

BAND OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS AND EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND

PRESENT



DIRECTED BY
MIKE SMITH

SUNDAY
23RD APRIL 2023

AND
CAPTAIN BEN MASON



ABF

THE SOLDIERS'

CHARITY

IN SUPPORT OF ABF - THE SOLDIERS' CHARITY

THE LEGEND OF ST GEORGE

According to legend, St George was a Roman soldier born in what is now modern-day Turkey in around 280AD. He was born to a wealthy Christian noble family and became a soldier of the Emperor Diocletian.

In 303 Diocletian, as part of a crackdown on the growing influence of the Christian community, ordered that all Christian soldiers in the army be expelled and all Roman soldiers be forced to make the traditional pagan sacrifice. St George refused, declaring he was a Christian. Diocletian initially tried to convert him with offers of wealth and land but when he refused he was beheaded on 23rd April 303.

The myth of St George slaying a dragon originally appeared in stories told by the mediaeval Eastern Orthodox Church which were brought back to Europe by the Crusaders in the 10th and 11th centuries.

According to one story, a town in Libya had a small lake with a plague-infected dragon living in it. The townspeople were gradually being killed by the dragon and started feeding it two sheep a day to appease it. When they ran out of sheep the king devised a lottery system to feed it local children. One day his own daughter was chosen and, as she was being led out to the lake, St George happened to ride past. He reportedly offered to slay the dragon if the townspeople converted to Christianity. They all did, and the king later built a church where the dragon died.

King Edward III made St George the country's official saint just after he came to the throne in 1327.

According to historian Ian Mortimer, a patron saint did not have to be from the country they were born in – they just needed to embody the characteristics the kingdom wanted to project to the outside world. After all, as well as England, St George is also the patron saint of Portugal, Venice, Beirut, Malta, Ethiopia, Georgia, the Palestinian territories, Serbia, Lithuania and Catalonia.

Edward III wanted to rebuild the strength of the English monarchy after the disastrous reign of his father, Edward II. St George was part of his strategy to make England one of the most powerful nations in Europe.

WELCOME

Welcome to this St George's Day concert and thank you so much for supporting ABF - The Soldiers' Charity in our mission to support serving and former soldiers and their families for life. I know that you are going to enjoy fantastic music from two outstanding bands and I thank them, too, for giving up their Sunday evening to entertain us.

Please don't miss the opportunity to win one of the fabulous raffle prizes which you will have seen displayed in the foyer. Please also make use of the bar service we are providing this evening - the proceeds from both going towards our worthy cause.

From helping wounded soldiers to adapt to life after service, to assisting elderly veterans to keep their independence, we're here for the Army family when they need us. We offer support in six key areas: independent living, elderly care, education and employability, mental fitness, families and housing.

Last year, we spent £8.4 million to support 65,000 people in 48 countries worldwide. We make grants to individuals and families, and to organisations which specialise in providing the sorts of help needed. The youngest person we supported was seven months old and our eldest was 103. We gave grants to 66 other charities and organisations that are providing specialist support to the Army family.

As the Army's national charity, we believe that all serving and former soldiers and their immediate families should have the opportunity to avoid hardship and enjoy independence and dignity.

Colonel (ret'd) James Partridge

Chairman - Kent Committee ABF



The Army's National Charity

“The Fund for the Soldier is an object none can question because the soldier is what it's all about.”

EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND

EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND is one of the UK's leading symphonic wind ensembles, based in the small village of Eynsford, Kent since 1972. Throughout 2022 the band celebrated it's 50th Anniversary.



The band now has 57 playing members from all over Southeast England who aspire to the highest standards of musicianship within a supportive and friendly environment. We enjoy performing a wide range of concert band repertoire from popular music arrangements and orchestral transcriptions to classic and modern wind band works.

In July 2014, the band had the honour of being crowned National Champions at the National Concert Band Symposium (NCBS). This was followed by being invited to represent the UK for the first European Championships for Wind Orchestras held in Utrecht, Holland in May 2016.

