

The United States Air Force Academy Band

The United States Air Force Academy Band proudly represents the Air Force Academy as the leading educational institution developing and inspiring air and space leaders of character with a vision for tomorrow. As one of two Air Force premier musical organizations, the Academy Band maintains a rigorous performance schedule in support of Cadet and Air Force troop morale, recruiting and community outreach. For over 50 years, the Academy Band has used the power of music to inspire Air Force personnel and the nation they serve, produce innovative musical programs and products, and communicate Air Force excellence to millions around the globe.



The USAF Academy Band appears on behalf of Lieutenant General Mike Gould, Superintendent, USAF Academy. All performances are free and open to the public.



U.S. AIR FORCE
ABOVE ALL.

AIR | SPACE | CYBERSPACE

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY BAND

Lieutenant Colonel Larry H. Lang - Commander

BLUE STEEL



Blue Steel

Blue Steel is the premier commercial popular music ensemble of the United States Air Force Academy Band. Various line-ups of Blue Steel have been in operation for more than thirty years, enhancing community relations and supporting the recruiting mission of the USAF Academy and the United States Air Force. Blue Steel's mission also includes deployment, military support and troop morale. Currently, Blue Steel is made up of seven elite musicians that perform high energy music from a variety of genres. Blue Steel's versatile performers capture audiences with pop music, classic rock, country music and original compositions. Whether on a flight line in the desert, high school gymnasium, large concert hall or a national sporting event, Blue Steel has the ability to create the ideal atmosphere for any performance venue or setting.



Commander and Conductor



Lieutenant Colonel Larry H. Lang, *Commander and Conductor of The United States Air Force Academy Band*, entered the United States Air Force in January of 1990. He received his Air Force commission through Officer Training School in San Antonio, Texas, and in May of 1990 was assigned as Deputy Commander of the Air Force Band of Flight, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. His remarkable success there led to his early command appointment in April 1993 as the Commander of the Air Force

Band of the Pacific, headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska. In October of 1995, he was handpicked by the Commander of Air Combat Command to lead the USAF Heritage of America Band at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. Under his leadership, the Heritage of America Band maintained a worldwide reputation for military and musical excellence, earning an unprecedented five Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards. From July 2004 to June 2005, Colonel Lang attended Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, where he earned a Master of Military Operational Arts and Science degree, followed by an assignment in July of 2005 as Commander of the Air Force Band of Liberty at Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts.

A native of El Paso, Texas, Colonel Lang began his career in music as a trombonist, attending New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, where he earned his Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Performance degrees in 1980. He went on to complete a Master of Science degree in Music Education at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, and was appointed to the faculty there in 1982. The following year, Colonel Lang accepted the position as Assistant Director of Bands at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana where he directed Symphonic, Marching and Jazz Bands, and the McNeese Summer Music and Fine Arts Program.

In 2005, Colonel Lang was elected as a member of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. He is also a member of the National Band Association, the Conductor's Guild, the American Symphony Orchestra League, and the College Band Directors National Association. He is active as a guest conductor and clinician throughout the United States. Colonel Lang assumed command of The USAF Academy Band in August of 2007.

The United States Air Force Academy

When it comes to choosing a college, options seem almost endless. For the highly motivated high school graduate who is looking for something more from their college experience, The United States Air Force Academy is easily the first choice.



At a time when options are wide open, those who consider bigger goals, deeper learning, time-honored character development and possibly, a more rewarding future, choose to attend one of the most prestigious educational institutions in the world.

The Academy offers a world-class education, the opportunity to fly, and a guaranteed career right out of college. Many cadets create professional relationships that last a lifetime. It is true that there is no financial cost to attend the Academy, but there is a hefty price tag. Academy cadets pay for their education with sweat, hard work, early mornings, and late nights. They are held to the highest standards, without exception, and upon graduation are required to serve at least five years as a leader in the United States Air Force.

With that price comes an experience that can't be found anywhere else. Air Force Academy cadets are surrounded by other young Americans who are pushing themselves to the limits, developing strength and character and discovering the qualities that make great leaders.

Blue Steel Fact Sheet

What they are

Six-piece popular music group featuring high-energy vocal and instrumental performances, performing for audiences across the country

One of ten performing groups that comprise the 68-member United States Air Force Academy Band

What they do

Travel nationwide performing public concerts, patriotic shows, and civic and military functions, highlighting the best of today's popular music in support of the United States Air Force

In conjunction with local Air Force school recruiting programs, Blue Steel provides students with a positive image of professionals in today's Air Force

What makes them unique?

