

 **ROYAL
AIR FORCE**
Music

**NO
ORDINARY
JOB**

Musician



The job

RAF Musicians perform at many different events and venues, ranging from the Royal Albert Hall to Buckingham Palace, and graduation ceremonies on military parade grounds to performances in the UK's finest concert venues. Our ensembles encompass the full range of musical disciplines - Brass, Woodwind, Percussion and Strings - and can expect to play a diverse array of musical genres - dance music, chamber repertoire, symphonic concerts, military marches, and jazz to name a few!

Whether it's within the concert band, parade band, big band or chamber ensemble, you'll provide musical support for a wide variety of engagements, from charity concerts, dances and dinners to visits by Heads of State. Rehearsals, individual practice, travelling and recording - RAF Musicians lead full and active lives.

Upon joining RAF Music you'll be posted to one of the RAF's three regular bands, located at either RAF Northolt in West London, or at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire. All our musicians learn band drill and cover a range of playing styles.

Part of the RAF Music Services mission statement is to provide musical support for the RAF, so a valuable aspect of our role is performing for our service men and woman, both home and abroad. You'll have the opportunity to perform overseas, helping foster relations within the local community and in support of the MOD. Regular destinations include Cyprus, mainland Europe, India and the USA. In recent years the RAF Bands have travelled to Australia in support of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

One of the highlights of the year is being involved in the annual 'RAF in Concert Tour', which visits many of the major concert halls in the UK.

If you'd like to find out more about being a musician in the RAF, visit <http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafmusic> or <https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/logistics/musician>

Sergeant Rachel Carpenter

– RAF Musician

"I have always loved both music and sport, so to find a career in one with so many opportunities for the other is amazing."



I do this job

Sergeant Rachel Carpenter – RAF Musician

My role

I play flute and piccolo in the concert band and for smaller ensembles such as woodwind quintet and dectet. When on parade, I play piccolo but have been known to occasionally guest on saxophone and cymbals. As I also play saxophone, I have had the opportunity to be a member of the big bands and pop bands within RAF Music.

My day

No two weeks are the same in this job, the schedule varies according to what events and engagements we are preparing for. Between rehearsals for concerts, practicing marching displays and providing musical accompaniment at dinners and drink receptions, I try to fit in some regular sport and fitness too. Many RAF Musicians are involved in supporting Service Charities and Associations and fit these commitments around the band's calendar.

My experiences

I have served for just over ten years and have performed in some amazing locations, with some incredible musicians. My first engagement upon joining was West End Heroes, a charity gala concert at the Dominion Theatre, performing with stars from numerous West End shows. Other unforgettable moments include marching through the gates of Buckingham Palace, playing a joint concert with the Indian Air Force Band (in India) and being a part of the parade for The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Away from the music, I have had opportunity to participate in sport and adventurous training with the RAF including skiing, rock climbing, rowing, skydiving, surfing, coasteering and more!

My life

Before joining RAF Music, I grew up in Berkshire, attending the local music service and juggling music lessons and rehearsals around school and sports practices. I went on to study at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, but wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I graduated. I had never really considered joining the military before but knew a couple of musicians who had, and they encouraged me to enquire. After a visit to meet and play with one of the RAF bands, it was an easy decision to apply. The people you work with, the community and support you get from the 'military family' make this no ordinary job.



Ongoing Development

As a musician, you will have extensive opportunities for further professional development throughout your career. When you're not performing or rehearsing, there will be plenty of time to practise, learn new musical skills and participate in our modular training system that culminates in various civilian recognised qualifications. All courtesy of the RAF!

Your Future

Transferable skills

As a musician in the RAF, you will have all the personal development opportunities and career prospects of your civilian counterparts, together with the chance to gain unique experiences while working around the world.

When they decide to leave the RAF, many RAF Musicians re-enter the civilian musical world as either performers or teachers.



Credit: Mark Dobie



Training Musician

Recruit training

Your Career will start with a 10 week Basic Recruit Training Course (BRTC) at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire. The course is designed to help you adjust to a military environment. As well as fitness and military training, you'll also learn about the RAF lifestyle and ethos.

Specialist Training

Upon completion of Basic Recruit Training you'll be posted directly to one of our three Bands either at RAF Northolt or RAFC Cranwell. Initially there will be a period of 'On the Job Training' which will range from 4 to 12 weeks. During this time, you'll undertake instrumental sessions, learn band drill and complete some familiarisation tasks designed to best prepare you for your time with the Band. As the name suggests, you'll also be immersed in the day-to-day life of RAF Music, spending time in rehearsals and travelling with the band.



The Facts

Job description	Category	Open to
You'll perform at major concert halls, graduations and parades, and represent the RAF in the UK and overseas.	Aviators	Male & Female

Pay after training	Joining Age	Usual Service
£31,460 + benefits	Must be aged 17½ - 47 years old (Must attest before 48th birthday)	12 Years

Similar Civilian Jobs	Qualifications
Professional musician • Music teacher	Qualifications you need: Grade 8 ABRSM or equivalent on your primary instrument. Qualifications you can gain: Musical diplomas such as LLCM, LTCL, DipABRSM, LRSM.

Nationality	Residency
Citizen of the UK or the Republic of Ireland, or a Commonwealth citizen since birth.	Whether or not you were born in the United Kingdom, you should have resided there for the five years immediately preceding your application.

Current instrument vacancies
We have full-time and part-time vacancies for talented musicians on a variety of instruments.

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www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment
rafms-recruitment@mod.gov.uk

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