



## The Band of the West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

### About WYFRS Band

The West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service Band, Yorkshire's Premier "Military Style" Concert band, is based in Birkenshaw near Bradford, West Yorkshire. The Band is proud to represent one of the national Emergency Services and has close ties with other Fire Service ensembles from across the UK and abroad.

The band is versatile and appears in a number of formats, including quintet and Dixie band, right up to full size concert band and marching band.

Over the last few years, the band has been privileged to play at a number of high profile events, including for The Queen and other members of the Royal Family, as well as at some private functions for some high profile clients such as Audi Polo, Nestlé, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of England & Wales, and a number of racecourses. In addition the band can often be seen performing musical splendour at a number of weddings.

Outside of the concert hall the WYFRS Band has recently had the honour of heading several Freedom of the City parades, in Huddersfield and Halifax with the Yorkshire Regiment and also with the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service for their first freedom parade granted by the City of Northampton.

The band established an international presence in 2000 taking part in a music festival in Izegem, Belgium. Since then the band visited Poland in June 2008 as part of an exchange relationship with the Band of the Voluntary Fire Brigade of Lubartów, Poland, and have since visited Nova Scotia in Canada twice, as part of an exchange with The Bridgewater Fire Department Band.

On a number of occasions the band has attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. The Last Post is played there every night of the year by a bugler from the local volunteer Fire Brigade, to honour and remember the soldiers who gave their lives in the Great War. 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, and the band is especially proud to be there on this occasion.

On top of a busy diary WYFRS band takes its role in the community very seriously. Each year we endeavour to raise money for numerous charities, with our record to date being £15,000 in 2012 when the band played a sponsored 5km march! The band has raised money for a number of charities including our principal benefactor, The Fire Fighters Charity.

The band is led by Musical Director Lee Whitworth LLCM ATCL and Deputy Musical Director Brian Anderson.

#### **Book the Band**

When not on official engagements the band is available for private bookings at events including sporting fixtures, charity fundraisers, private dinners, conferences, galas and weddings.

Comprised of over 30 musicians the band has a variety of different ensembles on offer, including a Marching Band, Concert Band, Brass and Woodwind Quintets, Fanfare Team and Corps of Drums. The band is also particularly lucky to work alongside the West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service Pipe Band.

For more information please contact the Band Manager Kevin Fisher MBE on 07768 261302 or email [team@thefireband.co.uk](mailto:team@thefireband.co.uk)

#### **Join the Band**

If you play a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument then the band would love to hear from you. The musicians in the band come from all walks of life, you do not need to be a firefighter to join nor do you need previous experience in a military band. More information is available on the web at [www.thefireband.co.uk](http://www.thefireband.co.uk).