

# Callum Rookes

UK-Born European Conductor

**BMus** Classical Orchestral  
Instrument, Tuba.

[www.callumrookes.com](http://www.callumrookes.com)  
[@conductor.cal](https://www.instagram.com/conductor.cal)

Dual National: British and Irish

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## Education

-**British Army Command, Leadership, and Management (CLM) Course.** (2020).

-**The Royal Military School of Music,** Kneller Hall (2016).

-**Det Kongelige Danske Musikkonservatorium/ The Royal Danish Academy of Music,** Copenhagen, Denmark. *Master of Music* (2013-2014)- **Incomplete.**

-**The Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus, Denmark.** *Bachelor of Music.* (2011-2013).

-**Trinity College of Music, London.** *Bachelor of Music.* (2009-2011).

-**Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge.** *A- Levels in Music, Modern History, Psychology*(2007-2009).

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## Teachers Conducting

-**Mark Heron,** Head of Conducting, Royal Northern College of Music (RAF MD Course)

## Tuba

-**Patrick Harrild,** former principal tubist, London Symphony Orchestra.

-**Jens Bjorn- Larsen,** International tuba soloist.

-**Mattias Johansson,** Principal tubist, Aarhus Symphony Orchestra.

- **Ashley Wall,** former principal tubist of the Royal Opera House.

-**Oren Marshall,** International Jazz tubist, and member of London Brass.

## Composition and arranging:

-**Kit Turnbull,** prominent British composer.

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## Training

-**London Symphony Orchestra** sit-ins.

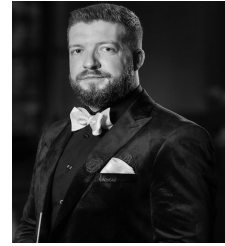
-**Royal Academy of Music,** Aarhus, Brass band, dectet, quintet.

-**Royal Academy of Music,** Aarhus, orchestral rep classes.

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[conductor.callum@gmail.com](mailto:conductor.callum@gmail.com)



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## Summary

I'm a dedicated, focussed, and determined musician with a proven record of high level performance, teaching, conducting, directing, and arranging music both nationally and internationally. I've led workshops in Europe and the USA, and have a flexible, dynamic, and adaptable approach to music instruction and direction, infused with a healthy supply of humor, and a sensitivity to individual musician's needs.

I'm an advocate of collaborative approaches to musical direction, and believe collaboration fuels thought diversity that can strengthen organisations.

I have a passion for nurturing and achieving the highest levels of music performance. As a conductor I'm drawn to the process of motivating, and encouraging musicians; developing their confidence to be able to perform at their peak and beyond. Most importantly, I'm committed to making music, and learning music as fun as possible.

I currently serve in The Central Band of the Royal Air Force as a tubist, having spent five years previously as a principal tuba player in Her Majesty's Regimental Band of the Coldstream Guards.

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## Musical Director

### LONDON VIDEO GAME ORCHESTRA (CURRENT)

I was recently successful in becoming MD of the LVGO, succeeding against nineteen other finalists. The LVGO is a forward thinking, energetic and vibrant orchestra that exclusively performs arrangements of popular video game music. A part of my job is to arrange music alongside a team of arrangers, ensure that we adhere to copyright and licensing laws, whilst also developing relationships and collaborations with other musical organisations such as choirs.

### THAME CONCERT BAND (CURRENT)

I'm currently the musical director of the Thame Concert Band and have been leading it since mid 2015 (with one year out due to military training).

When I first arrived the band had eleven regular members, an audience base of eight, and dwindling finances. With my guidance the band has now become attractive to potential new players, and has built an audience base to a level where they always have sellout concerts. They regularly perform a 'Last Night of The Proms' themed concert, and the band has grown to a membership of 42 regulars. They've become a much-loved part of the community, and flourish further each year. We're currently in the process of nurturing relations with various musical organisations in the twinned town of Sinaia, Romania.

During the Pandemic I set the band video projects, arranged music for members to perform, and helped organise COVID secure rehearsals when legally possible; I facilitated a weekly quiz, and gave online talks.

I'm intensively involved with TCB, and give regular interviews with local radio, including BBC Radio Oxford.

- Trinity College of Music Sinfonia, brass band, dectet, quintet.
- Royal Opera House sit-ins.
- Royal Philharmonic Orchestra sit-ins.

