



UNITED STATES

# AIR FORCE ACADEMY BAND

*Academy Winds*



# The Academy Winds

**A**cademy Winds is an exciting member of the Academy Band's family of musical ensembles. 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 one wondering, "What could possibly be next?"

Academy Winds superbly supports the Air Force 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 but also deliver a patriotic message that will linger in hearts and minds 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 Air Force core "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.

## Members of Academy Winds



**M**aster 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 of Music degree in performance from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master of Music degree in performance from Arizona State University. Sergeant Govier entered the Air Force in August 2001 and was assigned to Offutt Air Force Base. She was reassigned to the Air Force Academy Band in June 2011, where she currently performs with the Concert Band and Marching Band in addition to Academy Winds.

*[www.usafacademyband.af.mil](http://www.usafacademyband.af.mil)*

**M**aster Sergeant Alejandro Vieira, bassoon, is originally from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Music degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where he was a winner of the annual concerto competition. Sergeant Vieira 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 festivals and countries, 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. Sergeant Vieira became a member of the United States Air Force Academy Band in 1998. He has been featured several times as a soloist with the Concert Band and Academy Winds and recently recorded the Concerto for Bassoon and Winds by Hungarian composer Frigyes Hidas. Sergeant Vieira also performs with the Concert Band and Marching Band.



**T**echnical Sergeant Julia Taylor, flute and group leader, 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. Her 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 Air Force Base and the United States Air Forces in Europe Band, Sembach Air Base, Germany. She is a Distinguished Graduate and Academic Achievement Award winner of her Airman Leadership School.

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





Senior Airman Matthew J. Levine, percussion, is a native of Massapequa Park, New York. 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. Airman Levine's orchestral experiences include serving as section percussionist with the Terre Haute Symphony and principal percussionist with the Indiana University Philharmonic, performing with the Evansville Philharmonic and Bloomington Camerata Orchestra, and performing as a fellow at the National Orchestral Institute. From 2009–2011, Airman Levine served as a full-time band director in Fairfax County, Virginia, where he also taught front ensemble for several marching bands and indoor drumlines. He joined the United States Air Force Academy Band in 2013, where he currently performs with the Academy Winds, Concert Band, and Marching Band.

Airman First Class Katherine Stites, oboe, hails from Johnson City, Tennessee. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Baldwin Wallace University and a Master of Music degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Airman 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 holds 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 Arts degree in oboe performance at Rutgers University. Airman Stites joined the Air Force Academy Band in September 2014, where she currently performs with the Concert Band, Marching Band, and Academy Winds.



The United States Air Force is wholeheartedly committed to reflecting the diversity of our great nation. We actively encourage individuals from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds to learn about their Air Force and seek positions in the band program. For more information, contact Air Force Bands Division at (703) 696-9165 or [www.bands.af.mil](http://www.bands.af.mil).

For information regarding other Air Force opportunities, contact your local recruiter, [www.airforce.com](http://www.airforce.com), or call (800) 423-USAF.

# Air Force Academy Band Commander/Conductor



**L**ieutenant Colonel Daniel L. Price is the Commander and Conductor of the United States Air Force Academy Band, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, where he assumed command in October 2014. Commissioned in 1995, Lt Col Price was assigned to the United States Air Force Band at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., where he served as director of the Singing Sergeants. In 1999, he was assigned to Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, 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 presented a command performance for King Rama IX. After graduating Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama in 2008, Lt

Col Price assumed command of the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, and deployed as the Officer in Charge of the United States Air Forces Central Band in 2009. Following this assignment, he served as Air Force Chief of Music, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., where he held administrative responsibility for the Air Force Band program and the accession and training of band officers.

Originally hailing from Muskegon, Michigan, Lt Col Price resided in the Dayton, Ohio 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.



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

# Air Force Academy Band Information

## Key Personnel

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel L. Price—Commander/Conductor

Captain Shanti C. Simon—Flight Commander

Chief Master Sergeant Gail E. Tucker—Band Manager

MSgt Susan L. Govier—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

E-mail: [susan.govier@us.af.mil](mailto:susan.govier@us.af.mil)

## 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 his or her college experience, the United States Air Force Academy is easily the first choice.



The Academy offers a world-class education, the opportunity to fly, and a guaranteed career immediately after graduation. Many cadets create professional relationships that last a lifetime. While it is true that there is no financial cost to attend the Academy, 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 cannot 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. For more information, visit [www.academyadmissions.com](http://www.academyadmissions.com).

