

# 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*

# Solaris



## Solaris

Established in 1999, Solaris presents the unique mixture of clarinet and percussion, to the musical offerings of The United States Air Force Academy Band. Supporting community relations, recruiting, troop morale, and educational outreach missions, this well-honed ensemble embraces traditional clarinet trio literature, exciting new works, and an eclectic collection of arrangements originating from folk and popular styles. With a mix of “clarinetistry” and percussion at its finest, the quartet’s winning mix of inspirational, sophisticated selections and quirky, comedic musical jests is sure to satisfy a wide array of audience members, young and old. As seen and heard from their public concerts to military functions across America, Solaris exemplifies the world-class musicianship of The United States Air Force Academy Band and the outstanding professionalism of the United States Air Force.



## 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.

## Solaris Fact Sheet

### What they are

A professional clarinet trio with percussion. Instruments featured include Eb clarinet, Bb clarinet, bass clarinet, and percussion.

One of ten performing groups that comprise the 63-member United States Air Force Academy Band

### What they do

Public performances, civic functions, student concerts and master classes, patriotic shows and military functions in support of the US Air Force

### What makes them unique?

A small flexible professional clarinet ensemble, capable of performing a wide variety of musical styles for a broad range of audiences

Provide audiences with fresh and original compositions in addition to exciting transcriptions from popular and folk classics

### Group Leader

Master Sergeant Claudia B. Weir

## 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

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## Solaris Personnel



**Master Sergeant Claudia B. Weir**, a native of Palmerston North, New Zealand, became a naturalized United States citizen in 1993. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from DePaul University and her Master of Music degree from the University of Cincinnati

College-Conservatory of Music. Prior to joining the Air Force in 1997, she toured with the Nebraska Theater Caravan's production of "A Christmas Carol". Her first assignment in the United States Air Force was with The USAF Heritage of America Band, located at Langley AFB, Virginia, where she received the Airman of the Year Award for 1998 and 2000. Sergeant Weir joined The United States Air Force Academy Band in March, 2003, and performs with the Concert Band, Marching Band, and Solaris.

**Chief Master Sergeant Scott M. Barbier**, *percussion*, is a native of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Chief Barbier began his musical studies with his father, a former Academy Band percussionist. Scott furthered his musical education by studying percussion with Tom Mendola and Bill Keister of The Faunt School of Creative Music in Los Angeles, California. Scott holds an Associate of Applied Science Degree in music from the Community College of the Air Force, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in music from Regis University, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. Chief Barbier joined the Air Force Academy Band in 1981. He and his father worked together for just over two years, and hold the unique distinction of being the only father-son team ever assigned to the organization. Chief Barbier is currently the Band Manager of Logistics for the Academy Band, and also performs with the Marching Band and Concert Band.



**Master Sergeant Heike J. Gazetti**, received her Master of Music degree from Yale University in 1998 and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Louisville in 1996. She has performed with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia of Yale, and *New Music New Haven*. In 1996 Heike competed



as a semi-finalist in the International Clarinet Association's Youth Artist Competition held in Paris, France. While attending Yale, Heike performed with her woodwind quintet, which placed first in the Carmel Chamber Music Competition in 1998. Sergeant Gazetti has studied with Bil Jackson, David Shifrin, Charles Neidich, Ronald DeKant, and Dallas Tidwell. She joined the United States Air Force Academy Band in 1998, and performs in the Concert Band, Marching Band and Solaris.



**Technical Sergeant Laura M. Bardill** is a native of Hudson, WI. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Indiana University, and is currently working on a dual Master of Music degree at the Lamont School of Music at Denver University in clarinet Performance and wind Conducting. She currently studies clarinet with Abby Raymond and wind conducting with Dr. Joseph Martin. Before joining the Air Force, TSgt Bardill performed with the Cheyenne Symphony and the Colorado Wind Ensemble. Sergeant Bardill was the director of bands for the Edinburg School Corporation in Edinburg, IN from 2001-2004. While in Indiana, she enjoyed performing with and guest conducting the Greater Greenwood Community Band and the Columbus City Band. TSgt Bardill joined The Air Force Academy Band in July of 2006. She also performs with the Marching Band and the Concert Band.