



### **Heidi Ackerman**

Heidi Ackerman, mezzo soprano, is currently singing with The United States Army Field Band Soldiers' Chorus. She has soloed with the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, the Cleveland Pops at Severance Hall, the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. As an enlisted conductor of the Soldiers' Chorus, she has conducted concerts across the country and Puerto Rico. Prior to joining the Army, Ackerman was a teacher and freelance musician in Arizona. She sang three seasons with Arizona Opera and soloed with the Phoenix Symphony on Mendelssohn's Elijah. Heidi was thrilled to return to the Sioux County Oratorio for the third time last month with Handel's Messiah and is looking forward to returning to Severance Hall with the Cleveland Pops for their Memorial Day celebration in May 2019. She earned a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Choral Conducting and Education

from Northwestern College, IA. In her spare time, Ackerman performs around the DC/Baltimore area, including a concert series she started at the Maryland Correctional Women's Facility. She also loves taking her therapy dog, Raider, to local schools and Veteran homes.



### **Leslie Ostransky**

Soprano, Leslie Ostransky, serves as a Staff Sergeant in the Soldiers' Chorus of The United States Army Field Band. Prior to serving in the military, Leslie performed in operas, musical theatre, church music, and recitals from the Northeast to the Southeast and in Berlin, Germany. In addition to performing, Leslie has a background in education, having taught private voice students and in a K-12 school. Leslie holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from The University of Tennessee where she was a member of the Knoxville Opera Studio, and a Bachelor of Music from Wheaton College, IL. Leslie is a native of Frederick and is thankful for the musical enrichment she received through Tuscarora High School, the Advanced Music Studies program at Governor Thomas Johnson High School, and her ten years with the Frederick Children's Chorus.



## Michaela Shelton

Soprano Michaela Shelton is a native of New Jersey, and currently serves as a Sergeant First Class in the Soldiers' Chorus of The United States Army Field Band. With the Soldiers' Chorus she frequently tours the United States, connecting Americans to their Army. This has included singing the role of Soldier in the premiere of the new opera, *The Falling and the Rising* by Zach Redler and Jerre Dye. SFC Shelton holds a Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music and Bachelor's degrees in Voice Performance and Music Education from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, and has been a soloist with the Eastman Chorale, Eastman-Rochester Chorus, Eastman Wind Orchestra and Rochester Chamber Orchestra, performing such works as the Bach *St. Matthew Passion*, Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, and Schubert's *Mass No. 5 in A-flat*. SFC Shelton also has a background in education, having taught privately at the collegiate level, as well as in the classroom with high school choral students. She currently directs Devers Chorale, a children's chorus comprised of the children of Army Field Band soldiers.