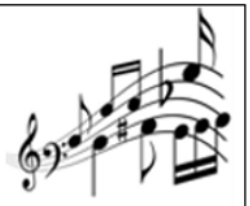
SCORE

Newsletter of the

International Military Music Society Worldwide

for people who are interested in military bands, their music and history



SCORE Nr. 5 June, 2026

Score is the newsletter of the International Military Music Society (IMMS). In musical terms, a "score" refers to the complete notation of all parts of a piece of (military) music. Similarly, this newsletter provides a comprehensive overview of current developments in military music. Distributed to IMMS members, Score complements our magazine, *Band International*, by providing timely information and updates. If you have information about military music — in the broadest sense — that you would like to share with our members worldwide, please send it to our newsletter editors at: jansson@sc-mail.de or voorzitter@imms.nl.

Dear Lovers of Military Music,

We are delighted to announce that our international society has made a successful start in 2026. The IMMS's new structure and format have been warmly received by military music enthusiasts around the world. Our international military music family now includes members from Japan, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand—an achievement of which we can all be proud. As we move further into 2026, we continue to see a wide range of military music activities taking place across the globe. These include parades, commemorations, concerts, tattoo performances, new CD's and many other events organized by military bands and related organizations. Through our magazine *Band International* and our newsletter *Score*, we aim to keep our members informed about these developments. To do so, we rely on contributions from our branches and individual members. Your support and input are greatly appreciated and play a vital role in keeping our publications current and relevant. As an example in this newsletter, here is a major contribution from our Swedish music friends. Our goal is to share military music news and developments from all parts of the world—not only from Europe, but from every region where military music continues to thrive.

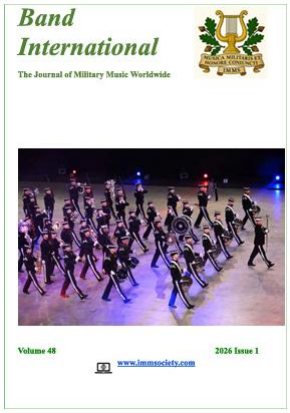
In this newsletter, we bring you the following topics: Band International, Trooping the Colour 2026, Music from The King's Birthday Parade 2026, International Military Tattoos, King Carl XVI Gustaf Celebrates His 80th Birthday, Sweden's National Day, Golden Wedding Anniversary King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden, Försvarsmusiken 500 år, 500 Years of Swedish Military Music/MMS Commemoration Medal and Basel Tattoo 2025.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter SCORE!

With best Regards, Per-Eric Jansson, Johanna Lundgren, Geert Bergsma

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Band International



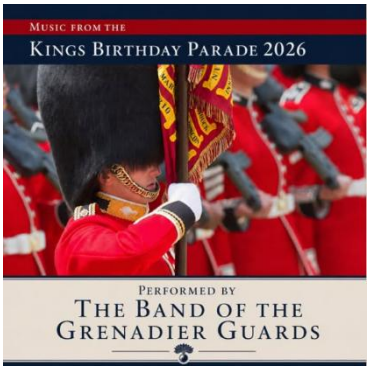
Earlier this year, in March, you received the first issue of *Band International* (BI) through your national branch. BI is our principal means of communication with members around the world. Under the leadership of Kris Schauvliege, our dedicated editorial team continues to produce a magazine of outstanding quality and engaging content. As mentioned earlier, we greatly value the contributions and input of our members, worldwide, which help make the magazine both informative and relevant. We are pleased to announce that *Band International* 2026/2 will be arriving on your doorstep shortly.

