



**THE BAND OF HM
ROYAL MARINES PLYMOUTH**

TRP

Theatre
Royal
Plymouth

Sunday 2 July 2023 / 7.30pm

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a Royal Marine.

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CAPTAIN MATT WEITES

BMus(Hons) MMus(Perf) FRSM AMusTCL RM

Director of Music, Band of HM Royal Marines Plymouth



Captain Matt Weites joined the RM Band Service in 1994 on solo horn. After completing training in 1997, he joined RM Band Portsmouth under the direction of Captain David Cole RM. During this period, he travelled extensively with the band to the Far East, Canada, Australia, USA and Thailand.

In 2010 Matt was awarded first place on the RM Bandmasters course; gaining a distinguished pass. On completion, he was assigned to RM Band CTCRM where he deployed to Afghanistan for six months as part of the UK

Joint Medical Group. He was awarded a QCVS for meritorious service during this operation.

Matt was commissioned in 2013 and was assigned to RMsOM as Assistant Director of Music Training. He then spent two years at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, graduating with a MMus in Conducting. His first assignment as a Director of Music was to RM Band Scotland; highlights included the 2017 Mountbatten Festival, and directing the stage band and choir on the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. He successfully passed the Director of Music exam, also gaining the highly credited Fellowship of the Royal Schools of Music diploma. In August 2018, Matt and the band were deployed on HMS Queen Elizabeth for a four-month tour of the USA as part of WESTLANT 18, marking a return by the RMBS to supporting carrier-based operations.

After a period working in HQ RM Band Service and a tenure as the Director of Music of RM Band Portsmouth (Royal Band), Matt took up his current appointment as the Director of Music of RM Band Plymouth in February 2022. He currently lives with his wife Anne, and daughters Emily and Chloe, in Hillhead, Hampshire.



WELCOME

Good evening all and welcome to this concert by the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Plymouth. As the new Director of Music it is an honour to be performing with the band in such a wonderful venue and I am looking forward to showcasing the talents of the musicians on stage. After enjoying a successful concert here last year the band are returning with an exciting and varied programme, once again featuring the renowned Corps of Drums, spectacular music from all genres and some outstanding soloists. I hope you all have a great evening and I look forward to speaking to some of you in the foyer after the concert.

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC

WING COMMANDER

Arr. WO1 I Hutchinson RM

FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION

Philip Sparke

NATIONAL ASSET

Bd Cpl Aaron Pitman

SHIVER ME TIMPANIS

Two Steps From Hell

HMS BELFAST

BdCSgt Dan Page

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Philip Coulter

TICO TICO

Arr. WO2 Gareth Keachie RM

QUEEN FOREVER

Arr. David Johnson

FROM THE HIGHLANDS

Robert Farnon

FISTFUL OF DOLLARS

Freddie Hancock

1812 OVERTURE

Tchaikovsky

THE PACIFIC

Hans Zimmer/Geoff Zanelli

SOLOISTS



LCpl Emily Batten

Lance Corporal Emily Batten was born in Truro, Cornwall and lived in Penzance. Growing up Emily aspired only to be a mermaid. However after being told this wasn't possible (she's still not entirely convinced), Emily turned to her second love; music. After moving to South Wales in 2000, Emily began learning the Clarinet and performed in a variety

of ensembles with the Greater Gwent Music Support Service, with whom she performed at the Royal Albert Hall and toured to the Czech Republic. Whilst growing up Emily also learned to play piano, saxophone and cello. At seventeen she was offered a scholarship to study music performance at Cardiff University and gained a place at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, however she decided instead to join the Royal Marines Band Service and has never looked back. Since passing out of training on solo clarinet in 2018, Emily has served in the Royal Band at Portsmouth, Collingwood Band and Scotland Band before moving to Plymouth Band in September 2022 (her favourite so far). Emily's career highlights have been leading the clarinet section in a tri-service orchestra for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, deploying to the North East of England to administer Covid vaccinations to the general public and participating in state ceremonial duties at HM Queen Elizabeth's funeral and HM King Charles' coronation. Since joining Plymouth Band Emily has passed her final exams for a BMus in music performance and will graduate in September. She has no plans to ever leave Cornwall again.



LCpl Sarah Brooks

Lance Corporal Sarah Brooks grew up in Bury, Lancashire in a very musical family, however it was at Rochdale music service where she began learning the flute at age 7. Later in secondary school she was awarded with her ARSM performance diploma. Carrying on with her school teacher through to college she then joined the RMBS in September 2019.

