



December 16th, 2025

The U.S. Air Force Academy Band
520 Otis Street
Peterson SFB CO 80914-1620

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for inquiring about auditioning for a drumset/percussion position with the United States Air Force Academy Band. This musical audition will be conducted in two parts: (a) a prescreening by e-mailing Google Drive or Dropbox links to MP3 files (encoded at 320kbps for best quality), a one page résumé, professional reference letter of recommendation (no more than three) and (b) a live audition for those selected from the initial screening. Details concerning both prescreen submission and the live auditions are attached. Please review these requirements carefully to determine if you are prepared to take the audition at this time. The following information outlines the requirements and important dates.

Feb. 9 th , 2026	Deadline for receipt of all musical prescreening materials and résumé.
Feb. 16 th , 2026	Each candidate will be notified whether or not he/she is invited to participate in the live auditions.
Mar. 23-27, 2026	Live audition at <u>Peterson Space Force Base</u> , Colorado Springs, CO.

In addition to passing the musical audition, you must also meet other criteria in order to become a member of an Air Force. Before applying, you must meet the following Air Force eligibility requirements.

Age:	You must be able to enlist in the Air Force between the ages of 17–41.
Weight:	Individuals must meet weight requirements in order to enlist in the Air Force.
Medical:	Individuals must be qualified for worldwide duty. Chronic medical problems, congenital defects etc., may be disqualifying factors.
Financial:	A severe financial problem could be a disqualifying factor.
Criminal:	A criminal record could be a disqualifying factor.
Citizenship:	You must be a natural born citizen, naturalized, or able to complete the naturalization process within four years.

For more precise information on becoming a member of the U.S. Air Force, please visit
www.airforce.com

*****Prior Service and Active Duty members - please contact the USAFA Band Auditions team for additional information prior to submitting materials.*****

If you are invited to the live audition, you will be required to meet with an official Air Force recruiter to be pre-qualified for basic military training. If you have any questions that pertain to the aforementioned eligibility requirements, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you so much for contacting the United States Air Force Academy Band regarding our upcoming audition. We hope you have a great experience during this process and wish you the best of luck. Please let me know if I can help you with anything. Do not hesitate to contact me directly at (719) 322-2193 or email usafabandauditions@gmail.com if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

BRYAN M. GANNON, MSgt, USAF
The USAF Academy Band
Auditions Team Lead

Attachment:

1. Audition Requirements (pre-screen)



ANNOUNCES A PREMIER BAND OPENING FOR:

DRUMSET/PERCUSSION

The United States Air Force Academy Band is seeking a percussionist, with emphasis on drum set and traditional rudimental drumming (traditional grip required), to perform in diverse music performance teams including jazz groups, concert ensembles and popular music groups. The candidate must have outstanding sight-reading skills and the ability to master advanced literature quickly; must demonstrate effortless and creative phrasing and dynamics, both written and implied in varied musical styles; must demonstrate excellent improvisational technique and be attentive to phrasing throughout performance. Additionally, all members of the USAFA Band are required to perform in ceremonial marching band and will play rudimental snare drum, bass drum or cymbals.

PRE-SCREENING REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE

- Resume
- Professional reference letter of recommendation (no more than three)
- Audio Recordings (live recordings with an ensemble preferred; play-alongs acceptable)
 - a. Pop/Rock/R&B/Country (or similar) with rhythm section
 - b. Big Band performances in the following styles:
 - Medium swing/shuffle
 - Uptempo swing
 - Latin
 - Modern (ie. Straight 8ths, ECM)
 - c. Percussion (unaccompanied)
 - SNARE DRUM (concert): “Etude No. 5” from *Advanced Snare Drum Studies* – Mitchell Peters
 - SNARE DRUM (rudimental): “Pine Cone Forest” from *14 Modern Contest Solos* – John Pratt
 - BELLS: trio from “Stars and Stripes” – John Philip Sousa

All résumés and pre-screening materials must be received by February 9th, 2026

LIVE Audition Date:

March 23-27, 2026, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado Springs, CO

Each candidate will be notified of prescreen results by February 16th, 2026. Live audition is by invitation only.

