

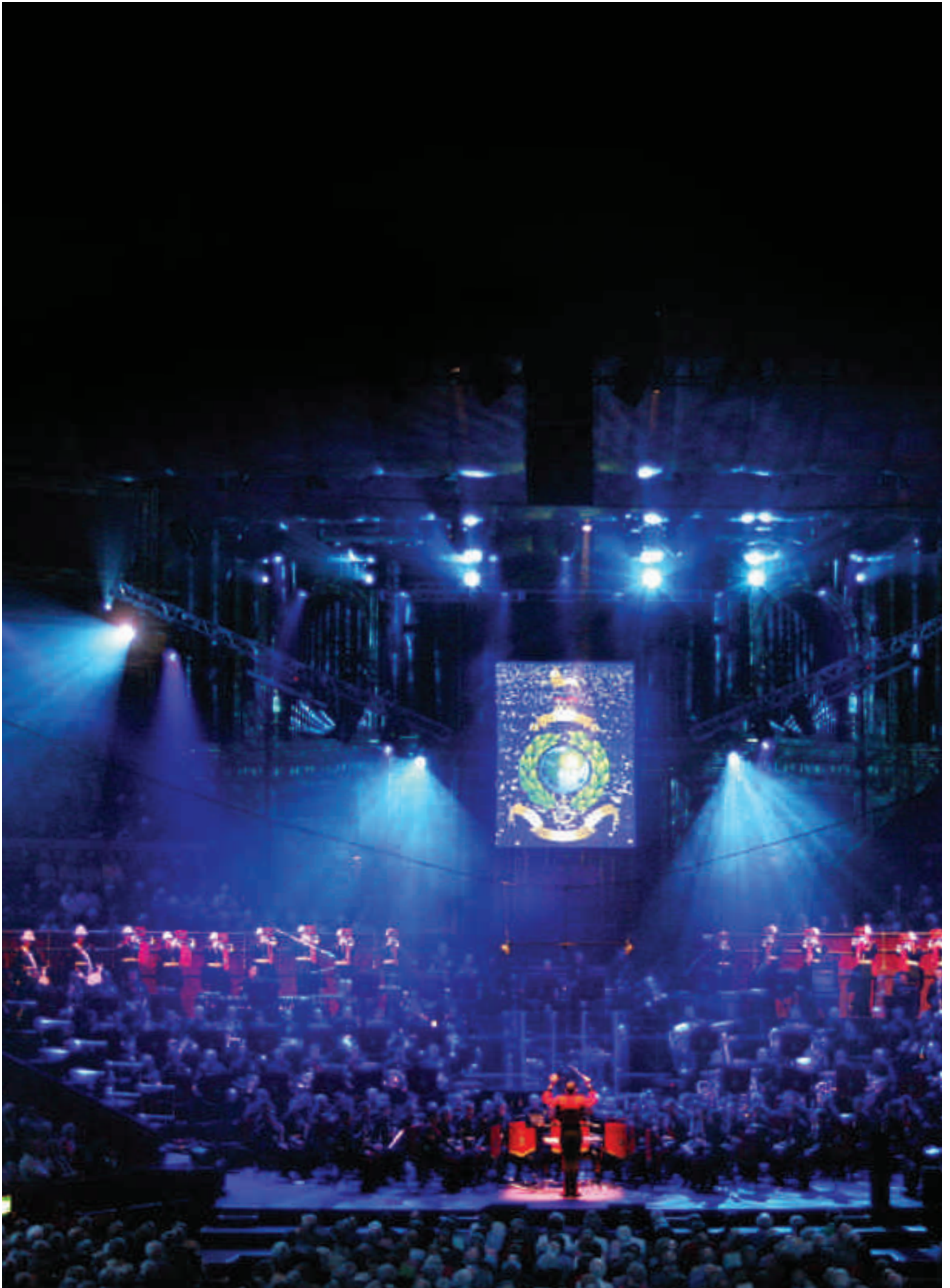
CAREERS

ROYAL MARINES

BAND SERVICE

YOUR ROLE • THE PEOPLE YOU'LL MEET • THE PLACES YOU'LL GO





WELCOME

Becoming a professional musician isn't just a career choice. It's a vocation and a commitment to hard work and excellence, whether you're studying, practising, taking exams or performing in public.

Serving as a Musician in the Royal Marines Band Service is all that and more. We're some of the world's most versatile military musicians, able to turn our hand to nearly any style of music. Your training at the renowned Royal Marines School of Music will give you the skills and confidence you need to perform at military, ceremonial and social events anywhere in the world.

However, what makes us truly unique is that we combine music-making with a vital military role. It's a challenging life and we'll ask a lot of you. In return, you'll receive one of the world's finest musical educations, which may include learning a second instrument, travelling the world and working as part of a talented, committed and courageous team. We hope this publication gives you some insight into who we are, what we do and where you could fit in.

We wish you every success in your choice of career with the Royal Marines Band Service.

Visit royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs or call 08456 00 37 77

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“Marching at the front of the Royal Marines Band fills me with pride; I couldn’t imagine doing any other job.”

Simon, Bugler



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Royal Marines Band Service offers you a unique chance to combine music-making with an active, challenging military role. Here's what you could be part of.

THE PRIDE OF THE SERVICE

As a Musician or Bugler in the Royal Marines Band Service, you'll be among the world's finest military musicians. You will be providing music for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines who operate all over the world. This means you will, too, playing for ceremonial and state occasions, major concerts and at other events as well as providing military support in your role as part of a medical team.

Our bands are the public face of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, known and respected both for the range and quality of our music-making and our precision on the parade ground.

In our distinctive white helmets and blue uniforms, we're one of the world's great military spectacles, drawing huge, enthusiastic crowds wherever we go. As well as performing, you'll be representing your service and your country, which adds a unique extra dimension to your life as a musician.



MARCHES AND MOZART

Whether you're playing marches, Mozart or contemporary music, you'll be carrying on a tradition of military music that goes back to Sir Francis Drake and the Spanish Armada. Drums and bugles were used to signal important moments in the sailors' day and orders when they went into battle. Even today, the Buglers of the Royal Marines Corps of Drums still lead our bands on parade.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Really?

