



WEST
POINT
BAND

Marching Band

Also known as the United States Military Academy Band or USMA Band, the West Point Band is West Point's official Army band-in-residence. Its core mission is to fulfill musical requirements of the Academy in support of the U.S. Corps of Cadets. It is the oldest continuously serving Army band and the oldest unit at West Point. It is also one of four designated "Special Bands" in the Army.

The band consists entirely of professional musicians who are active duty Soldiers in the U.S. Army. Cadets do not serve in the band.

The audition criteria for Special Bandspersons are particularly stringent, and many of the band's members hold college degrees from leading music institutions. Their experiences are already of a professional, polished caliber before joining a Special Band.

The West Point band was officially founded on June 8, 1817. There has been a contingent of Field Musicians at West Point since George Washington established the post in 1778.

The West Point Band has performed for many U.S. presidents and world leaders.

- The band has performed for U.S. Presidents including Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama.
- The band has marched in 20 Presidential Inauguration Parades.
- It has performed for presidents and dignitaries from countries such as Mexico, France, Haiti, Monaco, South Korea, Nicaragua, Morocco, England, Poland, Indonesia, Kosovo, Israel, and Yugoslavia.
- It has also performed for General John J. Pershing, General Douglas MacArthur, Marquis de Lafayette, dozens of Medal of Honor recipients, and Bob Hope.
- The band has sounded TAPS and played at the funerals of Brevet Major General George A. Custer, General William T. Sherman, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Astronaut Edward H. White, and General Norman Schwarzkopf, among others.

The West Point Band has performed for many historic events.

Early History

- 1821 - Marched the Corps of Cadets from Albany to Boston
- 1824 - Performed in the national spotlight for Revolutionary War hero Marquis de Lafayette
- 1825 - Performed for the official groundbreaking and opening of the Erie Canal

1900's

- 1904 - Performed in St. Louis at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition
- 1927 - Performed for Charles Lindberg's return to New York City after his solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean
- 1981 - Performed for the arrival of American hostages who were held captive in Iran for 444 days
- 1983 - Performed at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California
- 1995 - Performed for the arrival of Pope John Paul II and President Bill Clinton at Newark Airport

Recent History

- 2002 - Participated in the U.S. Military Academy's Bicentennial
- 2006 - Performed at the opening of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor
- 2009 - Performed for the new Yankee Stadium Opening Day
- 2012 - Performed for the opening of FDR Four Freedoms Park in New York City
- 2015 - Performed at Belmont Stakes for the Triple Crown winner American Pharoah

International relations:

The West Point Band has served as musical ambassadors on behalf of the Army through musical and cultural exchanges in China, Norway, Japan, England, and Scotland.

The West Point Band in the media:

- Recorded the rendition of The Star Spangled Banner used in most movie theaters in the United States from 1942 to 1945
- Marched in the Tournament of Roses Parade in 1955
- Held its first concert collaboration with the New York Philharmonic in 1964, a partnership that continues today
- Sounded TAPS during a tribute to George Steinbrenner before a New York Yankees game in 2010
- Recorded the first production of the West Point Holiday Show, which has aired on Fox News every Christmas since 2011, and is the largest military band media product ever distributed
- Performed at numerous NBA, NFL, NHL, and MLB games
- Performed several times for the opening of the New York Stock Exchange
- Celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner with two full live TV broadcasts of the National Anthem on the same day: one on Fox and Friends and another as the pregame anthem for the NFL NY Giants vs. Arizona Cardinals game.

The West Point Band has also performed at many large annual events.

The band has marched in the New York City Veterans Day parade, New York City Columbus Day Parade, and the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



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