After completing training she was lucky enough to be drafted to Collingwood band in April 2021. After an incredibly busy and enjoyable year at Collingwood, in June 2022 Sarah was drafted to Plymouth where she gained promotion and has enjoyed another year playing music. Some of her highlights since being in Plymouth are travelling to New York with the band, being in the procession band for the late HM Queen Elizabeth II funeral, being in the Guard of Honour band for HM King Charles III coronation and finally last but not least, HMS Raleigh divisions every Friday. Alongside this she has been lucky enough to perform several solos with the band and looks forward to performing one at the Deal memorial concert as well as in the final of the band service soloist competition. When able to travel home, she lives with her Mum, Dad and brother Stephen.

PROGRAMME NOTES

WING COMMANDER

To open our concert tonight, we begin with David Arnold's Wing Commander, arranged by HM Royal Marines Corps Bandmaster, WO1 Ivan Hutchinson RM. This piece was composed for the film "Wing Commander" which was based on a best-selling game series. When composing the soundtrack, Arnold was inspired by old war times films such as "Dam Busters" and "633 Squadron".

FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION

Tonight's Overture was composed by Philip Sparke, for the 200th anniversary of the Stadtmusik Bad Säckingen. Bad Säckingen is known as the trumpeter city and Sparke was influenced by Joseph Victor Scheffel's poem, Der Trompeter von Säckingen (The Trumpeter from Säckingen), which is based on a true story. The overture starts with a majestic fanfare, followed by a lively section.

NATIONAL ASSET

This piece has been written to encapsulate the work and commitment carried out by a true national asset of the United Kingdom. His Majesty's Royal Navy continues to operate globally with its people across the Royal Navy and Royal Marines at its core. Serving as an introduction for the world-famous Royal Marines, "National Asset" was composed by Bd Cpl Aaron Pitman and is dedicated to the Senior Service and its continuous endeavours which highlight it as a core strength of the UK.

SHIVER ME TIMPANIS

Taken from their latest album Myth, released in 2022, "Shiver Me Timpanis" is an exciting piece composed by the production company, Two Steps From Hell. As the title suggests, the music is influenced by Hollywood depictions of pirates and follows on from their track Norwegian Pirate, released in 2011. It has a strong rhythmic feel throughout with the French horns playing the main theme and showcasing the Band and Corps of Drums at their most powerful.

HMS BELFAST

HMS Belfast The quick march HMS Belfast was composed by Band Colour Sergeant Dan Page to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of North Cape on 26th December 1943. This iconic ship, now moored permanently on the river Thames as a museum, was one of ten Town class light cruisers built for the Royal Navy. The tonality of the march alternates between major and minor, firstly depicting a formidable war machine with state-of-the-art weaponry and radar, contrasted by a somewhat cheerful melodic refrain, representing the character of the crew and the atmosphere of life on board the ship away from the action.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

"Home away from Home", released in 1998 was written and performed by Philip Coulter and James Galway. Coulter is an Irish musician, songwriter and record producer. Coulter has amassed 23 platinum discs, 39 gold discs and 52 silver discs, 2 Grand Prix Eurovision awards and many more awards including Songwriter of the Year. James Galway OBE is an Irish virtuoso flute player from Belfast, nicknamed "The Man with the Golden Flute" and in 2005 received the Brit Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music at the Classic Brit Awards. Today this piece is performed by L/Cpl Sarah Brooks

TICO TICO

"Tico-Tico no fubá" (Brazilian Portuguese for "rufous-collared Sparrow in the cornmeal") is a Brazilian Choro song written by Zequinha de Abreu in 1917. Its original title was "Tico-Tico no farelo" ("sparrow in the bran"), but since Brazilian guitarist Américo Jacomino "Canhoto" (1889–1928) had a work with the same title, Abreu's work was given its present name in 1931, and sometime afterward Aloysio de Oliveira wrote the original Portuguese lyrics. This adaptation of Tico Tico, arranged by WO2 Gareth Keachie RM, is now a solo clarinet feature performed today by Lance Corporal Emily Batten. It was specifically adapted for the 2020 Mountbatten Festival of Music held annually at the Royal Albert Hall and features many Latin-American styles.

QUEEN FOREVER

"Queen Forever" is a concert band compilation medley with some of the best known hits made by the world-famous British rock band, Queen. Arranged by Band Sergeant Dave Johnson, this Medley consists of many solos passed amongst the musicians of HM Royal Marines Band Plymouth and is yet another example of a piece that was designed to be suited to the grand acoustics of the Royal Albert Hall to feature in The Mountbatten Festival of Music.

