

## Violins (con't.)



**Staff Sgt. Annette Barger** became a member of The U.S. Army Strings in 2005. She received a bachelor's degree from Brown University, a master's degree from New England Conservatory of Music, and an artist diploma from Yale University. She has performed with the Hartford Symphony, New Haven Symphony, New World Symphony, and San Antonio Symphony.



**Staff Sgt. Matthew Evans** joined The U.S. Army Strings in 2007. A native of State College, Pennsylvania, he studied with James Lyon at Penn State University, and Christophe and Judy Bosua at the Ecole Suzuki in Lyon, France. Matthew earned his bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Louisville. He kept busy with a major in French and was a member of the Louisville men's soccer team.



**Staff Sgt. Judy Spokes** is a versatile performer who pursued her Doctoral studies in Violin Performance at the Graduate School and University Center of the City of New York. Her major teachers included Itzhak Perlman and Juilliard Professor Masao Kawasaki. During earlier musical studies she worked with violist Emanuel Vardi at the Manhattan School of Music.



## Violas



**Staff Sgt. Timothy Zenobia** received a bachelor's degree from the Eastman School of Music in viola performance and a master's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Tim has performed with many orchestras and ensembles including the National Symphony, Erie Philharmonic, Toledo Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, and the New World Symphony.



**Staff Sgt. Anjali Lind** graduated from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) in 1994 with highest honors. In 1997 she received a Master of Music degree and an Artist Diploma in viola performance, also from CCM. Anjali joined The U.S. Army Strings in 2000. Prior to that she served as assistant principal viola with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra for two years.



**Staff Sgt. Holly Watters** joined The U.S. Army Strings in 2001 after completing her bachelor's degree at the Eastman School of Music and graduate studies at the Mannes College of Music. She studied both the piano and viola simultaneously through college. She has appeared as soloist with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and has attended festivals at Sarasota, Bowdoin, and the Henry Mancini Jazz Institute.



**Staff Sgt. Beth Dunkel** joined The U.S. Army Strings in August of 2002. She studied with Misha Amory and Heidi Castleman at the Juilliard School. Beth is an active chamber musician and plays regularly with the National Symphony and the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. Past solos include Mozart's Symphonia Concertante with Gyorgy Valtchev on violin with the Lyric Theatre Orchestra.

## Cellos



**Master Sgt. Charlotte Roberts** currently serves as Principal Cellist with The U.S. Army Strings. A native of Richmond, Virginia, and a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, she has performed with numerous symphony orchestras, including the Virginia Opera, the Virginia Symphony, the Richmond Symphony, and the Alexandria Symphony. Charlotte has served as Principal Cellist with the Spoletto Music Festival, the American Institute of Musical Studies, and the Arlington Symphony.



**Sgt. 1st Class John Gockel** received his Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin College and attended the Taos School of Music. He has been a member of The U.S. Army Strings since 1980. Prior to his Army experience, he was a member of the Florida Symphony and the Jacksonville Symphony and its string quartet.



**Staff Sgt. Samuel Swift** joined The U.S. Army Strings in 1997. He studied at Indiana University, Michigan State, and received his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Maryland. From 1991-1993 he was a lecturer at the University of Virginia, and he has also been an adjunct assistant professor of cello at Shenandoah University, an instructor at Georgetown University, and a substitute with the National Symphony.



**Staff Sgt. Benjamin R. Wensel**, a native of Western New York, received degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Eastman where he was assistant to Professor Alan Harris. Ben studied chamber music with Peter Salaff and members of the Audubon and Cavani Quartets. Prior to joining The U.S. Army Strings in 2003, he was a member of the Syracuse Symphony and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra.

## Accordion



**Sgt. Maj. Manuel Bobenrieth** was born in Concepcion, Chile, and began studying the accordion at age five. He studied at Montgomery College and received a Bachelor of Music Degree in Performance from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. In his off-duty hours, The Manny Bobenrieth Ensemble has been featured at Blues Alley Jazz Club, The Argentinean Embassy, The World Bank, The Kennedy Center, and others. His CD "Tangata" has been heard on NPR's "All Things Considered." In April 2004 he became the Group Leader of The U.S. Army Strings.

## Bass



**Sgt. 1st Class Thomas K. Fowler** joined The U.S. Army Strings in 1997. Originally from Los Angeles, California, he received a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California and a master's degree from the University of Maryland. His teachers include John Clayton, Paul Ellison, and Curtis Burris of the National Symphony.

