



**MAJOR MATT SIMONS – BMus(Hons), LTCL, LLCM, CertHum(Open), MCMI, RCAM**

#### **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC – THE BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS**

Major Matt Simons joined the Army as a trombonist in April 1999. As a member of 5 (Lancaster) Platoon he completed basic training at the Army Training Regiment (ATR), Winchester. From August 1999 to Sep 2000, he attended the Royal Military School of Music, earning a Cousins' Memorial Parchment for academic achievement. Here he had the privilege of performing with the Kneller Hall Fanfare Trumpeters (the Golden 8) at numerous events, including Founders Day at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, and the Ceremony for the Order of the Garter at Windsor Castle.

His first assignment was to The Normandy Band of the Queen's Division in Catterick, North Yorkshire, and from February to July 2003 he deployed to Iraq on Op TELIC 1, attached to 34 Field Hospital in the Chemical Decontamination (CDA) role. In 2006 he was assigned to The Band of The Parachute Regiment in Colchester, travelling extensively to the Falkland Islands, Canada and much of Western Europe. In September 2009 he was selected to attend the prestigious Student Bandmaster Course. Upon completion he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One and assigned as Bandmaster to the Band of The Corps of Royal Engineers in July 2012. After three enjoyable years with the Sappers, in 2015 he was assigned to Gibraltar as Bandmaster to the Volunteer Band of The Royal Gibraltar Regiment.

In 2017 he was selected for late entry commissioning and returned to Colchester, taking up appointments first as Director of Music and Officer Commanding the Band of the Parachute Regiment, followed by appointments as DOM British Army Band Colchester (2019) and later DOM British Army Band Catterick, commanding them through HM Queen Elizabeth II's state Funeral, and for the Coronation of His Majesty the King. In May 2023 he was appointed Adjutant to the Bands of The Household Division. He was appointed Director of Music to the Band of The Welsh Guards, in July 2024, achieving a boyhood ambition. He has commanded Short Term Training Teams to Bermuda, Bangladesh, and twice to Iraq, the latter being the only bilateral military engagement between the UK and Iraq at that time.

He has a Bachelor of Music Degree with Honours from Kingston University, a Licentiate Diploma with Distinction in Performance from the Trinity College London, and a Licentiate Diploma in Wind Band Conducting from the London College of Music. He is a keen golfer and has the affliction of supporting his hometown football club, Lincoln City. He is married to Catherine, they have two daughters, Katie and Sophie.