

SPOTLIGHT

“Pershing’s Own” clarinet player is seven time inaugural participant

By: Sgt. Paige Behringer

In 1979, after years of piano lessons, a sixth-grade El Paso, Texas, boy hooked on classical music picked up his second musical instrument – the clarinet.

That clarinet started it all! U.S. Army Master Sgt. Lane Shioji obtained a Bachelor of Music in Clarinet Performance from Baylor University, a Master of Music in Clarinet Performance from Northwestern University and a symphonic military career spanning more than two decades.

Shioji, an Army special band musician assigned to The United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own,” has been playing clarinet in the Army since 1992.



“I am fortunate to work every day with some of the best musicians in the world,” Shioji said. “It is quite a joy listening to and performing with these amazing musicians.”

Throughout his eventful career, Shioji has performed in many venues for a wide range of audiences. Some highlights include playing in 48 of the 50 states and in England, Belgium and Luxembourg celebrating the 50th anniversary of World War II.

While “Pershing’s Own” may travel overseas, its primary purpose is ceremonial support here in the United States.

Some of Shioji’s more memorable experiences include performing at full honor funerals at Arlington National Cemetery and at Congressional Gold Medal ceremonies at the United States Capitol, which he says are quite moving.

Shioji is set to participate in the 58th Presidential Inauguration, which will be his seventh inauguration.

“My first [inauguration] was marching with The U.S. Army Field Band in 1993,” Shioji said. “I marched with The U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own” in 1997, 2001 and 2005 as part of the Presidential Escort. I have been part of the Joint Force Inaugural Parade Team - Band Control Office in 2008, 2012 and 2016.”

Most service members involved have an opportunity to work on one or possibly two inaugurations in the span of a career. Shioji is one of the most experienced service members when it involves presidential inaugurations. “It is always unique to witness the peaceful transfer of power,” Shioji said of the upcoming inauguration.

In past years, Shioji has enjoyed working with service members from different branches.

“[I am looking forward] to all the excitement on January 20th and witnessing the hard work of the men and women of the Joint Task Force come to fruition,” Shioji said. “[I’m] excited to see a successful mission completed.”