



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 spring of 2009.

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 FIRST CLASS SAM KAESTNER - CLARINET** attended the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where he received instruction from Baltimore Symphony bass clarinetist Edward Palanker and Anthony Gigliotti, former Philadelphia Orchestra principal clarinetist. After his 2000 Peabody graduation with honors, Kaestner went to Northwestern University for graduate work. His Northwestern experience included study with Chicago Symphony bass clarinetist, J. Lawrie Bloom, where he also was a finalist in the graduate concerto competition. In 2002, Kaestner received a masters degree with honors. In addition to his strength as a classical clarinetist, SFC Kaestner also plays jazz. While at Peabody, Kaestner studied jazz with former Miles Davis saxophonist Gary Thomas. SFC Kaestner is a founding member of the Academy Clarinet Quartet and a member of the West Point Woodwind Quintet. He is currently studying with Metropolitan Opera Orchestra bass clarinetist James Ognibene and with John Manasse.

**STAFF SERGEANT ERIN BUBALO - CLARINET**, is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio. She arrived at West Point in early October of 2004 after completing basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. SSG Bubalo attended the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music where she received her Bachelor of Music and studied with clarinetist Ron deKant.

**STAFF SERGEANT KRISTEN MATHER - CLARINET/BASS CLARINET**, clarinet, earned a Bachelor of Music from Youngstown State University in 2005. There she studied with Robert Fitzner. In 2006, she attended DePaul University in Chicago and studied with Chicago Symphony Orchestra principal clarinetist and former USMA Band clarinetist, Larry Combs. SSG Mather has a varied musical background, performing with the Warren Philharmonic, the American Wind Symphony Orchestra, the Ohio Light Opera Orchestra and with renowned jazz bassist Dave Holland. She joined the Academy Band in October of 2007.

**STAFF SERGEANT TIMOTHY SUTFIN, CLARINET**, received a Bachelor of Music Magna cum Laude from Northwestern University in 2004, and a Master of Music with High Honors from Oklahoma City University in 2007. Prior to joining the West Point Band in October of 2008, Staff Sgt. Sutfin performed with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic for

three seasons. He has also appeared with the Winston-Salem Symphony, Texas Festival Orchestra, Quartz Mountain Music Festival Orchestra, and served on the faculty at Oklahoma City University from 2007 to 2008. His primary teachers include Russell Dagon, Jane Carl, Charlene Zimmerman, and Chad Burrow.