

Academy Winds

By MSgt. Steve Przyzycki

The United States Air Force Academy Band, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Steven Grimo, will be presenting at the 2005 Texas Bandmasters Association Convention/Clinic. Lieutenant Colonel Grimo took command of the band in July, 2004 after assignments at Military Airlift Command Band in Illinois, Pacific Air Forces Band in Alaska, Air education and Training Band in Texas and The United States Air Force Band in Washington, D.C. With the arrival of Lt. Col. Grimo, the Academy band has placed new priority on sharing musical expertise with musicians and educators throughout the country. For example, the USAF Academy Band's Falconaires and Concert Band plans to perform during the 2006 Texas Bandmasters Association Convention/Clinic.

Academy Winds is the newest member in The United States Air Force Academy Band's family of musical ensembles. This innovative sextet is comprised of instrumentalists from every section in the Concert Band to include woodwinds, double reeds, brass and percussion. Their eclectic choice of repertoire and unique stage presence has created an energetic show that appeals to audiences of all ages.

As their title suggests, the Academy Winds will present a clinic focusing on making the most of musical resources and student personalities, regardless of instrumentation limitations, to create unique, dynamic ensembles that inspire the overall music program. The group has enjoyed monumental success in reaching out to music students at high schools and junior high schools. Much of that success can be attributed to their musical director and group leader, MSgt. Cheryl Sizer. Her contagious energy and infectious creativity

have been a catalyst to the Academy Winds' show concepts. She said, "I am so delighted that everyone in the group is committed to the educational

outreach aspect of The Academy Band's mission. It is great to be able to appeal to the kids and create energy that we know is inside each student. I am excited

to be able to share our ideas with some of the best music educators in the country." The group plans to illustrate how drawing upon musical selections from genres that do not require specific instrumentation leads to realizing

**Academy Winds
will present
an exciting clinic
on Saturday, July 23
at 9:30 am.**



MSgt. Steve Przyzycki, percussion

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the full potential of your specific ensemble. They will play some selections to further explain this point, and demonstrate how to bring an arrangement to life and create ensemble cohesiveness.



TSgt. Alex Vieira performs on the triple bass drum.

Another aspect of the clinic will explain how to capitalize on the various personalities of the group's members. Just as the Air Force delegates degrees of trust and responsibility to airmen based on personality strengths,

members of ensembles should be given opportunities based on their personal traits. Chief Master Sergeant Randy Doersch who plays horn in the group explained, "When the right person gets the right job that fits that person's personality, it sparks the creative spirit that ensures success. Drawing on *everyone's* personality and getting everyone to contribute, fosters the teamwork that makes the show unique. The added bonus is that the very process generates enthusiasm that ultimately leads to even more ideas. The key is to get *everyone* involved and consider *all* ideas. I know it's an old adage, but all are more creative than one."

The Academy Winds also plans to illustrate how a dynamic stage presence can enhance a performance. The group will stress how this often overlooked part of the show is essential to captivate an audience. It is imperative to rehearse this part of the show just as much as the music. In today's world, the visual part of a performance has become just as pertinent to a show's success as the aural part.

The clinic will conclude by discussing performance opportunities and rewards for both the students and educators. The ultimate goal is to demonstrate how an ensemble can strengthen an entire music program and make it more appealing to the audience. The Academy Winds is looking forward to sharing their ideas at this year's convention.



CMSgt. Randy Doersch performs in costume with TSgt. Heike Gazzeti, clarinet and TSgt. Alex Vieira, bassoon.