Tremendous variety of contemporary popular musical styles performed for a broad range of audiences

Air Force Academy Band Information

Key Personnel

Lieutenant Colonel Larry H. Lang—Commander/Conductor
Chief Master Sergeant Scott M. Barbier—Band Manager, Logistics
Chief Master Sergeant Randall A. Doersch—Band Manager, Support
Mr. Frederick C. Correll—Director of Operations

Contact for More Information

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY BAND
520 OTIS STREET
PETERSON AFB, CO 80914-1620
(719) 556-9916
FAX: (719) 556-9963

Personnel



Master Sergeant Jeremy Laukhuf, *bass and group leader*, hails from Lima, Ohio. He attended The Ohio State University where he received the Bachelor of Music degree in jazz studies. Prior to enlisting in the United States Air Force in 1999, he performed as a professional bassist in jazz, blues, salsa, rock, and pop bands. He entered the United States Air Force in June of 1999, and became a member of The Heartland of America Band,

Offutt AFB, Nebraska. While at Offutt, Jeremy was the bassist and musical director for the popular musical group “Night Wing.” Sergeant Laukhuf has been a member of The United States Air Force Academy Band since May of 2002.

Senior Master Sergeant James Bristow, *guitar*, is a native of Manhattan, Kansas. He joined the United States Air Force Academy Band in 1989. He has been a contributing member in virtually all of The Academy Band’s family of musical ensembles and has performed in most musical mediums, such as jazz, rock, rhythm and blues, traditional concert band and country music. Sergeant Bristow majored in music at Kansas State University and graduated from the Musicians Institute in Hollywood, California in 1980. His mentors have included guitarists Dawayne Bailey of the group Chicago, Bob Seger, Steely Dan’s Larry Carlton, Robben Ford, Lee Ritenour, Joe Pass, Tommy Tedesco, and Pat Martino. James has performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.



Master Sergeant Chris Gaona, *drum set*, earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Percussion Performance from the University of Colorado in Boulder. His principal percussion teachers include Doug Walter and Chris Hanning with extensive studies in jazz pedagogy with Dr. John Davis. Chris’ experiences as a performer have afforded him opportunities to work with many jazz greats such as Sammy Nestico, The

New York Voices, John Hollenbeck, Shelly Berg, Marcus Roberts, Jon Hendricks and Diane Schuur. As drummer for the Falconaires, he is featured on the recordings String of Pearls, A Touch of Jobim, Ev’rytime We Say Goodbye and he directed the production of the Falconaires latest recording, Just Friends. Chris joined the Air Force Band of Mid-America in 1996 and has been with The United States Air Force Academy Band since July of 1999. Sergeant Gaona is a member of the Marching Band, Concert Band, and Blue Steel.

Technical Sergeant Andrew J. Benton, *piano*, was born January 2nd, 1971 and grew up in Colorado Springs, Co. Expressing an interest in music from a young age and, with the support of his family, Andrew studied piano throughout his primary education years. He studied piano as an undergraduate at Adams State College and went on to receive an M.A. at Indiana University in May, 1997. Upon completion of Basic Military Training Andrew became a member of The United States Air Force Academy Band on April 26th, 2004. As a pianist in the organization, he is proud to serve the band and country in the uniform of The United States Air Force.



Master Sergeant Michael E. Riley, *audio engineer*, is a native of the Rochester, New York. After graduating from high school, he was selected as Concertmaster for the American Musical Ambassadors European Tour in July of 1984, performing in eight countries. In 1987, he was accepted into the State University of New York at Fredonia’s accredited Sound Recording Technology program, studying under

Ross Ritchie. Michael received the Bachelor of Science Degree in 1990, graduating Magna Cum Laude. He then worked as a recording engineer and freelance musician in the Rochester area. Since joining The United States Air Force Academy Band in 2003, Sergeant Riley has worked with virtually every component group of the band, providing live sound reinforcement and recording services. He has been a member of the Audio Engineering Society since 1987.

Technical Sergeant Julie A. Bradley, *voice*, hails from Wichita, Kansas. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with both Bachelor and Master of Music Education Degrees from Wichita State University. Julie studied voice as well as piano and cello. Her teachers include Deborah Baxter, Judith Fear, David Schepps and Elizabeth Carroll. Before joining the Air Force, Julie taught vocal music in both middle school and high school and performed in many operas and musicals including “The Marriage of Figaro” and “Grease.” She has been a featured soloist with the Air Capital Big Band and the Wichita State University Jazz Arts Ensemble. She became a member of The United States Air Force Academy Band in July 1999, and performs with the Concert Band, Marching Band, and Wild Blue Country.