## Masterclasses Participation

- Kristian Steenstrup, international brass pedagogue.
- Oystein Baadsvik, international tuba soloist.
- Lee Tsarmaklis, principal tubist, London Philharmonia.
- Thomas Keller, tubist of the Berlin State Opera.
- Jesper Busk Sorensen, second trombone, Berlin Philharmoniker.
- Kevin Morgan, tubist of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

## Key Skills

- Conducting and Musical Direction.
  - Arranging music for various musical mediums.
  - Keen eye for media and marketing/brand development.
  - Strong organisational skills
  - Comfortable with public speaking, clear and articulate.
  - High levels of focus and discipline.
  - Strong people, and project management skills.
  - Collaborative approach to leadership.
  - Time management
  - Adaptable and flexible under pressure.
  - Good delegation skills.
  - Advanced knowledge of wind band, and orchestral repertoire.
  - Strong understanding of wind band instruments.
- Good level of knowledge of all orchestral instruments.

## Awards

- Third place in the Household Division 'Musician of the Year' competition 2017.
- Semifinalist in the prestigious Trinity College of Music 'Gold Medal' soloist competition. 2011.

## Film/TV/Podcast

- BBC News Interview for Her Majesty's State Funeral.
- Channel 5 Interview for Her Majesty's State Funeral.
- Talk TV, Live national Interview for Her Majesty's State Funeral.
- Forces TV Interview for Her Majesty's State Funeral.
- ITV News Interview for Her Majesty's State Funeral.
- Interviewed for the *Bold as Brass* podcast.
- BBC 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VJ Day Broadcast.
- BBC 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day Broadcast.
- Sky Atlantic, Game of Thrones Season 8 commercial.
- DC Comics TV series 'Butterworth'.
- Performance at The Pride of Britain Awards.

## **RAF COLLABORATION WITH LONDON GAY MENS CHORUS (JAN 2023)**

In January I was heavily involved in directing a collaboration with the LGMC to create a video of *Seasons of Love* for Pride Month. The task involved creating a storyboard for filming, adapting the Choir arrangement to work with wind band accompaniment, organising the rehearsal, and directing the LGMC's MD for the recording. I also assembled the video once recorded.

## **AYLESBURY CONCERT BAND (2020-2021)**

Taking over the reins from esteemed previous conductors such as Rob Wiffin, Claire Lawrence, and Duncan Stubbs; I won the audition to be Aylesbury Concert Band's new musical director in January 2020 and led them through the Pandemic by organising COVID secure rehearsals when restrictions allowed, and setting up a weekly quiz. I have also arranged music for them to record their individual parts, and collated them into one video for a 'virtual' performance.

ACB are one of the premier wind bands in the south of the UK and perform regularly to sell out audiences, for instance they regularly perform to 5000 people at their annual 'Proms in the Park' concert.

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## Conducting

- **Principal Conductor**, The Brass Foundry (2023 - )
- **Guest Conductor**, Haslemere Symphony Orchestra.
- **Guest Conductor**, Oxford University Brass Band.
- **Participant** at the International Conducting Institute, Denver, Colorado, with Diane Wittry and Lawrence Golan (2023)
- **Guest Conductor** Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, USA.
- **Active participant** at the Sherborne Wind Conducting course with Mark Heron, Bjorn Sagstad, and Alberto Roque (2022)
- **Guest Conductor** Birmingham Symphonic Winds.
- **Guest Conductor** Brent Symphony Orchestra.
- **Guest Conductor** Bloomsbury Wind Ensemble.
- **Central Band of the Royal Air Force.**
- **Band of the Coldstream Guards.**
- **Guest Conductor** London Symphonic Winds.
- **Principal Conductor**, Enfield Film Orchestra (2018-2019).
- **Guest conductor** at the Woodwind Orchestra Play Day, London, 2020.
- **Principal Conductor** of the London People's Orchestra (2017-2018).
- **Conductor** of Vejle FDF Brass Band, Denmark, (2012-2013).
- **Guest Conductor**, Cambridge Youth Wind Orchestra, UK.
- **Guest Conductor**, Cambridge Youth Orchestra, UK.