FROM THE HIGHLANDS

"From the Highlands" is a lively and uplifting orchestral work by the renowned Canadian composer and arranger Robert Farnon. This piece is inspired by the rugged and majestic landscapes of the Scottish Highlands with its sweeping vistas and dramatic peaks. Throughout this piece Farnon makes skilled use of instrumentation and dynamics to create a rich and varied soundscape. From the delicate and lyrical woodwind solos to the thundering percussion and soaring string passages 'From the Highland' is a masterclass in orchestral colour and texture. The work builds to a thrilling climax as the various themes and motifs



PROGRAMME NOTES

are woven together in a triumphant and rousing finale. Whether performed in concert or used as the soundtrack to an epic film or TV drama "From the Highland" it is a powerful and uplifting celebration of the majestic beauty and rich culture of Scotland's Highlands.

FREDDIE HANCOCK'S "FISTFUL OF DOLLARS"

Freddie Hancock's "Fistful of Dollars" is a dynamic and gripping piece inspired by the famous Western film of the same name. The piece seamlessly blends the traditional tropes of the Western genre with contemporary jazz sounds creating a truly unique and exciting listening experience. The climax of the piece is marked by a thrilling trumpet solo showcasing the virtuosity and improvisational skills of the performer. The use of syncopation and unexpected chord changes keeps the audience on the edge of their seats making for a truly unforgettable performance. Overall "Fistful of Dollars" is a testament to Freddie Hancock's skill as both a composer and arranger. The piece is a must-listen for anyone who loves Western films jazz music or simply great music in general.

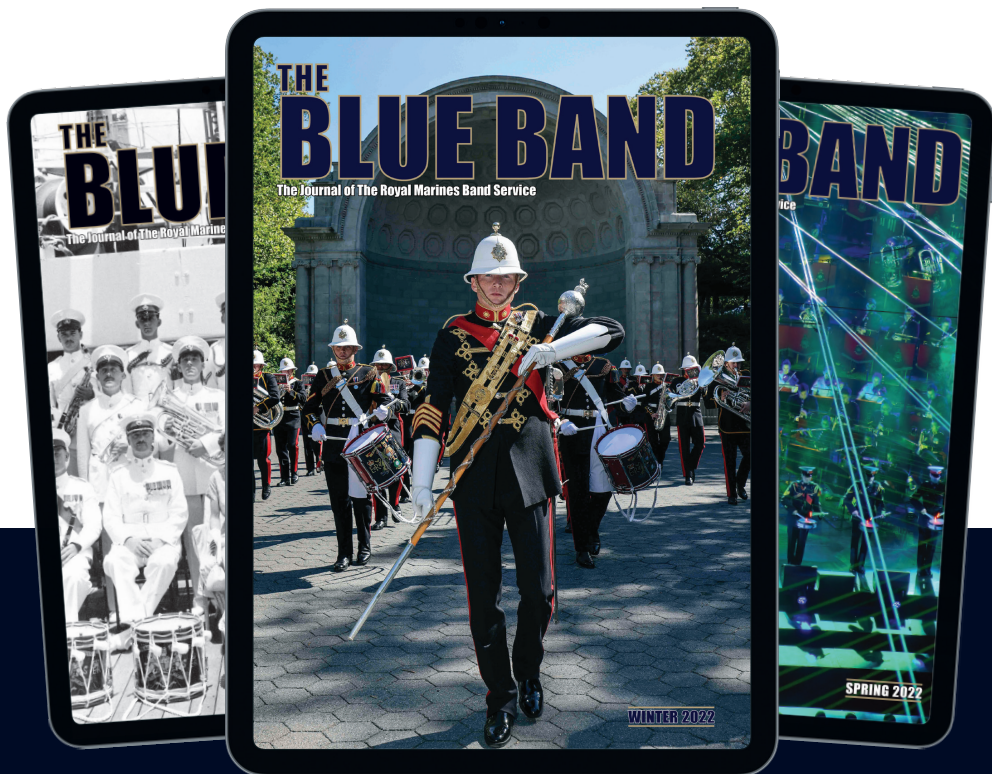
1812 OVERTURE

The "1812 Overture" was written in 1880 by the Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The fifteen minute overture is best known for its climactic volley of cannon fire, ringing chimes and a brass fanfare finale. It has also become a common accompaniment to firework displays on the United States Independence Day. The 1812 overture went on to become one of Tchaikovsky's most popular works along with his other scores "The Nutcracker and Swan Lake".

THE PACIFIC

The Pacific was written by a collaboration of Blake Neely, Hans Zimmer and Geoff Zanelli for HBO's series The Pacific in 2010. The series is based on memoirs by two US Marines, with the "Old Breed" by Eugene Sledge and "Helmet for My Pillow" by Robert Leckie, and tells the story of the war against Japan through the eyes of these two men, and a third marine, John Basilone.

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