We have the same motto as the Royal Marines Commandos, Per Mare Per Terram, meaning 'by sea, by land'. It appears in the centre of the emblem, known as the Brunswick Star, on the front of our white pith helmets.



FIVE OF THE BEST

Once you're trained as a Musician or Bugler, you'll join one of the five bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines. Four are based in England, at HMS Nelson in Portsmouth, HMS Collingwood in Gosport, HMS Raleigh in Torpoint and the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM) in Lympstone, Devon. The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Scotland is based at Rosyth in Fife.

IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES

Your main job will be to provide music for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Then, when our ships and Commandos go into action, you'll swap music for your military role as a member of a medical team on board a casualty-receiving ship or to support 3 Commando Brigade.

What inspired you to join the Royal Marines Band Service?

"I joined a local marching band at 11, and in 1999 I had the chance to play at the last Royal Tournament at Earls Court with the Royal Navy Volunteer Bands. That's when I saw the Royal Marines Band Service 'properly' for the first time and decided that it would be my dream job."

Has it lived up to your expectations?

"Definitely. The best bit for me is the parade work; the feeling of being at the front of the band is fantastic. Performing to different audiences – including the Queen and Prince Philip – is such a good feeling."

**JOANNE
BUGLER**





“When we join, we’re clearly informed about the Royal Marines Band Service’s musical and military roles and should be able to accept that they go hand-in-hand with each other. ”

Ann, Musician





ROYAL MARINES BAND SERVICE LIFE

Your career with us will be filled with musical, military and personal challenges. We're going to ask a lot of you. But you'll get a great deal from us in return. The next few pages will give you some idea of what you can look forward to.

In this section:

- **Develop musical excellence and variety** - Page 10
- **What we can offer you** - Page 12
- **Sports and recreation** - Page 14
- **Understanding the ranks** - Page 16

Visit royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs
or call 08456 00 37 77

DEVELOP MUSICAL EXCELLENCE AND VARIETY

Our military music and precision marching have made us world-famous. But perfection on the parade ground is just one aspect of life in the Royal Marines Band Service. Join us and you'll train to become a truly all-round Musician or Bugler, able to turn your hand to just about anything.

Really?

Our bands can play up to 1500 engagements a year; sometimes performing twice a day all around the world and also at sea.

MUSIC FOR ALL OCCASIONS

The most popular image people have of us is the Massed Bands and Corps of Drums in full dress uniform, marching in perfect formation on Horse Guards Parade or in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle. However, as well as military events like 'Beating Retreat' or the 'Tattoo', you'll play at state and ceremonial occasions, concerts and Corps of Drums displays. Sometimes you'll play with your band, or with all five bands together as the Massed Bands. You may also be part of a dance band, a light orchestra for a lunch or dinner, or a brass, string or woodwind ensemble.

So, as a working member of a Royal Marines Band, you'll play in a number of official line-ups.

MARCHING BAND

The world-famous public face of the Royal Marines Band Service, combining expert musicianship, precision marching and immaculate turnout.

SYMPHONIC WIND BAND

Our popular concert formation, in which you'll perform to literally thousands of people on stages such as the Royal Albert Hall and in locations all around the world.

BIG BAND

Recreating the inimitable 'Glenn Miller' sound for concerts and nostalgia events.

DANCE BAND

Pop standards and favourites to get people on their feet at military and civilian social events and school visits.

SYMPHONIC AND SALON ORCHESTRA

Playing the classical orchestral repertoire for concerts and to entertain guests at important dinners and other functions.

The sheer range of music you'll be playing will make you a truly complete musician, able to turn your hand to almost anything.





“The biggest musical challenge is playing at a consistently high level in front of the public, heads of state, royalty and foreign dignitaries.”

Matt, Musician

YOUR SECOND INSTRUMENT

Although they don't feature in all our line-ups, we need plenty of strings for our orchestral work. As a result, during your time at the Royal Marines School of Music (RMSoM), you may be trained in a second instrument, so we can provide the full range of music in our packed programme.

If you currently play the clarinet or cornet, which we have most of in the Band Service, you may learn the violin or viola as well. Similarly, if you already play the euphonium, you will have to train as a cellist.

Below is a list of the instruments and combinations played within the Royal Marines Band Service:

- **Flute and saxophone**
- **Oboe and cor anglais**
- **Solo clarinet**
- **Clarinet and viola**
- **Clarinet and violin**
- **Clarinet and piano**
- **Saxophone and violin**
- **Bassoon**
- **French horn**
- **Solo cornet**
- **Cornet and piano**
- **Cornet and violin**
- **Trombone**
- **Euphonium and cello**
- **Basses**
(tuba/double bass/bass guitar)
- **Percussion**
- **Bugle and military side drum**

LEARNING FROM THE BEST

Before you join one of the five bands, you'll complete one of the world's most demanding but rewarding musical educations. You'll be taught by civilian professors who've played with the top orchestras throughout the country, as well as our own instructors, who are Non-Commissioned Officers with huge experience.

As well as enjoying a tremendously varied career, the musical skills and experience you'll have developed with us will mean you'll be in great demand if you decide to return to civilian life. Plus, you're almost guaranteed to feature on one of our many recordings.



Really?

The Band of HM Royal Marines Scotland, based at Rosyth, is the only naval band based north of London.

PAY

Pay in the Royal Marines Band Service compares well with civilian life. On top of your regular pay, you'll have the opportunity to earn extra from our fee-paying engagements. We also give many Musicians permission to form their own groups and play private gigs. You can see our current rates of pay at royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs

JOB SECURITY

We offer stability and job security rarely found in civilian life. However, if your circumstances change, or you decide that life in the Royal Marines Band Service really isn't for you, you can leave by giving us notice, just like in a civilian job. For more details, please see the 'Your questions answered' section later in this publication.

TRAINING

The Naval Service is one of the UK's largest training organisations. We run a wide range of accredited professional courses, lasting anything from a few days to several years and at every level from basic skills to postgraduate degrees.

