



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
Band of Mid-America

Biography

Major Cristina Moore Urrutia **Commander,** **USAF Band of Mid-America**

Major Cristina Moore Urrutia is the Commander and Conductor of the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. Since August of 2011, she has led the Band of Mid-America in rendering honor to our nation and its military, enhancing morale, inspiring public trust and support for our Air Force, and aiding in recruiting initiatives, all with the highest degree of musical excellence.

A native of Kimball, Nebraska, Major Moore Urrutia graduated with high distinction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1995 with a Bachelor of Music degree in French Horn Performance. She continued her graduate studies at the same institution, earning a master of Music degree in Orchestral Conducting in 1998. During this time, she appeared throughout Nebraska as the guest conductor of the Third Chair Chamber Players and the Omaha Theatre Company. An accomplished hornist, she performed regularly with the Omaha Symphony, Lincoln Symphony Orchestra and the Hastings Symphony. Major Moore Urrutia studied horn performance under Allen French, as well as occasional studies with Gail Williams and Philip Myers. In addition to studying conducting under Dr. Tyler White and Maestro Emil Aluas, she has had additional training with such noted conductors as Mallory Thompson, Jerry Junkin, Rene Clausen and Mack Wilberg. Major Moore Urrutia's professional affiliations include the Conductor's Guild, the American Choral Director's Association and the Phi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society.

Major Moore Urrutia began her military career as principal French Horn and Associate Conductor of the 43rd Army Band of the Nebraska National Guard from 1992 until 2001. She then joined the United States Air Force, receiving her commission in April 2001. A Distinguished Graduate of Officer Training School, she was assigned as Deputy Commander of the United States Air Force Band of Liberty, Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts.

In 2004, Major Moore Urrutia was handpicked to conduct the prestigious Singing Sergeants at the United States Air Force Band, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington DC. While serving as Flight Commander and Director of the Singing Sergeants and Assistant Conductor of the Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra, she regularly performed for the President of the United States, Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and many other senior leaders and distinguished international visitors.

Selected for command in 2007, she led the USAF Band of the West, Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas for four years. During that time she deployed on the USNS Comfort for Operation CONTINUING PROMISE 2009, reaching thousands across Central, South America, and the Caribbean with the message of friendship from the United States. (During her tenure, the band received multiple awards, including the Colonel George S. Howard award.)

Major Moore Urrutia has conducted at the White House, Arlington Cemetery, the Redskins' FedEx Field, the Astros' Minute Maid Park and at Ford's Theater in the nationally televised "An American Celebration: A Salute to Our Troops." (She was also the guest emcee for the PBS special "Salute to Veterans 2011.")

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