Over the years, the band has gained an international reputation having toured Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ireland, Netherlands, Malta, Spain and Belgium and to audiences aboard cruise ships. More recently, of course, we endured the pandemic by replacing our regular rehearsals with quiz nights and hilarious virtual recordings and film making.

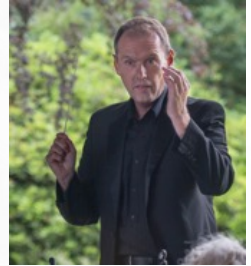
The band is firmly rooted in its community and every year raises substantial amounts for local charities. We are proud to have this opportunity to work with ABF - The Soldiers' Charity and support the important work that they do in Kent and around the country.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL SMITH BA(Mus) LRSM RCAM

Mike took up the Musical Directorship of Eynsford Concert Band in 2012 and, having been with the band for over 10 years, it makes him their longest serving MD since their founder, Robin O'Connell.

Having the opportunity to work with such an accomplished musician and band leader during this time has been a real privilege. Mike's imaginative (if sometimes tenuous) programmes of music continue to challenge the band while entertaining and providing fun musical themes for our audiences. This has included the privileged opportunity to build a close, long-term friendship with the Band of the Grenadier Guards.



As an Army Musician, Mike attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in April 2020 and assumed the appointment of Commanding Officer, Regional Bands of the British Army. Based in Central London, he is responsible for 8 bands and in 2022 he was the Principal Director of Music of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



Mike will be retiring from the Army later this year after 39 years of service in Army Music. We hope this concert will be a fitting and memorable occasion for him and both bands as we mark this significant milestone.

PROGRAMME

EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND

ASCALON

MICHAEL WALTERS

SUMMON THE DRAGON
FANFARE AND PRELUDE

PETER GRAHAM

DRAGON FIGHT

OTTO M. SCHWARZ

GEORGIA ON MY MIND
VOCALS: SUE RINGROSE

HOAGY CARMICHAEL

CATS TALES

PETER GRAHAM

I. CATALONIA
II. CATWALK
III. SCAT!

10 PIECE BRASS ENSEMBLE FROM THE BAND OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

IRVING BERLIN
ARR. STEPHEN ROBERTS

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

HOWARD GOODALL
ARR. IAN SHEPHERD

VIVA LA VIDA

COLDPLAY
ARR. JONATHAN SPENCER

INTERVAL





BAND OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS

COLONEL BOGEY ON PARADE

KENNETH ALFORD

THE HUNTSMEN
POST HORN DUET

LEO STANLEY

ALBION

STEPHEN ROBERTS

MUSIC OF THE BEATLES

MICHAEL SWEENEY

RAFFLE

MASSED BANDS

THE SWORD AND THE CROWN
BATTLE MUSIC & HYMN

EDWARD GREGSON

JERUSALEM

ARR. ROB WIFFIN

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE No. 1

EDWARD ELGAR

MEN AT ARMS
(ABF MARCH)

JAMES SYMINGTON

THE MUSIC MAKERS
QUICK MARCH OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF ARMY MUSIC

IAN L MITCHELL

BRITISH GRENADIERS

TRADITIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM

ARR. BASIL M. BROWN

BAND OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS

THE BAND OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS is proud to be comprised of 50 fully trained professional soldiers from The Royal Corps of Army Music – as one of 14 Regular Army Bands that make up British Army Music.

It was formed in 1685 by Charles II (a notable year which also saw the birth of J.S Bach and Handel) and has been filling the streets of London with music and colour for over three centuries. A truly historic sound and sight, it is symbolic and emblematic of London and our nation's history.



In recent history, the band has been present at all major royal occasions and has been a witness to all of London's historic events, both tragic and joyful.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the band adapted their role by fulfilling several non-musical tasks, including facilitating the testing of tens of thousands of members of the British public.

Following this work, the band were soon back on the global stage undertaking a tour to Belize in September 2021 to provide musical support to training and the country's 40th anniversary of independence commemorations.