Most of our courses give you qualifications recognised outside the Royal Marines Band Service so you can easily transfer your skills to civilian life.

A COMPLETE MUSICAL TRAINING

Throughout your career, you'll have opportunities to return to the Royal Marines School of Music (RMSoM) for higher training courses, preparing you for promotion and greater responsibilities within the Royal Marines Band Service.



WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU

As well as all its incredible opportunities for travel, adventure, training and teamwork, a career with us also has plenty of practical benefits. Throughout your time with us, we're going to ask a lot of you. So in return, you can expect a great deal from us.



“You need to be hard-working, flexible, musical and sociable.”

Chris, Bugler

LIFELONG LEARNING

As a member of the Royal Marines Band Service, whatever your job and rank, you'll have the chance to study for extra or new qualifications. These can be academic, practical or connected with an interest, sport or hobby. As well as helping you in your job with us, many of our courses lead to qualifications that will be recognised by civilian employers. If you join us without any formal qualifications, we'll help you gain GCSEs and A-levels.

As well as providing our own courses, we have two schemes that offer generous financial support if you want to carry out other training, whether it's directly relevant to your work with us or not. The Standard Learning Credit Scheme, which is available to everyone, gives you up to £175 every year for all kinds of training courses. The Enhanced Learning Credits Scheme, which is open to you after a minimum period of service, provides funding of up to £6000 over three years, which you can use for training for up to 10 years after you leave the Royal Marines Band Service.

DEGREE

Through our partnership with Portsmouth University, you'll also be able to get a BMus (Hons) degree. If you then progress to our demanding and highly prestigious one-year Bandmaster's Course, you can go on to gain a Masters degree (MMus).

HOLIDAY

You'll get six weeks' paid holiday each year, plus public holidays.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL BENEFITS

We provide all your medical and dental care free of charge, whatever your rank, job or where you're serving.

MATERNITY AND PATERNITY LEAVE

We offer 26 weeks' maternity leave on full pay and an extra 26 weeks on reduced pay. We offer men two weeks' paternity leave on full pay.

WHERE YOU'LL LIVE

Your accommodation at sea is free. When you're working and living on shore, we offer a choice of accommodation which we help pay for, including single accommodation. We also offer rented housing for married couples, people in civil partnerships, and families with children.

AT THE END OF YOUR CAREER

If you decide to leave, you can take advantage of our generous resettlement package, which currently includes up to 11 weeks' paid holiday (depending on how long you've served), plus financial help while you find a new job and settle back into civilian life.

PENSIONS

Our pension package is one of the most generous offered by any UK employer. It's non-contributory, which means you don't have to pay anything into it out of your salary. Unlike many civilian pensions, it's also based on the salary at the time you leave and the amount of time you've served.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

As a member of the Royal Marines Band Service, you're part of the Royal Marines, giving you access to the incredible opportunities for sport, recreation, travel and adventurous training that go with life in the Corps.



SEE THE WORLD

For centuries, people have joined us to see the world and visit places they might otherwise never get to go to. The opportunity to travel is still one of the attractions of a career with us.

We provide musical support to the Royal Navy Surface Fleet, as well as the Royal Navy and Royal Marines at their bases in the UK and abroad. This means you could serve just about anywhere in the world with the added bonus of being free to enjoy the sights and culture whenever you're not performing. In recent years, the bands have been to Bermuda, Hong Kong, Norway, Gibraltar, Holland, New York, Moscow, the Eastern Mediterranean and Portugal, to name just a few.

A SENSE OF ADVENTURE

During your career, there'll be times when you have to dig deep and find something extra within yourself.

That's the kind of fighting spirit, grit and positive attitude we like and which our adventurous training courses are designed to encourage. You don't have to pick activities related to your job; this is a chance to try something you've always wanted to do, or maybe done before and want to take further.

These courses offer a real taste of adventure, whether you're diving in the Red Sea, snowboarding in the Alps, caving, hang-gliding, mountaineering, parachuting or sailing. For some people, it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. For others, it's the start of an interest that stays with them long after they leave the Royal Marines Band Service.

PLAYING FOR FUN

We encourage everyone to take part in sport, both for the fitness benefits and the fantastic social life that goes with it. We provide free, high-quality sports facilities at all our shore establishments and on most ships.

You can play a huge range of team and individual sports at every level, from total beginner to experienced competitor. As well as the 'traditional' sports like football, rugby, hockey and cricket, we offer activities such as archery, bobsleigh and fencing. Each of the sports and activities listed opposite has its own association, which organises training and coaching sessions, competitions and social events.



“I wanted to play for a living, travel and enjoy military music and lifestyle.”

Jo, Musician

AND TO WIN

If, like many of us, you're competitive, we'll let you go as far as your potential and commitment can take you. You can compete in virtually all the sports listed here, generally starting at inter-unit level, before progressing to take part in open and inter-command events. At a higher level, we send teams to inter-service competitions, where you'll go up against our colleagues in the Army and RAF, as well as top civilian amateurs and professionals. We now have women's teams representing us in most sports, including football, rugby, cricket and basketball. If you have the talent and determination, we'll help you go on to compete at national or international level, including the Olympic Games.

TIME TO RELAX

We all need time to relax and chill out. Our accommodation areas are equipped with TVs, DVD players and stereo systems. You can use your own laptop or MP3 player to watch films and listen to music. We also provide quiet places to study.



Some of the sports you can take part in

- Angling
- Archery
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Biathlon
- Bobsleigh
- Boxing
- Canoeing
- Climbing
- Cricket
- Cycling
- Fencing
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Judo
- Martial arts
- Motor sports
- Netball
- Polo
- Rowing
- Rugby league
- Rugby union
- Shooting
- Squash
- Triathlon
- Tennis
- Zap Cats (extreme speed-boat racing)

All sports and activities are open to both men and women.

UNDERSTANDING THE RANKS

The promotion structure within the Royal Marines Band Service allows you to follow your musical and management ambitions as far as you want to go.

