



The Band of the West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

About our Musical Directors & Drum Major

Musical Director - Lee Whitworth LLCM ATCL

Lee has always enjoyed music from an early age, all the way through junior school to the present day.

He started to play the bugle with the Church Lads and Church Girls brigade when he was only 9 years old, and after two years he was recommended to apply to join the Brigades Battalion Band where he enjoyed much contest success over the next few years. Lee then joined AS Crusaders Band, where he played lead Trumpet for competing in venues such as The Royal Albert Hall. As well as this Lee played trumpet for his School Band and also county wind band.

Joining the Army at the age of 16, Lee then studied theory, aural, cornet and military musicianship at the Army Junior School of Music, (AJSM) Bovington. After leaving the AJSM in 1991 Lee continued his musical training at The Royal Military School of music, Kneller Hall, where he continued on from the studies at AJSM and also studied arranging, history and harmony. Lee has served with The Band of The 1st Battalion the Kings regiment, The King's Division Waterloo Band and at present he is serving with The Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band at Catterick.

During his time in the Army, Lee has learnt how to play various other instruments, and has been fortunate to travel extensively including spending time sailing the Mediterranean with HMS York.

Lee's conducting career started with the Bedale Brass Band. Since then he has conducted a number of local band in addition to The Royal Air Force Volunteer Band in Cyprus. Lee completed an LLCM in Conducting in 2011 and has been fortunate enough to receive support from his own Bandmasters and Directors of Music over the years with his conducting.

Lee took up the Baton with The West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services Band in May 2007 and is proud to have been a part of the successes ever since.

Deputy Musical Director - Brian Anderson

Brian started playing the trumpet at the age of 13, and soon transferred to playing the cornet when he joined Hall Royd Band of Shipley. He moved to the Haworth Band in the late 1970s and in the mid 1980s became deputy conductor and then conductor.

After a short break in his banding life he moved to the Skipton Band in the early 1990s as a cornet player. He became the conductor of Skipton Band in the late 1990s. Brian has taken part in a number of recordings in his playing career, and made several radio and TV appearances both as a player and conductor.

In October 2005, Brian Anderson was appointed the Deputy Conductor for the WYFRS Band and in addition to deputising when the Musical Director is unavailable, Brian spends lots of time composing and arranging music.

Drum Major - Jonathan Carr

Inspired by the local music service in Wakefield, Jonathan first picked up a pair of drum sticks when he was just seven years old. He soon joined the local youth orchestra and concert band.

Some twenty years (or so!) later he now plays for several local orchestras, brass bands and choral societies in and around Yorkshire. Despite never being a member of HM armed forces, Jonathan has been involved with a number of Military bands, both professional and amateur, which is where his love for this style of performance came from. He joined the WYFRS Band as a tuned percussionist in 2007 and was appointed as Drum Major in September 2011 spearheading our presence on the parade ground!