2022 saw the band undertake a number of performances to mark the Platinum Jubilee and Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II.



You can listen to the band's latest recordings at: householddivision.org.uk/scm

CAPTAIN BEN MASON BMus(Hons), DipABRSM, ALCM, RCAM

Captain Mason assumed the appointment of Director of Music, Grenadier Guards in May 2020; prior to which he was the Adjutant of the Household Division Bands for 18 months.

He enlisted into 1st Bn. The Royal Anglian Regiment as a Junior Bandsman in 1991 at the age of 16.

It was in 1994 that he was accepted for transfer into the Band of the Grenadier Guards as a pianist and trombonist. During his time in the band, he was privileged enough to be part of musical tours across the world including North America, Australia, and Europe.

In November 2006 he was selected to attend the three-year Bandmaster Course at RMSM and upon completion, Ben received promotion to Warrant Officer Class One and was assigned as Bandmaster (BM) to the Minden Band of the Queen's Division.

He was assigned to Woolwich as Bandmaster of the Royal Artillery Band in July 2012 where, during Remembrance-tide and Christmas/New Year 2013, Ben was deployed on Op HERRICK 19 (Afghanistan). As 2IC of his unit, he provided musical support to troops across theatre.

In February 2014 he was assigned to Worthy Down as BM/OC the Adjutant General's Corps Band - at that time, the British Army's flagship Contemporary (Pop/Rock) Band. He took up the post of School Bandmaster at RMSM in January 2016 and, following his Commissioning in April 2017, served as Director of Music to the Band of The Queen's Division in Bedfordshire until August 2018.

Capt Mason's interests include composition, working with community groups, keeping fit and the performing arts. In his spare time, he is an associate conductor of Watford Philharmonic Orchestra & Chorus and Huntingdonshire Concert Band.



Support the Army's National Charity



The Army's National Charity

Providing a lifetime of support to soldiers, veterans and their families in times of need.

Find out more www.soldierscharity.org



ABF The Soldiers' Charity is a registered charity in England and Wales (1146420) and Scotland (039189).
Registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (07974609).



■ ■ **The support we've had from the Charity has been great. It's enabled us to push on and get back to normal life.**

Micky Yule

In 2010, Micky was serving in Afghanistan as a Royal Engineer Search Advisor. This high risk role involved counter IED detection and training. On July 1st, only eight weeks into his tour, he stood on a pressure plate IED; as a result of the blast Micky lost both legs, suffered a shattered pelvis and a fractured arm amongst other internal injuries.

Micky won a powerlifting gold at the 2016 Invictus Games in Orlando. He was selected for the GB Paralympics Team and competed in Rio, finishing in sixth place in the men's 65kg powerlifting competition.

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■ ■ **Without the help of The Soldiers' Charity we wouldn't have got to where we have over the last few years.**

Alistair Hodgson



Al was injured by an IRA bomb whilst serving as a 21-year-old Paratrooper in Northern Ireland in 1992. He suffered catastrophic injuries including losing his left leg below the knee and his right was amputated just under his hip. He spent the following 7 years in hospital. Al says he was "stitched up and had the bits he had left pieced back together".

In 1999, after embarking on an accelerated freefall programme, he became Britain's first double amputee skydiver and the worlds first double amputee to learn to skydive post injury. Al later went on to skydive with the Army's freefall display team, the Red Devils. He began competing in Freestyle skydiving in a team with his wife where they succeeded in winning six gold medals concurrently from 2007-2012.

THE SPACE

SEVENOAKS PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

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ENQUIRY@EYNSFORDCONCERTBAND.CO.UK



ECB FUNDING KINDLY PROVIDED BY
SEVENOAKS DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL



The logo for Sevenoaks District Council, featuring a stylized green tree above the text 'Sevenoaks' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'DISTRICT COUNCIL' in a smaller font below it.

SDAC IS FUNDED BY SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL

