

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 ten 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 Michelle D. Johnson, Superintendent, USAF Academy. All performances are free and open to the public.



Academy Winds

Academy Winds is an exciting member of The Academy Band's family of musical ensembles. This innovative sextet 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.

Commander and Conductor



Lieutenant Colonel Daniel L. Price is the Commander and Conductor of the United States Air Force Academy Band, Peterson AFB, Colorado, assuming command in October 2014.

Commissioned in 1995, Lt Col Price was assigned to The United States Air Force Band at Bolling AFB, Washington D.C. where he served as director of the Singing Sergeants. In 1999, he was assigned to Offutt AFB, NE, where he served as the Deputy Commander of the Heartland of America Band. Lt Col Price assumed command of the Band of the Pacific-Asia, Yokota Air Base, Japan, in June 2003 and was named Air Force Band Officer of the Year in 2005. During this assignment, he led the United States Air Force team in Japan's International Marching Festival at the Tokyo Budokan in 2003 and 2005. He also led the band on a tour of Thailand, where they gave a command performance for King Rama IX. After attending Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, AL in July 2008, Lt Col Price assumed command of the USAF Band of Mid-America, Scott AFB, IL, and deployed as the Officer in Charge of the AFCENT Band in 2009. Following this assignment, he served as Air Force Chief of Music, Pentagon, Washington D.C. where he had administrative responsibility for the Air Force Band Program and the accession and training of band officers.

Originally hailing from Muskegon, MI, Lt Col Price resided in the Dayton, OH area for 15 years prior to joining the United States Air Force. During this time he was an active member of Dayton's musical community and held concurrent positions as Adjunct Professor of Music at Wright State University, Director of Bands and Choruses at Dayton Christian School, and Assistant Director of Music at Fairhaven Church. In addition to his academic pursuits, Lt Col Price studied with renowned conductors Robert Shaw, Craig Kirchoff, H. Robert Reynolds, and Alan McMurray.



Airman First Class Matthew J. Levine, *percussion*, is a native of Massapequa Park, NY. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from George Mason University and is currently completing his Master of Music degree in Percussion Performance from Indiana University. His primary teachers were John Tafoya, Kevin Bobo, Ken Harbison, and John Kilkenny. A1C Levine's orchestral experiences include serving as section percussionist with

the Terre Haute Symphony and principal percussionist with the IU Philharmonic, performing with the Evansville Philharmonic and Bloomington Camerata Orchestra, and performing as a fellow at the National Orchestral Institute. From 2009-2011, A1C Levine served as a full-time band director in Fairfax County, VA, where he also taught front ensemble for several marching bands and indoor drumlines. A1C Levine joined the United States Air Force Academy Band in 2013, and performs with the Academy Winds, Concert Band, and Marching Band.

Airman First Class Katherine Stites, *oboe*, hails from Johnson City, TN. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Baldwin Wallace University and a Master of Music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. A1C Stites has held positions with the Owensboro Symphony and the Johnson City Symphony and has performed with The Cleveland Orchestra, Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra, Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, Manheim Steamroller and Celtic Woman. She has teaching credits at Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music Outreach, has served as a teaching Assistant at Rutgers University Mason School of the Arts, and is currently pursuing her Doctorate of Music degree in oboe performance at Rutgers University. She joined the USAF Academy Band in September 2014, and currently performs with the Concert Band, Marching Band and Academy Winds.



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 Alejandro Vieira

Air Force Academy Band Information

Key Personnel

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Price—Commander/Conductor
 Lieutenant Shanti S. Nolan—Flight Commander
 Chief Master Sergeant Mark A. Burditt—Band Manager, Support
 Mr. Randall A. Doersch—Director of Operations

Contact for More Information

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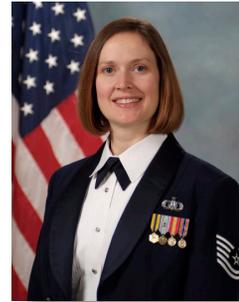
Personnel



Master 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.

Master Sergeant Alejandro Vieira, *bassoon and group leader*, 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 bassoon with the Northern Kentucky Symphony prior to joining the Colorado Springs Symphony (now the Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra) in January, 2001, as Second Bassoon 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 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.

Staff Sergeant Vernon W. Russell, *horn*, hails from Marrero, LA. He graduated in 1996 from East Ascension High School in Gonzales, LA, where won the John Philip Sousa Award and performed Strauss' First Horn Concerto with the Baton Rouge Youth Symphony. SSgt Russell continued his studies at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA, where he won the school's concerto and aria competition with his performance of Mozart's Second Horn Concerto. In 2000 & 2001, he won the Southwest and Southeast Horn Workshop's solo competition and High Horn Mock Audition. He has performed with the Shreveport Symphony, East Texas Symphony, Rapides Symphony and Lake Charles Symphony. SSgt Russell enlisted in the United States Air Force in September 2001 and was assigned to the USAF Band of Flight. He later joined the USAF Academy Band in September 2011, and currently performs with the Concert Band, Marching Band and Academy Winds.

