



The United States Army Field Band

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army
Washington, DC

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THE JAZZ AMBASSADORS DIXIELAND BAND

The Jazz Ambassadors Dixieland Band performs jazz in the tradition of its earliest eras. Virtually all Jazz Ambassadors concerts feature this dynamic seven-piece group, sharing music in the styles of the great King Oliver, Louis Armstrong, and Bix Beiderbecke bands. While on tour, the ensemble occasionally performs separate concerts at VA Hospitals and Veteran Centers, and performed live on “Good Morning America” on July 4, 2007. On all occasions, the Jazz Ambassadors Dixieland Band fosters enthusiasm and appreciation for America’s original art form.

Sergeant First Class Patrick Shook, clarinet, hails from Colbert, Washington and plays tenor saxophone with the Jazz Ambassadors. He holds a B.M. from the University of Idaho and a M.M. from the University of North Texas.

Master Sergeant Michael Johnston, trumpet, is the Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge of the Dixieland Band. He earned a B.A. at the University of North Florida. He has been a featured soloist with the Jazz Ambassadors and the Concert Band, and has performed with Harry Connick Jr., Clark Terry, Dizzy Gillespie, Della Reese, Dave Brubeck, the Count Basie Orchestra, and the St. Johns River City Brass Band. MSG Johnston is a native of Denver, Colorado.

Sergeant First Class Jeff Adams, trombone, is a native of Hemet, California. SFC Adams has extensive experience in pit orchestras, and has worked with Lou Rawls, Tony Bennett, Kenny Rogers, Frankie Vallie, the Four Tops, and Mary Wilson. SFC Adams earned a M.M.E. from the University of Redlands and a B.M. in Commercial Music from California State University at Long Beach, and attended the Berklee College of Music.

Sergeant First Class Timothy Young, keyboard, received a M.M. in Jazz Studies at the University of North Texas and a B.M. at Shenandoah University. A native of Newport News, Virginia, he works as a freelance pianist in the Washington D.C. area, and has performed with Ray Anderson, Charles McPhearson, Steve Swallow, Doc Cheatham, and Rebecca Parris.

Staff Sergeant Stephen Lesche, banjo, joined the Jazz Ambassadors in 2005 as a guitarist. A native of Orlando, Florida, he holds degrees from Northwestern University and the University of North Florida. He is a three-time winner of the DownBeat Magazine Student Music Award. His teachers include Don Owens, Joan Hickey, and Kevin Bales. SSG Lesche has performed with Larry Elgart, Ira Sullivan, and the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra.

Master Sergeant Jeffrey Lopez, bass, recently released his debut recording, *The Sun and the Rain*. Many of his compositions are well known in and around his native New York, where he has been leading groups since 1985, and also at the Berklee College of Music, where he graduated with his Bachelor of Music. He earned his Master of Music at the Manhattan School of Music. MSG Lopez has studied with Jaco Pastorius, Anthony Jackson, John Patitucci, Cecil McBee, Jeff Andrews, Mark Egan, and has performed with Dave Douglas, Kenny Werner, Toots Thielemans, Kenny Drew Jr., Harold Danko, Dick Oatts, Bernard Purdie, Rick Margitza, Craig Handy, and Uri Caine. MSG Lopez has been with the Jazz Ambassadors since 1995.

Sergeant First Class Todd Harrison, drums, started his professional music career at the age of 14 in Houston, Texas. He quickly became known for his ability to excel at any style of drumming, including Middle Eastern and Latin styles, rock, R&B, Broadway, country & western, and funk. After high school, SFC Harrison studied jazz under Shelly Berg at San Jacinto Jr. College and classical percussion at Houston Baptist University. He has performed with Paul Gilbert, Clark Terry, Russell Malone, Kirk Whalum, Grupo Mazz, Joel Frahm, Rob Levit, and Unified Jazz Ensemble. SFC Harrison became a member of the Jazz Ambassadors in 1996.