A CAREER AS A MUSICIAN OR BUGLER

When you complete your training at the Royal Marines School of Music (RMSoM), you'll start your career as a Musician (known as an M3) or Bugler in one of the five bands.

You'll prepare for promotion to Corporal with the Junior Command Course. You will also need to pass the Musician Class-2 course (M2).

CORPORAL



After the Senior Command Course at CTCRM, you'll complete a further 12 weeks at the RMSoM and the Musician Class-1 course (M1) before becoming a Band Sergeant.

SERGEANT



In this senior Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) rank, you'll have more responsibility for training and administration.

COLOUR SERGEANT



Promotion to Warrant Officer 2 comes after completing the 12-month Bandmaster's course and may see you serving as a Bandmaster in one of the bands or chief instructor at the RMSoM.

WARRANT OFFICER 2



On reaching the most senior NCO rank, you could become the Corps Bandmaster.

WARRANT OFFICER 1



APPOINTMENT RANKS

These are appointments, rather than part of the rank structure. If you're selected to train as a Drum Major or Bugle Major, you'll hold one of the NCO ranks above (usually Sergeant or Colour Sergeant), but be referred to as either a Drum Major or Bugle Major.

DRUM MAJOR

As Drum Major, you'll march at the head of the band on parade, using the ceremonial staff. You'll also be responsible for administrative and disciplinary matters.



BUGLE MAJOR

As Bugle Major, you'll be responsible for training Buglers and Drummers at the RMSoM. You'll also be responsible for administrative and disciplinary matters within a band.

YOUR CAREER AS AN OFFICER

Unlike the Royal Marines or the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines Band Service doesn't offer direct entry for officers. Instead, all our officers are promoted from the ranks, as this is the only way we can make sure you'll have the unique combination of musicianship and leadership skills the job needs.

Even our most senior officer, the Principal Director of Music, started out the same way you will, as an M3.

You'll hold the rank of Lieutenant as a Director of Music while you're completing your officer training.



Once you reach the rank of Captain, you will be a fully-qualified Director of Music.



As a Major, you could be a Senior Director of Music, Director of Music Training at the RMSoM, or a Staff Officer Band Service.



You will be the Principal Director of Music and the most senior rank in the Royal Marines Band Service.



What has been the most challenging aspect of your time with the Royal Marines Band Service?

"My Senior Command Course for promotion to Sergeant was very mentally and physically demanding; sheer determination and teamwork got me through."

How do your musical and military roles fit together?

"The balance is just right. In my case, I've been deployed to Iraq as part of Operation TELIC, assisting medical staff on board RFA Argus as a stretcher-bearer – and also played a flute solo at the Mountbatten Festival of Music in the Royal Albert Hall!"

**ANN
MUSICIAN**





JOBS AND **OPPORTUNITIES**

Throughout your career, a whole range of possibilities for further training and promotion will be open to you. Whatever your musical and personal ambitions, we'll help you get as far as you want to go.

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- **Musician or Bugler** - Page 20
- **On operations** - Page 22

**Visit royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs
or call 08456 00 37 77**

MUSICIAN OR BUGLER

You can join us either as a Musician or as a Bugler. In either job, you'll play as part of the band, but your specific role and training will be different.



MUSICIAN

As a Royal Marines Musician, you'll spend three years at the Royal Marines School of Music (RMSoM), mastering the full range of musical styles that make up our unique repertoire. You'll then take on a job that's as demanding as any in the musical world. However, its unique challenges also bring rewards you won't find anywhere else.

As a professional Royal Marines Musician, you'll be playing to recital standard with the concert band or orchestra band and in smaller groups and ensembles. You'll also be skilled in the marching and drill that have made our performances a magnificent spectacle and crowd-pleaser around the world.



MUSICIAN	
Age:	16 to 32.
Nationality:	British or British dual citizenship.
Qualifications:	No specific qualifications are needed for this job.
Sex:	This job is open to both men and women.
Starting salary:	£13,377 to £16,681 a year.

What have you learned during your training?

"My basic military training has meant I have had to apply myself to new skills such as navigation, rifle skills and field-craft – completely new experiences that have stretched what I thought I was capable of. Musically, I've had to analyse my playing with more scrutiny while working closely with other players in an ensemble. It's been challenging but very rewarding."

What have been the highlights of your career so far?

"I've been surprised by the variety of jobs we're able to cover in both our musical and military roles. The best part has been playing at high-profile engagements. My proudest moment was the first time my parents saw me play in public, where I proved to them that I had achieved something I had dreamt about for years."

**JONATHAN
MUSICIAN**



BUGLER

As a Royal Marines Bugler, you'll be part of the Corps of Drums. This is an important part of the Royal Marines Band Service, but has its own distinct identity and uniform.

You'll spend two years at the RMsOM learning to play the B^b bugle, E^b herald trumpet and military snare drum to the equivalent of grade 8 or recital-performance standard.

As a Bugler you'll perform either as an individual, in small groups, as a Corps of Drums or marching in front of the entire band when you're on parade. As well as being trained in the famously intricate precision marching and stick drill, you'll play the snare drum and herald trumpet, sounding fanfares at ceremonial and state occasions. You could also sound traditional calls on Royal Navy ships and on shore bases.

BUGLER

Age: 16 to 32.

Nationality: British or British dual citizenship.

Qualifications: No specific qualifications are needed for this job.

Sex: This job is open to both men and women.

Starting salary: £13,337 to £16,681 a year.



Visit royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs to view the latest rates of pay.

ON OPERATIONS

Alongside your musical training, you'll develop the skills you need to provide vital support to the Royal Marines on military or humanitarian operations.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Making music is a large part of life in the Royal Marines Band Service. But it's not all we do. When the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Commandos go into action, we're right alongside them providing medical support.

Although we're trained and prepared for war, many of our operations involve bringing humanitarian aid to some of the world's most desperate people. You could be part of a medical team helping victims of flood, famine, earthquake or other natural disaster, or in countries affected by political instability or civil war.

These activities are part of your job as a Royal Marines Musician or Bugler. So as well as making fantastic music, you'll be making a real difference to people's lives. There aren't many careers that can promise you that.

Really?

The Mountbatten Festival of Music is when the Massed Bands play three nights in a row at London's Royal Albert Hall, one of the biggest events on our calendar. The first concert, in 1973, raised money for the Royal Academy of Music. Today, the main beneficiary is children's cancer charity CLIC Sargent.

"In recent times the Band Service has become more involved with the Royal Marines Commandos in general and has deployed everywhere they've gone. "

Tom, Musician





MILITARY ROLE

Members of the Royal Marines Band Service have seen action in war zones around the world. Musicians and Buglers worked as casualty-handlers on hospital ships during the Falklands War and both Gulf wars and served with 3 Commando Brigade in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. Occasionally, we find ourselves solving problems closer to home. In 2002, during the firefighters' strike, Band Service members crewed military 'Green Goddess' fire engines at various temporary service fire stations around the UK.





JOINING, TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION

It's a major move from civilian life to serving with the Royal Marines Band Service. Here's how we can help you to make it.

In this section:

- **How to join** - Page 26
- **Your training and development** - Page 28
- **Civilian accreditation and a BMus (Hons)** - Page 30

Visit royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs
or call 08456 00 37 77

HOW TO JOIN

Once you've decided that you're interested in a career in the Royal Marines Band Service, it's time to begin the formal recruitment process.

HELPING YOU SUCCEED

The recruitment process might seem a bit involved, but that's because we want you to be absolutely sure it's the right decision for you. We also have a duty to choose people with the right attitudes

and personal qualities to take on the responsibilities of life in an armed service. During the process, you'll have plenty of opportunities to show us what you're made of and we'll help you make the most of your potential.



GET IN TOUCH

Call **08456 00 37 77**. You'll be asked a few basic questions to check you're eligible to apply. Or you can fill in a short form online at **royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs**

MEET US

We'll book you a place for an initial careers presentation (ICP) at a careers office near you, where you'll learn more about us and the job options open to you.

FIND OUT MORE

After the ICP, you'll have a chance to ask the Careers Adviser any questions you may have. You'll then fill in a short application form. You'll also tell us when and how quickly you want to move on with your application. At this point, you're still not committed to joining the Royal Marines Band Service.

SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT

We'll arrange for you to take the recruit test (RT), which covers basic English and maths, problem-solving and understanding of mechanics. We'd recommend you work through the examples at **royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs** before you sit the real thing.

Visit **royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs** or call **08456 00 37 77**

Don't forget

We're here to help. If you have questions or concerns at any stage in the process, please ask your Careers Adviser. It's what they're there for.

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YOUR WAY AHEAD

Based on your RT results and any existing qualifications you may have, we'll discuss the most suitable jobs open to you. If you don't pass the RT first time, don't worry, as you can take it again. Your Careers Adviser can tell you what the timescales are likely to be.

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FIT TO JOIN

You'll need to take a medical, an eye test and the pre-joining fitness test. Make sure you get yourself in shape both to pass the test and prepare for your basic training. To help you, there's a pre-joining fitness programme you can follow at royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs

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PUT IT TO THE TEST

We will put your musical ability and potential, plus your stamina, determination and character, to the test during your audition, held over five days at the RMSoM. It includes physical tests in the gym, a timed 1.5 mile run, a swimming assessment and a bleep test. You'll take a 40-minute aural test and then play a solo piece on each of your instruments, plus additional instruments if necessary. You'll have an interview with the Director of Music Training, a Staff Officer, the Chief Instructor and Bugle Major. Remember, the audition is a two-way process, in which we aim to show you what life in the Royal Marines Band Service has to offer. You'll have plenty of opportunities to ask questions, meet current trainees and even sit in on the band's evening rehearsals. For full details of the audition process, visit royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs



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WELCOME ABOARD

When you've passed the various tests, we'll make you a formal job offer. As soon as a place becomes available, you'll begin your basic training.

Remember to keep your fitness levels up after receiving your formal job offer to make sure you're still fit to start your training.



PHASE-ONE TRAINING: BASIC MILITARY SKILLS

The Royal Marines Band Service is, first and foremost, a military unit, so you'll spend your first few months with us learning the skills you'll need to be an effective member of the Royal Marines team.

Your phase-one training concentrates on physical fitness and the basics of soldiering. You'll need to be fit to cope with your performance workload, not just your military role, so you'll spend a good deal of time in the gym and in the pool.

Our immaculate drill is one of the things that makes us unique. So, you'll learn to march correctly, without your instrument at first, then master the altogether greater challenge of marching and playing at the same time.

You'll also learn first aid and the other skills you'll need when we go into action alongside the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Plus, you'll be doing classes in military law, current affairs, maths and English. It'll be tough at times, but it's all designed to help you make the move from civilian to military life.

PHASE-TWO TRAINING: BECOMING A MILITARY MUSICIAN

In phase two, the focus shifts firmly to music. For the next two years, you'll be based at the Royal Marines School of Music (RMSoM), mastering one or more instruments and gaining the skills you'll need as a working Musician or Bugler.

You'll have a civilian professor of music, who will have considerable musical experience, for each instrument you're learning. You'll have individual weekly lessons with them, and your own practice room to work on your technique.

You'll also be in the capable hands of a Band Service Instructor. They'll be an experienced player of the instrument you're learning, so they'll be able to keep an eye on your progress, advise on technique and help sort out any problems.

It's intensive training, but you'll find it's a fantastic way to develop your musical skills quickly and correctly. By the end of it, you'll be ready to join one of the five bands as a fully-trained Musician or Bugler.

On top of your normal study programme, you'll be encouraged to attend master classes, clinics, conferences, concerts, operas and the ballet. This will broaden your musical horizons so you become a skilled and fully-rounded musician.



YOUR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

There's a lot to learn on the way to becoming a Royal Marines Band Service Musician or Bugler. It starts with your basic training and continues right through your time with us. There'll be plenty of challenges, but plenty of rewards, too.

