

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 twelve Air Force Bands, 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.



THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY BAND

Colonel Larry H. Lang - Commander

Academy Winds



Academy Winds

Academy Winds is an exciting member of The Academy Band's family of musical ensembles. This innovative septet is comprised of instrumentalists from every section of the Concert Band to include woodwinds, double reeds, brass, percussion and vocals. The result is an eclectic performance sure to please every audience member. Drawing on fresh, dynamic arrangements, the group presents a wide variety of musical styles, always with contagious enthusiasm. Whether performing renaissance music, symphonic favorites, traditional jazz or even the latest pop chart, this versatile ensemble will have you wondering, "What could possibly be next?"

Academy Winds superbly supports the USAF Academy Band's missions of community relations, educational outreach and Air Force recruiting. The members of Academy Winds have studied at some of the most prestigious universities and music conservatories in the country. The group uses that education to perform spectacular public concerts and to offer outreach to high school and college students through clinics and master classes. Their exceptional musical performance will not only entertain you but will also deliver a patriotic message that will linger in your heart and mind forever. Academy Winds guarantees a memorable musical experience!

Academy Winds is a unique ensemble that captivates and educates students at grade school, high school, and college levels. Using student involvement and a variety of instruments from kazoos to strings, the ensemble explores many genres of music and encourages school pride, patriotism, positive self image and teamwork. They even sneak in the importance of physical fitness and the idea of "excellence in all you do", an Air Force core value! Their message focuses on maximizing personal and professional skills, and is appropriate for the entire student body and faculty. The group is flexible enough to perform in any setting, from an intimate classroom to a large concert hall. In one action-packed performance, Academy Winds will create lasting memories and lifelong lessons for students and educators alike. All events provided by the Academy Winds are free and open to the public.

Commander and Conductor



Colonel Larry H. Lang is Commander and Conductor of the United States Air Force Academy Band at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. He is responsible for executing a \$1.3 million annual budget and for equipping, training and deploying 58 personnel to perform more than 415 missions around the world, reaching live audiences of 1 million people per year, and another 110 million worldwide through audio and video broadcasts.

Born in El Paso, Texas, Colonel Lang began his musical career as a trombonist, attending New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, where he earned bachelor's degrees in music education and music performance in 1980. He went on to complete a master's degree in music education at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, and was appointed to the faculty there in 1982. He also served for seven years as Assistant Director of Bands at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana, before being commissioned in the United States Air Force.

Colonel Lang received his commission through Officer Training School in San Antonio in April 1990. His previous commands include the Air Force Band of the Pacific in Anchorage, Alaska, and the Air Force Heritage of America Band at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. Under his leadership, the Heritage of America Band received five Air Force Organizational Excellence awards. After attending Air Command and Staff College in Alabama, Colonel Lang served as the Commander of the Air Force Band of Liberty in Massachusetts. He was selected to command the Air Force Academy Band in August of 2007.

In 2009, Colonel Lang served as the Officer-in-Charge of the Air Forces Central Command Band, where he oversaw all United States Air Force bands deploying to Southwest Asia. Under his direction, the bands performed for over 15,000 U.S. and Coalition personnel in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Colonel Lang was inducted into the prestigious American Bandmasters Association in 2005. He is also a member of numerous musical associations and is active as a guest conductor and clinician throughout the United States.



Technical Sergeant Julia Taylor, *flute*, is a native of Telford, Pennsylvania. She is a graduate of the Souderton Area High School, and holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Professional credits include work with the Dayton Philharmonic and the Dayton Opera Orchestra. Sergeant Taylor's previous assignments includes the Band of Flight at Wright-Patterson AFB and the

United States Air Forces in Europe Band, Sembach AB Germany. Sergeant Taylor is a Distinguished Graduate and Academic Achievement Award winner of her Airman Leadership School. Her military decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Technical Sergeant Gerald L. Welker,

horn, is a native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Gerald earned both the Bachelor of Music degree and the Master of Music degree from the University of Alabama. Sergeant Welker is an active clinician, having given master classes throughout the United States and at the Royal Academy of Music in London. As a performer, TSgt Welker was principal horn with the Huntsville Symphony, associate principal/3rd horn with the Macon Symphony, and assistant principal horn with the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra. Gerald won the Second Prize in the professional division of the 2007 International Horn Competition of America, as well as being a featured soloist at the 37th Annual International Horn Society Summer Symposium. He has also been named a Yamaha Young Performing Artist, the National Federation of Music Clubs Brass Soloist of the Year, and has performed as a member of the world-renowned TransAtlantic Horn Quartet. TSgt Welker's teachers include Charles Snead, Dale Clevenger, David Ohanian, Richard Watkins, Jamie Sommerville, and Eric Ruske. Welker joined the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America in 2006. He joined the Air Force Academy Band in 2009, and also performs with the Marching Band and Concert Band.



Academy Winds Fact Sheet

What they are

A sextet consisting of flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon and percussion instruments

One of several performing groups that make up The United States Air Force Academy Band

What they do

Perform public concerts, civic functions, master classes for high school and college students, youth concerts, patriotic shows, and military functions in support of the United States Air Force

What makes them unique?

Present a tremendous variety of musical styles to a broad range of audience members, featuring an eclectic collection of musical instruments

Group Leader

Master Sergeant Sarah Balian

Air Force Academy Band Information

Key Personnel

Colonel Larry H. Lang—Commander/Conductor
 Chief Master Sergeant Randall A. Doersch—Band Manager, Support
 Chief Master Sergeant John P. Gohl—Band Manager, Logistics
 Mr. Frederick C. Correll—Director of Operations

Contact for More Information

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Personnel



Master Sergeant Sarah Balian, *oboe and Non-Commissioned Office In-Charge (NCOIC)*, is a native of Charlottesville, Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Music Performance degree and a Bachelor of Arts in French Studies degree from Northwestern University, where she studied with Chicago Symphony oboist Ray Still. She has also studied with Roger Cole and with André Berthéas at the Université de Paris. Sarah was

a member of the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra from 1997-1999, the Boulder Philharmonic from 2002-2004. She is currently a member of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. Sarah has also performed with the Colorado Symphony, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Richmond Symphony, and the Ash Lawn Opera. Sarah joined The United States Air Force Academy Band in 1999, and plays both oboe and english horn in the Concert Band, and saxophone in the Marching Band.

Master Sergeant Steven M. Przyzycki, *percussion*, hails from Chicago, Illinois. Steve holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Percussion Performance from Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University. He has studied percussion with Edward Poremba, Patricia Dash, Joel Spencer, Ronald Rando, and Chick Evans. While in Chicago Steve was a member of the Illinois Symphony, the Symphonic Pops Orchestra of Chicago, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and the Chicago Percussion Quintet. He has also appeared with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Symphony, Chicago Sinfonietta, Illinois Chamber Orchestra and Chicago's Symphony II. Sergeant Przyzycki joined The United States Air Force Academy Band in June 1997, and also performs with the Concert Band and Marching Band.



Master Sergeant Alejandro Vieira, *basoon*, is originally from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, a Master of Music degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where he was a winner of the annual concerto competition, and held the position of second basoon with the Northern Kentucky Symphony prior to joining the Colorado Springs Symphony (now the Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra) in January, 2001, as Second Basoon and Contrabassoon. He has performed in many countries and festivals, including France's Evian Festival; Italy; Austria; Hungary; Ireland; the 1998 World Exposition in Lisbon, Portugal; the Sarasota Music Festival in Sarasota, Florida; the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California; and the National Orchestral Institute in College Park, Maryland. Alex became a member of the United States Air Force Academy Band in 1998. MSgt Vieira has been featured several times as a soloist with the Concert Band and Academy Winds and has recently recorded the Concerto for Bassoon and Winds by Hungarian composer Frigyes Hidas with the United States Air Force Academy Band. MSgt Vieira also performs with the Concert Band and Marching Band.

Technical Sergeant Susan Govier, *clarinet*, is originally from Lakewood, Colorado, and graduated from Green Mountain High School. Prior to entering the Air Force, she earned a Bachelor's degree in music performance at the University of Northern Colorado and a Master's degree in music performance at Arizona State University. TSgt entered the Air Force in August 2001 and was assigned to Offutt AFB. She was reassigned to the USAF Academy Band in June 2011, and also performs with the Concert Band and Marching Band.