# THE U.S. ARMY BAND "PERSHING'S OWN"

★★★ from Washington, DC ★★★  
Colonel Thomas Rotondi, Jr., Leader and Commander



## THE U.S. ARMY STRINGS

The U.S. Army Strings is one of the premier elements of The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" in Washington, DC. The Army Strings provides a musical backdrop for many of the country's most notable events. Its mission is to serve as a musical ambassador for high-level military and government events at home and abroad as well as in concert for public audiences. This versatile ensemble of 20 world-class musicians performs as the Strolling Strings, The U.S. Army Orchestra, and various mixed small chamber ensembles and combos.



## What is The United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own?”

The U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own” (TUSAB) is the premier musical ensemble of the U.S. Army. The organization consists of over 270 enlisted personnel and eight official ensembles: The U.S. Army Concert Band, Ceremonial Band, Strings, Army Blues (jazz ensemble), Army Chorus, Downrange (rock band), Herald Trumpets, and Brass Quintet. Elements combine to create an orchestra, woodwind quintet, and myriad small chamber ensembles or combos.

### What is the Strolling Strings?

Completely unique to The U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own,” the Strolling Strings provides entertainment for the most notable military and governmental functions in Washington, DC. The accordionist and bass player stand and join the seated cellos, while the violinists and violists stand up and actually “stroll” around the room performing memorized repertoire. Events range from intimate dinner parties to ballrooms filled with hundreds of guests.

### Who can join TUSAB?

You must enlist in the U.S. Army to be a member of TUSAB. Qualified U.S. Citizens may enlist prior to his or her 42nd birthday. Professional musicians audition from varied backgrounds. Many members hold advanced degrees (Masters/Doctorates) from major conservatories, colleges, and universities. Some members auditioned from other armed service bands, or came from civilian positions as commercial or orchestral players, educators, and/or touring road musicians. Even after joining TUSAB, many members continue to act as adjunct faculty at colleges and universities, maintain private studios, and perform in shows, recording sessions, broadcasts, and orchestras. Members have their own ensembles, record CDs, and publish articles, arrangements, and compositions. Band members have the opportunity to travel and appear as guest clinicians and soloists, perform in festivals and competitions, and act as educators—as part of their Army Band schedule and during off-duty hours.

### Where is TUSAB located?

TUSAB elements provide musical support for The U.S. Army Military District of Washington and the band has its own rehearsal/concert facility, Brucker Hall, adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery on historic Fort Albert J. Myer in Arlington, Virginia—overlooking the Potomac River and stunning views of the nation’s capital.

### Where do TUSAB members live?

Most musicians live in the surrounding areas of Northern Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC, which provides a wealth of cultural and recreational opportunities.

### What is the work schedule like?

The Strings’ schedule varies depending upon upcoming concert and job requirements. One week might be rehearsals for an orchestra concert, while during the next week, several stroll jobs are being prepared.

### Are there opportunities to play chamber music?

Yes. Often, members of the Army Strings are tasked to perform chamber music in string quartets. Also, the Army Strings programs a series of chamber music concerts/recitals throughout the year, both at Fort Myer and at other local venues. In 2006 they performed eight chamber concerts in the area.

### Do you have to go through individual entry training (IET) formerly basic combat training?

Yes. IET is nine weeks long. Once completed, you report directly to TUSAB.

### Could you be deployed?

TUSAB musicians are active duty service members who support U.S. Army Military District of Washington ceremonial activities and missions. TUSAB is a permanent duty assignment which means that once you are selected to be a member of the band, you can stay in Washington, DC, for the duration of your career. In recent years small pop/rock groups and combos have traveled with the USO to Southwest Asia to perform short morale and welfare tours for fellow service members during the winter holidays.

### What are the benefits?

- Free health care for you and your dependents.
- Loan repayment program up to \$65,000.
- Tuition reimbursement.
- The Army will provide an instrument and bow of high quality.
- Use of the commissary, post exchange, gas station, and other post amenities.
- Army retirement program.
- VA loan qualification to purchase a home with no money down and limited closing costs.
- Thirty (30) days of paid leave per year.

### Do you have other obligations besides playing your instrument?

Rewarding opportunities and additional duties exist within TUSAB and the military community for members who wish to increase their participation and enhance their career.

