



The United States Army Field Band

Woodwind Quintet Bio
February 19, 2020
Word Count: 622

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army
Washington, DC

THE WOODWIND QUINTET

The United States Army Field Band Woodwind Quintet formed in 2008 specifically to perform at the junior high and high school level. Though the quintet's audience goes beyond the classroom, education remains at the heart of this ensemble's mission. Exposing the next generation of musicians to professional-standard performances, clinics, and masterclasses, the Woodwind Quintet is a prime example of the Army Field Band's ability to enrich a community through musical excellence and educational outreach.

A native of Silver Spring, Maryland, **Sergeant First Class Katayoon Hodjati, flute**, joined The U.S. Army Field Band in 2004. Prior to her appointment, she performed with the Musica Nova, Mesa, and Phoenix Symphonies. SFC Hodjati received both a Doctor of Musical Arts and a Master of Music degree from Arizona State University. She also holds a Bachelor of Music degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from Oberlin College and Conservatory. SFC Hodjati is the flutist in The U.S. Army Field Band Woodwind Quintet and serves as flute section leader. When not performing, she is pursuing her other passions of teaching, cooking, yoga, and Middle Eastern dance.

Sergeant First Class Erika Grimm, oboe, began playing the oboe at age nine and pursued music through high school and college at festivals such as the Interlochen Arts Camp and Brevard Music Festival. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from The Florida State University, where she studied with Eric Ohlsson. Erika went on to pursue a Master of Music Degree and Performer Diploma at Indiana University. Her primary teachers were Linda Strommen and Roger Roe. SFC Grimm teaches oboe privately and is active as a performer in Washington, DC and Baltimore. She is currently a member of The U.S. Army Field Band Woodwind Quintet and plays with the Baltimore Bläserquintet.

Staff Sergeant Dane Clark, clarinet, is a native of Jupiter, Florida. He joined The U.S. Army Field Band in 2018, and is a member of the Concert Band and The U.S. Army Field Band Woodwind Quintet. SSG Clark received a Master of Music degree with Distinction from DePaul University and a Bachelor of Music degree from The Florida State University. SSG Clark's primary mentors have been Robert DiLutis, Larry Combs, Julie DeRoche, Frank Kowalsky, Michael Forte, and Jerome Levine. SSG Clark maintains a private clarinet studio in Maryland and is currently a substitute clarinetist with the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, **Sergeant First Class Sergio Acosta, bassoon**, joined the United States Army Field Band bassoon section in 2015. SFC Acosta previously performed with the Beloit-Janesville Symphony Orchestra, the Odyssey Winds woodwind quintet, Four Seasons Theatre of Madison, The Madison Savoyards, and The Children's Theater of Madison. SFC Acosta attended the University of Wisconsin - Madison where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in flute performance, studying with Stephanie Jutt, and a Master of Music degree in bassoon performance, studying with Marc Vallon.

A native of Edina, Minnesota, **Staff Sergeant Kaci Cummings, horn**, has been a member of The U.S. Army Field Band since 2018. Kaci is a Texas native who recently graduated from The Juilliard School with a Bachelor of Music degree. She has performed with the Juilliard Orchestra in many venues including Alice Tully Hall, the Modern Museum of Art, and Carnegie Hall. In addition to the modern horn, SSG Cummings also performed many concerts and international tours on natural horn with Juilliard 415. A Kendall Betts Horn Camp Alumni, SSG Cummings was both a student and staff member at the prestigious camp. She is also a graduate and alumni of the Interlochen Arts Academy. SSG Cummings has studied with Eric Reed, Michelle Baker, Julie Landsman, Gustavo Camacho and David Cross.