MEASURING YOUR PROGRESS

Alongside your instrumental lessons, you'll take classes in harmony, music theory, history of music and aural training, taught by civilian professors and Band Service staff. To help you with your studies, you'll have access to practice rooms, specific training aids and the RMSoM Research Centre. This has a vast collection of books and CDs, with listening facilities. You'll be able to see exactly how you're doing on all fronts through regular written and practical assessments.

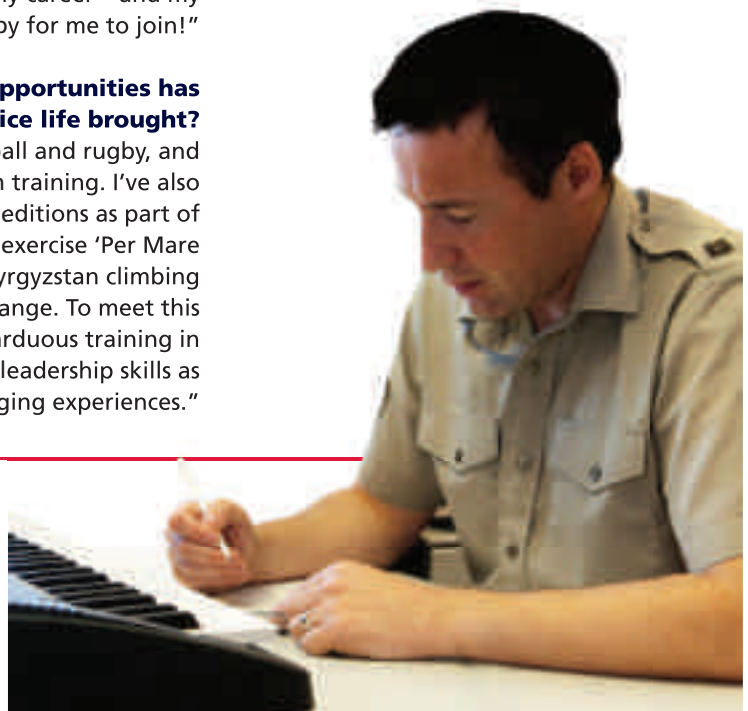
Did you always want to join the Royal Marines Band Service?

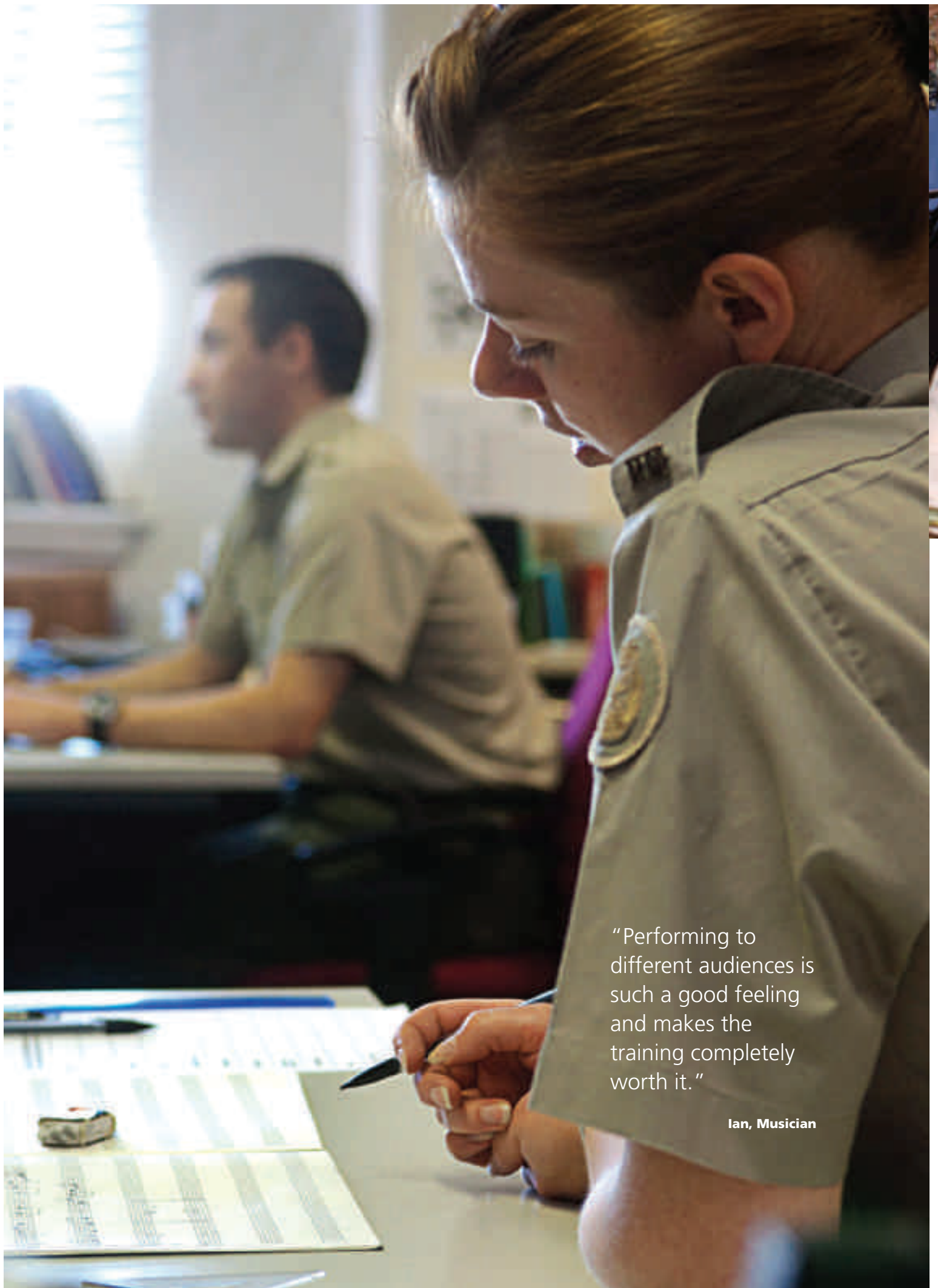
"My father served in the Royal Marines Commandos for 22 years and I remember as a child watching in awe when the Band Service were on parade in concert. This inspired me to make the Royal Marines Band Service my career – and my father was more than happy for me to join!"