### How much do you travel?

Occasionally. The Strings travels annually to New York City to perform at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, and at Trinity Church Wall Street around Veterans Day. Also, the group travels for two weeks in September to present special community outreach concerts in two U.S. cities (destinations change each year). Occasionally the group is requested to perform for events around the country, but these trips have been limited to only a few days each year. Over the years the ensemble has traveled Hawaii, Alaska, Colorado, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina.

For more information about The United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own,” visit us online at: [www.usarmyband.com](http://www.usarmyband.com).

# VACANCIES

## Violin

AUDITION: 21 APR | RESUMES: 20 FEB

## Viola

AUDITION: 19 MAY | RESUMES: 19 MAR

### Eligibility

Applicants must meet all standards to enlist in the Armed Forces. All applicants must have U.S. citizenship due to a security clearance requirement.

### Auditioning

Please submit a resume and a full-length photograph for this audition—no later than the due dates. Auditions will be by invitation only. All invited candidates will travel to Fort Myer, Virginia, at their own expense. Please include name, instrument, address, telephone number, and email address on all enclosed materials. Applicants will be expected to pass the Army’s physical examination and meet other standards required to enlist in the Armed Forces.

### Send resume to:

The U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own”  
Attn: Audition - VIOLIN or VIOLA  
400 McNair Road  
Fort Myer, VA 22211-1306

### Live Audition

Applicants invited to the audition will be notified shortly after the deadline via email. A list of repertoire and an audition time will be sent to the invited candidates. As part of the live audition applicants must demonstrate excellent sight-reading skills, as well as musical versatility in various symphonic, chamber music, and commercial settings.

### Benefits

Annual starting salary for a Staff Sergeant is: \$47,674 (no dependents) and \$53,183 (w/dependents).

For further information contact Master Sgt. Maria de la Cerda at (703) 696-0206 or at [maria.delacerda@us.army.mil](mailto:maria.delacerda@us.army.mil).

## Violins



**Master Sgt. Laura Knutson** is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and Northern Illinois University. She joined The U.S. Army Strings in 1990 and serves as concertmaster of The U.S. Army Orchestra. She has also served as concertmaster of the Arlington Symphony and assistant concertmaster with the Fairfax Symphony and Annapolis Symphony. As winner of its Young Artist Competition, Laura has performed solo with the National Symphony Orchestra.



For over 23 years **Sgt. 1st Class Janette Wilkinson** has served in The U.S. Army Strings. She is a graduate of Peabody Conservatory and American University and has studied chamber music intensively with the Juilliard, Cleveland, Budapest, and Beaux Arts String Quartets. Janette is a founding member of the Washington Chamber Society and the recipient of a Fulbright Award in International Music.



**Sgt. 1st Class Dionisia P. Fernandez** has been a member of The U.S. Army Strings since 1994. She completed her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the Juilliard School under Louise Behrend and Joseph Fuchs. Donnie has been featured soloist of several orchestras, including the Manila Chamber Orchestra, the Philippine Philharmonic, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, and The U.S. Army Orchestra.



**Sgt. 1st Class Krista Smith**, native of Indianapolis, Indiana, received her bachelor’s degree from Indiana University and her master’s degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Krista has performed with the Spoleto Festival, the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, the National Orchestral Institute, and the Kent Blossom Music Festival.



**Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Pierson** began his violin studies at the age of six in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1994 he received a merit scholarship to attend Indiana University where he studied with the world-renowned violinist Yuval Yaron. Daniel joined The U.S. Army Strings in 1998. He has been a featured soloist with the Strings on numerous occasions, including two performances of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in 2004.



**Staff Sgt. Marlisa del Cid Woody** joined The U.S. Army Strings in 2000 upon completion of her master’s degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music. In addition to her duties with the Strings, Marlisa performs with other local ensembles including the National Symphony Orchestra and the Washington Bach Consort on baroque violin.



**Staff Sgt. Erin Sammon** joined The U.S. Army Strings in 2002. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music and her Master of Historical Performance degree from Oberlin Conservatory. Erin also frequently performs and records with Apollo’s Fire and the Washington Bach Consort.



**Staff Sgt. Emily Leader** joined The U.S. Army Strings in 2003. She studied at the University of Illinois and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She has previously been a member of the Louisville Orchestra and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Emily currently appears with the Key West Symphony and the Baltimore Symphony.