Band's newest educational outreach ensembles, focuses on engaging, high-energy performances for pre-kindergarten and elementary students. The group consists of members of both the Soldiers' Chorus and Concert Band, all of whom are former music educators. Recess incorporates Broadway favorites, patriotic standards, ragtime, and classic children's songs with a uniquely interactive approach to concert programming.

Sergeant Major Thomas Enokian, vibraphone and drum set, earned a Bachelor of Music degree from The Eastman School of Music and currently serves as the Percussion Group Leader. He has been a featured soloist on many concert tours. SGM Enokian has also performed with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, and the Maryland Philharmonic.

Sergeant First Class Phillip Kiamie, xylophone and drum set, began his musical studies at the age of five with his father. He received a Graduate Diploma from the New England Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor of Music degree from Boston University. His principal teachers were Thomas Gauger and J. Will Hudgins of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. SFC Kiamie has been a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the South Bend Symphony of Indiana, and the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival Orchestra in Germany. He has also performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. He is married to Adrienne Sommerville Kiamie, and they have two daughters, Grace and Alice.

Sergeant First Class Erica Russo, vocalist and announcer, earned a Master of Arts degree in Musicology at The Ohio State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and Russian at Florida State University. She taught vocal music at the Columbus School for Girls, and performed with the Columbus Symphony Chorus and Chamber Chorus for three years.

Staff Sergeant Joel Ciaccio, double bass and vocalist, earned a Master of Music degree from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Music degree from The Eastman School of Music. He studied with Ira Gold, Ali Yazdanfar, Curtis Burris of the National Symphony Orchestra, and James B. VanDemark of The Eastman School of Music.

Staff Sergeant Charles Parris, vocalist, is a native of Washington, D.C. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Tennessee State University, Nashville. SSG Parris has performed as a member of the cathedral choirs of Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, the Washington National Cathedral, and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. He appeared as Soloist with the Nashville, Columbus (OH), and Jacksonville (FL) symphonies. SSG Parris is a proud member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity.

Staff Sergeant Meghan Whittier, vocalist, is a native of Herndon, Virginia. She earned a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting and a Bachelor of Music degree from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Prior to joining the Soldiers' Chorus, SSG Whittier taught choral and instrumental music at the university and secondary school levels. She is also a frequent professional choral singer and soloist in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.