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## Arranging and Composition

I've arranged music for the Band of the Coldstream Guards, including a Slow March based on an original composition by Lt. Colonel Jeremy Harben in memoriam of his late wife. Other arrangements include a wind band Christmas Medley, works for Tuba Quartet, and developmental exercises for Low Brass.

I was taught composition and arranging skills by Kit Turnball when I was accepted onto the highly competitive Music Direction course within the Royal Air Force, and have developed my arranging skills through the study of Bach Chorales, and Anna Butterworth's "Advanced Harmony in Practice".

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## Teaching/workshops

### References

**Keith Allen** BA FTCL ARCM PGCE.  
National Concert Band Festival Director and Musical  
Director of the Birmingham Symphonic Winds.  
Email: [keith.allen@ncbf.info](mailto:keith.allen@ncbf.info)

**Dawid Venter** (MMus, BMus).  
Principal flutist, RAF Central Band  
Email: [Dawid.venter@hotmail.com](mailto:Dawid.venter@hotmail.com)

**Ross Hardman** (BA Hons), (MA Vocal Studies),  
Professional Vocalist.  
Email: [ross.hardman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ross.hardman@hotmail.co.uk)

- **Mountain Vista High School Wind Band**, Denver, Colorado, USA 2023. I was invited by Flight Lieutenant Michael Flynn of the USAF Academy Band.
- **Wilmslow Wind Band** band development day. July 2022, and July 2023.
- **Woodwind Orchestra** Play day 2020 at St. John's, Waterloo, London.
- **Cambridge Youth Orchestra**, UK. Regular tutor.
- **Cambridge Youth Wind Orchestra**, UK. Regular tutor
- **REMUS Symphony Orchestra** outreach program to schools in Hamburg, Germany. March 2012
- **Toneheim High School**, Norway. October 2011.
- **Aarhus Talent Band**, Denmark. October 2011,

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### Key Performance Experience

- **Operation Golden Orb (The Coronation of King Charles III)**, London. May 2023.
- **Operation London Bridge (The State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II)**, London. 19 September 2022.
- **Op Platinum (Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee) Parade**, London. 2022
- **Opening of the Commonwealth Games**, Buckingham Palace, London 2022.
- **Tubist, Central Band of the Royal Air Force, State Ceremonial**, London (2021-).
- **Tubist, Her Majesty's Regimental Band of the Coldstream Guards, State Ceremonial**, London, (2015 - 2021).
- **Principal Tubist**, BBC VJ day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "A Nation's Tribute" performing alongside Bryn Terfel, Sheridan Smith, Sir Willard White, (2020).
- **BBC recording** for VE day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary broadcast, (2020).
- **The National Act of Remembrance**, The Cenotaph, Whitehall.
- **The Queen's Birthday Parade/Trooping the Colour**.
- **Tour of Japan with Her Majesty's Regimental Band of the Coldstream Guards**, Japan, 2017.
- **CGB St. George's Day Concert**, Cadogan Hall, London. (2017-2018)
- **Live performance** on the BBC's Andrew Marr Show ( 2017).
- **Principal tubist for The Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall**, performing alongside artists such as Tom Jones, James Blunt, Jeff Goldblum, Leona Lewis, McFly, Bryn Terfel (2017-2019).
- **Christmas Spectacular with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**, Royal Albert Hall, (2017).
- **Principal tubist** with The Band of the Scots Guards, at the diplomatic meet of the two leaders of Cyprus (Greek Cypriot, and Turkish Cypriot) as part of the United Nations ongoing peace talks, (2018).
- **Performed at the state visits of President Macron**, the King and Queen of Holland, King of Spain, and the working visit of President Trump.
- **Principal Tubist, Last Night of the Proms 2015**, The English National Philharmonic Orchestra, Norfolk.
- **Guest Tubist**, Prinsens Musikkorp (Danish Military Band), Denmark.
- **Guest Tubist**, Randers Kammerorkester, Denmark.
- **Guest tubist**, Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, Denmark.
- **RAMA Brass performance at Fredensborg Palace**, Denmark, for the Danish Queen, Danish Royal Family, and Scandinavian business executives.
- **Principal tubist** of the World Youth Orchestra, Riva Del Garda, Italy, (2011).
- **Principal tubist** with the Birmingham Symphonic Winds performance at the Lincoln Center, New York, (2011).
- **Tubist** for J. Hepples' 'Story Time' at The Royal Festival Hall, UK (2010)