

GUEST RECITAL

Wednesday, March 22, 2023
Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.

ROCKIES CLARINET QUARTET

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT HEIKE GAZETTI, BB CLARINET
TECHNICAL SERGEANT MICHAEL CASTO, BB CLARINET
TECHNICAL SERGEANT NINA FRIEDRICHS, EB AND BB CLARINET
TECHNICAL SERGEANT DAVID HALPERIN, BASS CLARINET

PROGRAM

String Quartet No. 12 in F Major, Op. 96 “American” I. Allegro ma non troppo	Antonin Dvorak, trans. Robert W. Achilles (1841-1904)
Fast Blue Village	Elena Kats-Chernin (b. 1957)
Frog Family: Awaken from Hibernation	SiHyun Uhm (b. 1998)
Spin, Spin, Spin	Erik Franklin (b. 1989)
Angels With Red Tails I. They Dreamt Upon Wings in the Sky II. Training Daze III. Press on Regardless	Brian DuFord, arr. Andrew Friedrichs (b. 1969)
Salute to the Armed Services	Various

124th Program of the 2022 - 2023 season

The **Rockies Clarinet Quartet** from the United States Air Force Academy Band in Colorado Springs, CO presents a variety of musical offerings in support of recruiting, community relations, troop morale, ceremonial, and educational outreach missions around the country. The Rockies Clarinet Quartet exemplifies the world-class musicianship of the Air Force Academy Band and the outstanding professionalism of the United States Air Force.

Senior Master Sergeant Heike Gazetti joined the United States Air Force Academy Band, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, in October 1998. She currently performs as clarinetist with the Concert Band, Marching Band, and the Rockies Clarinet Quartet.

Sergeant Gazetti joined the United States Air Force in September of 1998. After completing basic military training, she was assigned to The USAF Band of the Rockies, also known as the USAF Academy Band. During her time in the Academy Band, Sergeant Gazetti has performed with the Concert Band, Solar Winds, Academy Winds, and Solaris. In 2009 she deployed with *Mirage* to Southwest Asia in support of US troops and coalition forces. Currently Sergeant Gazetti enjoys her role of Drum Major for the Marching Band and performing Community Relations and Educational Outreach programs with the Rockies Clarinet Quartet.

Sergeant Gazetti began musical studies with Louisville Orchestra Clarinetist, Dallas Tidwell, and went on to study clarinet with Charles Neidich, Ayako Oshima, Ronald DeKant, David Shifrin, Bil Jackson, and most recently, Sergei Vassiliev. She is a regular member of the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, and has also played with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Fort Collins Symphony, and Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra.

TSgt Michael Casto is a clarinetist with the United States Air Force Academy Band. He joined the band in December of 2020 and performs with the Concert Band, Marching Band, and Rockies Clarinets. In addition performing, Michael also assists with the auditions shop and event crew.

Prior to joining the Air Force, Michael served as the Second Clarinetist and Solo E-flat Clarinetist with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and was awarded the Woodwind Quintet Fellowship at the University of Maryland. Additionally, he has performed with the New World Symphony, the Greeley Philharmonic, the Pueblo Symphony Orchestra, the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra, and the Capital City Symphony. Michael has also performed around the world making his Carnegie Hall debut in 2016, and his debut in the Seoul National Arts Center in 2015.

Michael holds a Master's Degree in Clarinet Performance from Indiana University as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance from the University of Maryland. His primary teachers include Robert DiLutis, Eli Eban, Paul Cigan, and USAF Maj. (ret) Frank Hudson.

Technical Sergeant Janean "Nina" Friedrichs joined the United States Air Force Academy Band, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, in May 2017. She currently performs as a clarinetist with the Concert Band, Marching Band, and Rockies Clarinets. In addition to her performance duties, TSgt Friedrichs is a resource advisor for the band, musical director for the Rockies Clarinets and serves as a physical training leader.

A native of Syracuse, NY, Airman Friedrichs holds a Bachelor of Music degree and Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music and a Master of Music from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her primary teachers include Robert DiLutis, Jon Manasse, and Gerald Zampino. TSgt Friedrichs was a founding member of the ensemble District5 and has performed with groups including the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, Symphoria, and the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. Additionally, she toured and recorded two albums with the Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra. Her recital appearances include performances for the Skaneateles Festival as the recipient of their Robinson Award, Syracuse Society of New Music, Syracuse

Friends of Chamber Music, and Chamber Music at the Barns. In 2009, she performed the Mozart Clarinet Concerto with the Onondaga Civic Symphony Orchestra.

Technical Sergeant David B. Halperin joined the United States Air Force Academy Band in January 2021. He currently performs on clarinet with Rockies Clarinets, Concert Band, and Marching Band.

A native of Highland Park, Illinois, TSgt Halperin began his Air Force career in 2011 and was stationed at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA and Ramstein Air Base, Germany. While there, he was able to perform chamber music for the general public, ambassadors, and heads of state across Europe and Africa in countries such as Angola, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Italy, Latvia, Niger, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Tanzania, United Kingdom, and Ukraine, where he was also a soloist on multiple occasions with their National Presidential Orchestra. Other notable Air Force performances include the 2012 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the 2022 Tournament of Roses Parade, and the 2013 Inaugural Parade for President Barack Obama. In addition to his official duties, Sergeant Halperin is the Second Clarinet with the Fort Collins Symphony and plays regularly with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic.

Prior to enlisting in the Air Force, Technical Sergeant Halperin was a freelance clarinetist throughout the Chicagoland area and has performed with the Symphony Orchestras of Milwaukee, Jacksonville, Virginia, Richmond (VA), and New Mexico, as well as the New World Symphony in Miami. He received fellowships to the Aspen Musical Festival and School and the Brevard Music Center, attended the Aria International Summer Academy, the Las Vegas and Hot Springs Music Festivals, and was co-Principal Clarinet with the Ohio Light Opera.

TSgt Halperin holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master of Music from the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University. He includes among his teachers Steve Cohen, J. Lawrie Bloom, J. David Harris, Burt Hara, Bil Jackson, and Sunshine Simmons.