Apart from playing music, what opportunities has Royal Marines Band Service life brought?

"I've represented the Band Service at football and rugby, and the Corps as a whole at football, all while in training. I've also taken part in many mountaineering expeditions as part of adventurous training. The highlight was exercise 'Per Mare Per Tien' in 2007, when I spent a month in Kyrgyzstan climbing uncharted mountains in the Tien Shan range. To meet this challenge, I undertook three months' arduous training in Scotland and Switzerland, where I gained leadership skills as well as life-changing experiences."

MATTHEW MUSICIAN





“Performing to different audiences is such a good feeling and makes the training completely worth it.”

Ian, Musician



CIVILIAN ACCREDITATION AND A BMUS (HONS)

Throughout your career with us, you'll have opportunities to gain musical and other qualifications. As well as helping you gain promotion and take on more responsibility with us, they'll be recognised and respected in civilian life, as well.

AIMING HIGHER

All the musical training you receive will earn you recognised civilian qualifications. Through our partnership with the University of Portsmouth, you'll be eligible to register on a BMus (Hons) degree course. Open to all Musicians, this is fully-funded by the Royal Marines Band Service, so you won't have to pay any tuition fees, plus you'll be earning while you study.

These qualifications, accredited by leading civilian organisations, reflect the incredibly high standard of musical training you'll receive at the RMSoM. They'll also stand you in excellent stead if you decide to continue your musical career after you leave the Royal Marines Band Service. They'll open up opportunities for teaching, further study, or to play with leading orchestras and ensembles, helping you follow whichever musical direction you choose.

As a Bugler, you'll be able to gain diplomas from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in bugle, snare drum and herald trumpet, through an exclusive partnership with the Royal Marines School of Music (RMSoM).

Really?

'Salute' – Mark of recognition and respect between any two people in uniform. In your first few weeks of training, you will quickly find out how (and who) to salute.





AND FINALLY...

Joining the Royal Marines Band Service is a big step. We want you to be happy, successful and sure you've made the right choice. In this final section, you'll find the answers, advice and reassurance you need to apply.

In this section:

- **Your questions answered** - Page 34
- **Equal opportunities** - Page 36
- **The Naval Service** - Page 38

Visit royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs
or call 08456 00 37 77

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Joining the Royal Marines Band Service is a big step. We want you to be happy, successful and sure you've made the right choice. These are some of the questions we get asked most often by people thinking of becoming recruits, and their families. You can find other questions on the website, email questions to us through our regular online webchats or just call us on 08456 00 37 77.

Q: HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO SIGN UP FOR?

A: To some extent, that's up to you. Once you complete your professional training, we'll ask you to serve for at least two-and-a-half years. As a Musician, Bugler or an NCO, you can serve a full career of 18 years' service or until the age of 40, whichever is later. However, you can extend this depending on your fitness and the needs of the service. If you earn a commission as an officer, you may stay on until the age of 50.

Q: WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND?

A: In the first six months with us, you can choose to leave at any point, as long as you give us 14 days' notice. After this, you will need to serve for two-and-a-half years from completion of your standard initial training period. You can then submit 12 months' notice to leave.

Q: CAN I SEE IF I LIKE IT BEFORE I APPLY?

A: Yes. We run four-day 'acquaint' courses in the Portsmouth area, which will give you a taste of life in the Royal Marines Band Service, as well as a chance to ask questions and find out more about the different options available to you. It's free and we'll even pay for your travel costs.

Q: ARE THERE AGE LIMITS TO JOINING?

A: You can join the Royal Marines Band Service between the ages of 16 and 32, and you must start your training before your 33rd birthday. If you're under 16, we can put you on a waiting list, but we can't consider you until you're at least 15 years nine months, when you must make a formal application.

Q: CAN WOMEN JOIN THE ROYAL MARINES BAND SERVICE?

A: Yes. Women can serve in all branches of the Royal Navy except the Mine Clearance Diver branch and the Submarine Service. This is purely for medical reasons. The Government also doesn't allow women to serve in front-line units, so if you're female, you can't join as a Royal Marines Commando.

Q: WHEN I JOIN, HOW MUCH HOLIDAY WILL I GET?

A: You will get six weeks' paid holiday and time off on all non-working weekends whether at home or abroad. As a member of the Royal Marines Band Service you'll often be working unsociable hours and at weekends, but you'll get plenty of free time to make up for this.

Really?

The Corps colours are blue, red, yellow and green. Blue symbolises our connection with the Royal Navy, while the 'drummer red' is the tint worn by the British Army until 1876. The light-infantry green is another historic colour, which was on the tall cylindrical hat, or shako, worn by the Corps in earlier days. The yellow, or 'old gold' to give it its correct name, was the colour of the original Admiral's Regiment uniform.



Q: CAN I JOIN AND WORK LOCALLY?

A: No. You have to be prepared to serve anywhere in the world – which for most people is one of our main attractions!

Q: HOW CAN I KEEP IN TOUCH WHILE I'M AWAY?

A: All our ships and shore units have satellite phones for emergencies. We also give everyone at sea 20 minutes' worth of free satellite calls a week (this increases to 30 minutes if you are serving in Afghanistan). All ships have email access and mobile phones are also allowed on board, although there may be some restrictions about when they can be used.

Q: WILL A CRIMINAL RECORD STOP ME FROM JOINING?

A: Not necessarily. Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, convictions are said to be 'spent' after a period of time, which varies according to the offence. As long as you have no 'unspent' convictions, a criminal record should not prevent you from joining the Royal Marines Band Service.

Q: WHAT'S THE POLICY ON DRUG USE?

A: We do not tolerate drugs in the Royal Marines Band Service or any area of the Naval Service. If you're found guilty of drug use, you will usually be discharged from the Royal Marines Band Service and may be prosecuted.

Q: I HAVE A PARTNER. CAN YOU HELP US WITH ACCOMMODATION?