E-mail MP3 Files (encoded at 320kbps), Résumé and References, both via Google Drive or Dropbox to:
usafabandauditions@gmail.com

Call (719) 322-2193, E-mail usafabandauditions@gmail.com, or
visit our website at <https://www.music.af.mil/Bands/US-Air-Force-Academy-Band/> for further information.
The United States Air Force is an Equal Opportunity Employer

5

Presto $\text{♩} = 168-176$

pp

Molto ff

pp

ff pp ff f

f

p

f p mf

p mf f p

ff

This page of musical notation consists of eight staves of music, likely for a piano. The notation includes various dynamics, articulations, and fingerings.

Staff 1: Starts with a piano (*pp*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo to fortissimo (*ff*), then a decrescendo back to piano (*pp*), and finally a crescendo to fortissimo (*ff*). The music features sixteenth-note runs and accented notes.

Staff 2: Begins with a sforzando (*sfz*) dynamic, followed by a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic. It includes accented notes and sixteenth-note patterns.

Staff 3: Features a piano (*p*) dynamic, a sforzando (*sfz*) dynamic, and a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic. It includes a triplet of eighth notes and sixteenth-note runs.

Staff 4: Starts with a piano (*pp*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo to fortissimo (*ff*), then a decrescendo back to piano (*pp*). It includes accented notes and sixteenth-note patterns.



Staff 5: Features a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic, a piano (*pp*) dynamic, and a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. It includes accented notes and sixteenth-note runs.

Staff 6: Starts with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic, followed by a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. It includes accented notes and sixteenth-note patterns.

Staff 7: Features a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic, a piano (*p*) dynamic, and a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. It includes accented notes and sixteenth-note runs.

Staff 8: Ends with a sforzando (*sfz*) dynamic. It includes accented notes and sixteenth-note patterns.

THE PINE CONE FOREST

F = Right Flam 
 (F) = Left Flam 

By JOHN S. PRATT

Metronome time (♩) = 116

5 *f* R R L R (F) R L F L R R L R L R L F L L R

9 R L R R (F) R L L F L R R L R L R (F) R (F) R R L R (F) R L F L R (F) R L F

13 5 9 5 (F) R R R (F) R R (F) F L R L F (F) R R R (F) R R L F (F) *sfz mf sfz mf sfz f*

13 5 13 13 R L R R L R L R L L R (F) R R L L R R (F) R L F R (F) L

13 5 F R (F) L F (F) R L F L L R L R L R L R L R L R R (F) R L L

9 7 *mf* R R L F R (F) L F L R (F) F L R L R L F L R L R L L (13)

5 5 *f* R R L R R L F L R R (F) R L L F L R L F L L F L R L F L (10)

5 7 3 *mf* R L F (F) R R (F) F L R L F L R L R L F L R L F L R L R

3 3 3 7 3 *ff* L R L R L L R L R L R L R L L R L R L F (F) F L F L R L R L (21)

Rudiments contained in this Drum Solo are listed below:

1. Five stroke roll
2. Seven stroke roll
3. Nine stroke roll
4. Ten stroke roll
5. Thirteen stroke roll
6. Flam accent (variation)
7. Flam tap
8. Flam paradiddle
9. Flam
10. Flamacue
11. Ruff
12. Single paradiddles
13. Double paradiddle
14. Single ratamacue
- *15. Flam double paradiddle
- *16. Triple paradiddle
17. Single drag
- *18. Ruff single paradiddle
- *19. Single stroke of 7
20. Lesson No. 25
- *21. Ruff flamacue

The Stars and Stripes Forever

(Bells/Glockenspiel excerpt)

John Philip Sousa

TRIO



9



19



26

