



You don't have to be  
in the Royal Navy to  
be a Royal Naval  
Musician!

# Britannia Royal Naval College Volunteer Band

Return to:- The Conductor.  
Volunteer Band,  
Britannia Royal Naval College,  
Dartmouth TQ6 0HJ



**Tear this page off and return it to express an interest.**

Playing music is a wonderful experience and playing with experienced musicians, some of whom have performed with leading bands in the Armed Forces is even better.

The "Britannia Royal Naval College Volunteer Band" is one of the premier bands of its type and is open to serving and ex-service musicians and civilians alike. Based at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, Devon, it upholds the traditions of high quality music making with a fun atmosphere, all encompassed within the discipline of the United Kingdoms leading service, The Royal Navy.



*BRNC is the Royal Navy's principal training establishment for young officers and serves students both from the Royal Navy as well as other nations around the world. Its impressive buildings overlook the River Dart estuary and it is a major part of the town of Dartmouth.*

The band was formed in 2009 when the Royal Navy was forced to make budget savings. This resulted in a reorganisation of the of Royal Marine Band Service including the transfer of BRNC band to a new base. So Major Phil Watson, an ex Director of Music Royal Marines, was asked to form a Volunteer Band which allowed those former musicians at BRNC to continue to enjoy their music making. Following the traditions of other Vol. Bands all musicians of the armed forces, plus civilian musicians, were encouraged to participate and it grew both in numbers and in stature to be voted "Best Overall Band" two years running at the RNVB festival in Portsmouth.

Now with a new conductor it is seeking to become even better and to widen its support and stature both locally and in the UK.



There are four sections which make up the BRNC Vol. Band. **The Marching band**, an approximately thirty piece military band based on the principles of the Royal Marine Band Service who oversee their organisation.

The **Concert Band**, is the week-on-week rehearsing band (Mondays 1930-2130) which forms the core of all BRNC band activities. It's a military/symphonic wind band playing just about every genre of music.



The **Corps of Drums** work to the high standard of expertise of the Royal Marines. No one can ever fail to marvel at a RM Corps of Drums in action....

and the **"Big Band"**, a twenty strong dance band with a "swing" to envy most bands of that genre.



Members participate in the Concert band in the first instance, and then by invitation to the others. The only expectation is a minimum standard of Grade 6 and bags of enthusiasm (those who haven't taken an exam may have to undergo an audition by the conductor).

**Conductor:- VBI Colin R. Waller FTCL, LTCL(hn), LTCL(Cond), Cert Ed**  
www.colinwaller.com



Colin originally hails from the East End of London where the Newham Academy of Music in East Ham, East London, a local authority music centre started him on his musical journey at the tender age of 11. On gaining a place at Music College he attended Trinity College of Music London studying horn with John Burden, composition with Richard Arnell, Percussion with Michael Skinner and conducting with Bernard Keeffe the latter of whom became a major influence on him. Having started at Trinity on the horn it soon became obvious that conducting and composition were a greater passion and

he soon became a regular conductor with the college symphony orchestra and ensembles. Several compositions gained their first airing during this time but the height of his achievements at Trinity came when he was awarded the "Ricordi" prize for conducting and received the college's nomination for the prestigious "John Barbirolli" competition. His composition "Fellowship" was complimented by a "Licentiate" diploma as a horn player and also as a conductor.

Since relocating to Devon Colin has spent a lot of time in Education including a spell as Music Development Coordinator in charge of Torbay's music service. He retired from this position in 2011 and since then has spent a lot of time working as a playing member of BRNC and composing for the Royal Marines Band Service. His latest commission is that of a Quick March for the "Second Sea Lord Admiral David Steel CBE as well as dramatic works for both the College and the commemoration of the centenary of World War 1.

Colin was thrilled to have been approached to take on BRNC Vol. Band and is looking forward to building on the brilliant legacy left to him by his two predecessors Phil Watson and Graham Holman.



Web site <http://brncrnvolunteerband.wordpress.com>

Find us on facebook at BRNC RN VOLUNTEER BAND

To contact the Conductor/Administrator  
email:- [enquiries@interfacemusic.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@interfacemusic.co.uk) or phone 07798 787880

Please note civilian members of the Volunteer Band do not serve as reservists in conflict situations and only take part in musical events in an amateur capacity.

## Recruitment

The band is always looking for new members especially in sections which may be low in numbers. We would like to hear from:-

... Woodwind players (Flute, Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon)

... Brass players (French Horn, Cornet, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba)

... Percussion (Timpani, Drum Kit, Orchestral Percussion and Tuned Percussion)

You must be a minimum of Grade 6 standard on your instrument being able to read orchestral notation.

If you join you will be supplied/loaned:-

... Number One Uniform (Suited uniform of the Royal Navy)

... Concert Uniform (Naval Style Shirt)

... and in certain circumstances a service instrument which is "silver plate" for display uniformity.

The expectation will be to uphold the standards of Her Majesty's Royal Naval Volunteer Band Service (overseen by the Royal Marine Band Service) and to commit to the ethos of high standards of music making alongside a friendly and cooperative atmosphere, placing the activities of the band in as higher priority as possible.

Expression of interest form.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Contact information

Home Tel:

Mobile Tel:

.....  
Email:

I am a:

Serving Member of the Royal Navy/.....(other)  
and based at BRNC/other (Please rank & number).....

Ex Service (Please state which).....

Civilian

Instrument

Current standard/grade

.....  
Do you have your own instrument?

.....  
This form is simply your first point of contact with us. If you decide to join the activities of the BRNC V Band then you will have to fill in an application forms for both your personal Naval ID Card and (should you require one) a vehicle pass to give you security clearance to enter the Naval establishment that is the Britannia Royal Naval College.

I am interest in"

Concert Band

Marching Band

Drum Corps

Big Band

Signed.....