A: For married couples, civil partnerships and those with children, rented family housing is available after you've completed basic training.

Q: I LIVE OVERSEAS. CAN I JOIN?

A: When you apply, you must be a British citizen, or a citizen of either a Commonwealth country or the Irish Republic. Certain career paths are only open to British citizens and we do not accept asylum seekers into the Naval Service.

Q: I'M DISABLED. CAN I JOIN?

A: If we accept your application, you'll have to pass a full medical examination. If you fail to meet the minimum standard for entry because of an illness, injury or other condition, we won't be able to offer you a career with the Royal Marines Band Service.

Q: HOW EASILY WILL I BE ABLE TO START A CIVILIAN CAREER ONCE I LEAVE?

A: Most people find the high levels of training, responsibility and management skills they gain from their Royal Marines Band Service career are highly desirable among civilian employers.

“You need to be highly musical, open to new ideas, proactive, intelligent, sporting and able to get on with people.”

John, Bugler

Q: IF I HAVE ANY MORE QUESTIONS, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

A: All you need to do is call us on **08456 00 37 77**.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

In the Royal Marines Band Service, we look for people with commitment, enthusiasm and high standards. Show us you've got them and we'll find a place for you – whatever your background.



Really?

'A Life on the Ocean Wave' was officially recognised as the Royal Marines' regimental quick march in 1882. The regimental slow march, originally written for the Russian Tzar's Preobrajensky Guard, was presented to the Royal Marines by Admiral of the Fleet The Earl Mountbatten of Burma in June 1964.

We believe in equal opportunities. This means we'll consider your application no matter what your sex, race, ethnic origin, religion, sexuality or social background.

The only exceptions are the Royal Marines Commandos, the Submarine Service and Mine Clearance Divers, where we can't accept applications from women on the advice of the medical authorities.

We'll make every effort to take specific religious and cultural requirements, such as diet, into account where possible.

Please remember though that we have to consider factors such as operational needs, health and safety and our duty of care to all our personnel.

We offer everyone employment and promotion in the Royal Marines Band Service on the basis of their ability and merit, nothing else.



“During training, we grew together as a troop. We learnt how to work together in different situations and give each other the encouragement and motivation to keep going and succeed – something that’s essential when you join the Royal Marines Band Service.”

Emma, Musician

We do not accept bullying or harassment of any kind within the Royal Marines Band Service.

We encourage anyone suffering any form of abuse to report it. We always treat any complaints seriously, sensitively and in absolute confidence.

Those found guilty of bullying, harassment or other unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

If you have any other questions on our equal opportunities policy, visit royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs

THE NAVAL SERVICE

We hope this publication has given you an insight into life in the Royal Marines Band Service and the career opportunities available to you. But the Royal Marines Band Service is just one part of the Naval Service.

To see what other career opportunities there are, simply visit the websites shown below.



ROYAL NAVY (RN)

The Royal Navy you're probably most familiar with is made up of the Surface Fleet – aircraft carriers, frigates, destroyers and other vessels – and the Submarine Service. All of which, except ballistic submarines, are armed with conventional weapons. The Fleet Air Arm delivers air power and air support, operating fast jets and helicopters from warships and bases on land.

royalnavy.mod.uk/careers



ROYAL MARINES (RM)

The Royal Marines are an elite unit – they have to be physically tough, mentally strong and totally dedicated to wear the coveted green beret. They work in harsh environments, including mountains, jungles and deserts, and show 'courage, determination, unselfishness and cheerfulness in the face of adversity.'

royalmarines.mod.uk



ROYAL MARINES RESERVE (RMR)

The Royal Marines also has a Reserve Force, who all go through the same training as their full-time colleagues. Some have previously served with the Royal Marines or other armed forces – many have no previous military experience, but have what it takes to earn the green beret. This could be an ideal first step to a career in the Royal Marines.

royalmarines.mod.uk/rmr



ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE (RNR)

The Royal Naval Reserve are an important part of the Naval Service, and are made up of more than 2000 men and women (about a quarter of them are former Royal Navy personnel) who combine military and civilian life. As fully-trained members of the team, they help the Royal Navy meet its operational needs in times of crisis, tension and war. And although they're volunteers, Reservists get paid for any training and work they do.

royalnavy.mod.uk/rnr



ROYAL FLEET AUXILIARY (RFA)

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) supplies Royal Navy ships with the fuel, food, stores and ammunition they need to stay operational while at sea. It's a civilian service, made up of over 2000 officers and ratings trained to Merchant Navy standards, with military skills that allow them to provide close support in combat operations.

rfa.mod.uk

CONTACTING US

We hope this publication has given you an insight into what life in the Royal Marines Band Service is like and what career opportunities are open to you.

VISIT

royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs

- Chat to real people in the Royal Marines Band Service in our regular live chats.
- Keep up to date by signing up to our monthly newsletter.
- Discover a whole range of other useful links:

JOBS

THE AUDITION PROCESS

THE ROYAL MARINES SCHOOL OF MUSIC (RMSoM)

MILITARY TRAINING

COMMANDING AND CONDUCTING

PHOTO GALLERY

PRE-JOINING FITNESS PROGRAMME

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

NEWSLETTER

CALL

08456 00 37 77

- Check you're eligible to apply, and book your appointment to visit an Armed Forces Careers Office.

We want you to succeed and will do all we can to help. If you have any questions, or would like any further information or advice, please get in touch today.

This publication is for guidance only. The facts in it may change without notice and it is no form of legal contract. We explain details of length of service in the Armed Forces Careers Office and it will be shown in the contract. You may need to repay any bursary or sponsorship money if you do not enter service, or if you fail or withdraw from training.

We can change salaries, bursaries and sponsorship schemes, cadetships and job specifications, with or without notice. Major as well as minor changes may be involved. However, we make every effort to make sure the details in this publication are correct. This publication is not an offer by the Royal Marines Band Service to any person. Publications are prepared and printed several months before being distributed so cannot always immediately reflect changes in details or in some cases a particular offer.



**Visit royalmarines.mod.uk/rmbs
or call 08456 00 37 77**

