



United States Military Academy Band
West Point, New York 10996



West Point Clarinet Quartet

The United States Military Academy Band's Clarinet Quartet is one of a handful of clarinet quartets that is dedicated to exploring and performing the literature written and transcribed for this unusual ensemble. The group was formed in the fall of 1992 and has since evolved into an integral part of the Military Academy Band Chamber Music Series.

The quartet has performed at several colleges and universities throughout the United States, including Ithaca College, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory and New Mexico State University, Las Cruces. Additionally, the quartet offers numerous recitals and performances throughout the Hudson Valley and the United States. In October of 2000, the quartet premiered *Three Utterances for Clarinet Quartet*, written especially for the group by British composer Paul Harvey. The West Point Clarinet Quartet was recently featured on the Northeast Public Radio show *Performance Place*.

All of the performers in the quartet are members of the Military Academy Concert Band's clarinet section. This multifunctional group serves to educate through clinics and master classes, as well as to entertain in the formal concert setting.

SERGEANT MAJOR DAVID HYDOCK - BASS CLARINET, the woodwind group leader and bass clarinetist for the Concert Band, is from New Kensington, Pennsylvania. He became a member of the Military Academy Band in July of 1975, after having served in the 324th Army Band at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in liberal arts from the University of the State of New York. SGM Hydock served as head of the band's audio section from 1988 to 1992.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS CHRISTOPHER D. JONES - CLARINET, from Fairhope, Alabama, has been a clarinetist in the Military Academy Band since September of 1992. He has a Bachelor of Music degree in music education from the University of North Alabama, Florence and a Master of Music degree in clarinet performance and conducting from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces. In addition to being a member of the clarinet quartet, SFC Jones serves on the publicity staff and as an assistant drum major. He is also adjunct teacher of clarinet at Nyack College. SFC Jones continues to study with the distinguished clarinetist Kalmen Opperman and he attended the 1999 Kalmen Opperman/Richard Stoltzman "Clarinet Summit" at the New England Conservatory in Boston.

STAFF SERGEANT DIANA CASSAR-UHL - CLARINET, from Monroe, New York, came to the Military Academy Band in September of 1995. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in performance from the Ithaca College School of Music in Ithaca, New York. SSG Cassar-Uhl has studied clarinet with Thomas Scott, Robert Schmidt, David Minelli, and Michael Galvan. She performs with the Orange County Music Educators Association Wind Ensemble and teaches privately in the West Point area. SSG Cassar-Uhl writes a regular column in *The Clarinet*, profiling clarinet sections in the special military bands.

STAFF SERGEANT SHAWN HERNDON - CLARINET, arrived in August of 1998 from the 296th Army Band at Camp Zama, in Tokyo, Japan. A native of Dallas, Texas, he earned a bachelor's degree in clarinet performance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas and a master's degree, also in performance, from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. His teachers have included Steve Girko, former principal clarinetist of the Dallas Symphony and Ronald deKant at the University of Cincinnati.