

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.



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY BAND The FALCONAIRES



Falconaires History

As one of eleven Air Force jazz ensembles, the Falconaires has brought the great sounds of Big Band Jazz to national audiences for more than 50 years. This group of full-time jazz musicians specializes in the best of past, present, and future by performing traditional and contemporary big band jazz. To this mix, “Falcs” members add their own compositions and fresh orchestrations. The band regularly appears at prestigious events such as the International Association of Jazz Educators’ National Conference, the Music Educators National Conference’s National Convention, and Musicfest Canada. One reason is the vast professionalism of the musicians. Falconaires members are some of the most sought-after clinicians in America. A driving force in the jazz world, The Air Force Academy Bands’ Falconaires play a major role in cultivating our national heritage through its only indigenous musical genre, jazz.



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.

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.

Falconaires Fact Sheet

What they are

An eighteen-piece “Glenn Miller” style big band consisting of full-time professional musicians from around the country, all active duty Air Force

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

What they do

Supports the United States Air Force through nationwide public service concerts; supports The Air Force Academy and Air Force Space Command by performing at social functions.

Annually performs for more than 50,000 people at public concerts, collegiate and high school jazz festivals, civic functions, arts festivals and military functions across the United States and Canada.

What makes them unique?

The Falconaires promote public education and Academy awareness throughout the United States as well as perform on a world-class level.

Their most recent recording released in December 2010, “Sharing the Freedom,” has taken the music world by storm and has been lauded by many in the music industry as a “Grammy Worthy” recording.

The Falconaires continued to be recognized as one of the finest jazz ensembles in the world.

Air Force Academy Band Information

Key Personnel

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

Contact for More Information

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Falconaires Personnel

Alto Saxophone

SSgt Caleb R. Brinkley Pleasant Garden, NC

Tenor Saxophone

TSgt Jeffrey S. Hall.....St. Petersburg, FL

SSgt Carlos Serrano-Sanchez Humacao, PR

Baritone Saxophone

MSgt Michael S. Van Arsdale Akron, OH

Trumpet

MSgt Jeffry F. HatfieldFort Wayne, IN

TSgt Patrick G. Brush Billings, MT

Sra Andrew N. Fowler Fort Worth, TX

SrA Benjamin P. Sampson Tamworth, Australia

Trombone

CMSgt Mark A. Burditt Branson, MO

MSgt David P. McCormick Middleton, MD

SSgt Frank K. Gourley Duluth, MN

Bass Trombone

MSgt L. Eugene Montgomery Henderson, KY

Drums

MSgt Timothy R. Blake Binghamton, NY

Bass

MSgt Jason R. Crowe Vancouver, WA

Piano

SrA Shawn M. Hanlon Interlochen, FL

Vocals

TSgt Krista M. Joyce Harleton, TX

Audio Engineers

MSgt Janusz S. Masztalerz Warsaw, Poland

The Falconaires

The professional Airmen-musicians in the Falconaires Big Band follow in a long blue line of talented Air Force Academy bandmen who are dedicated to serving our great nation and representing the young men and women at the academy training to be officers of character that will lead our Air Force. It is also our distinct privilege to support our veterans and all men and women currently serving around the globe, protecting the freedoms we all enjoy. It is because of these selfless Americans that we are able to share the music and remarkable talents of the Falconaires Big Band. The versatility and professionalism of this unique ensemble reflects the great diversity and ingenuity that makes our Air Force the greatest air, space and cyberspace force the world has ever known. The Air Force Academy Band's Falconaires play a major role in cultivating our national heritage through America's only indigenous musical genre, jazz!

Falconaires Group Leader

Master Sergeant Jason Crowe, *bass*, was born and raised in Vancouver, WA. As a member of the Prairie High School Jazz Band he performed throughout the Western United States and in the summer of 1988 toured Europe with the band and performed at the North Sea and Monterey Jazz Festivals. MSgt Crowe attended Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA as a music major and played with many top-notch Northwest musicians including Brent Edstrom, Dave Stultz, Nat Whickham and the Bob Curnow Big Band. He has performed or recorded with Marvin Stamm, Ernie Watts, Michael Smith, Vince Gill, Amy Grant, John Popper, Wynona Judd, Crystal Gail, Jiggs Whigham and the Christ Church Mass Choir. He has studied with Roma Vayspapir, Clipper Anderson, Hal Galper, David Baker and John Clayton. Prior to his assignment to The USAF Academy Band, he was a member of the 560th Washington Air National Guard Band, The USAF Band of The Reserve Robins AFB, GA, and the US Air Forces in Europe Band Sembach, Germany. While assigned to the USAFE Band, Jason performed across Europe and southwest Asia including goodwill tours to Bosnia and Russia. In 2005, Jason received the bass position in the Air Force Academy Band, playing in the Falconaires jazz band and Concert Band.