Trooping the Colour 2026

The Trooping the Colour ceremony at Horse Guards Parade, held to celebrate King Charles III's birthday, took place on Saturday, June 13, 2026. The King's Company of the 1st Battalion, the Grenadier Guards, had the immense honor of presenting the standard this year. To ensure the parade runs smoothly, 1,400 guardsmen, 200 horses and 400 musicians practice for months. There are two dress rehearsals. The Major-General's Review took place on May 30, 2026. A week later, on June 6, 2026, the Colonel's Review was held. During the march-out of the Massed Bands of the Guards from Wellington Barracks, the Trooping the Colour ceremony, and the subsequent march-in to Buckingham Palace, the following marches were performed: *Dunedin, Brooklyn Belle, Star of Erin, Bravura, The Mareth Line, Royal Standard, Vimy Ridge, The Garrison, Wentworth, Grenade Fired Proper, The British Grenadiers, Escort to the Colour, The Grenadiers Slow March, Nairac GC, Arnhem, The British Grenadiers, Rule Britannia, St Patrick's Day, Milanollo, The Voice of the Guns, The Royals, Colts and Fillies Trot, The Keel Row, Queen's Company, The Inkerman March, Wadi al Batin, Twice the Man, When the Guards are on Parade.*



Music from The King's Birthday Parade 2026



Relive the spectacle, precision, and pageantry of His Majesty The King's Birthday Parade 2026 with the new CD *Music from The King's Birthday Parade 2026*, performed by the Band of the Grenadier Guards. Featuring highlights from one of Britain's most iconic ceremonial events, this recording captures many of the memorable musical moments heard during the parade. Whether you attended Horse Guards Parade, watched the event from home, or simply appreciate military music at its finest, this is a recording not to be missed.

Check the following website: https://www.householddivision.org.uk/recordings

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International Military Tattoos



Household Division Beating Retreat – July 8–10, 2026: The Household Division's Beating Retreat returns this year with the theme "Inspiring the Nation." This spectacular event combines military music, mounted displays, cannons, fireworks, and precision drill in a colourful and unforgettable performance by the Household Cavalry Mounted Band and the Massed Bands of the Household Division. The programme also features special guest appearances by the Swiss Top Secret Drum Corps and the Big Band of NATO Headquarters, Belgium. For the grand finale, the Household Division is collaborating with Andrew Lloyd Webber to present a breathtaking musical celebration, featuring some of the most iconic and captivating music from the world-famous musicals *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Cats*.

Beating Retreat Bands H.M. Royal Marines, July 16–17, 2026: A spectacular evening filled with magnificent military music and pomp and circumstance, featuring 200 of the world's finest military musicians, a precision drill by the Corps of Drums, and a guard of honor from the Royal Navy.





Basel Tattoo, July 17–25, 2026: For the twentieth time, the Swiss Outdoor Tattoo will take place in the historic courtyard of the Kaserne Basel. In addition to the spectacular main performances, visitors can enjoy the traditional street parade through the city of Basel.This year's programme features an outstanding line-up, including the Bands of the Scots Guards and Irish Guards, H.M. Kongens Gardes Musikkorps with Drill Team, the Swiss Armed Forces Conscript Band, the Top Secret Drum Corps, and the world-renowned Blue Devils from the United States—widely regarded as one of the most iconic show bands in the world. A highlight of every Swiss Outdoor Tattoo is the impressive performance by the Massed Pipes & Drums and Highland Dancers, whose spectacular display continues to be one of the event's most popular and memorable traditions.

Eksjö International Tattoo, July 23–25, 2026: The International Military Music Festival will be held in the historic "wooden town" of Eksjö, one of Sweden's best-preserved wooden towns. The event is widely recognized as Sweden's only international military music festival and attracts performers and audiences from around the world. This year's impressive line-up includes the Home Guard Band Eksjö, Home Guard Band Ystad, the Swedish Army Band, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Pipes, Drums and Dancers, the French Artillery Band, the U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa Band, and the SHAPE International Band (NATO). Also taking part are the Jordanian Armed Forces Band, accompanied by the Royal Circassian Honour Guard and the Royal Jordanian Honour Guard Silent Drill Team, as well as the Honoured Academic Orchestra of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Hamina International Military Music Festival, July 27–August 1, 2026: This year, the Hamina Tattoo Festival takes its inspiration from the Baltic Sea—a theme that perfectly reflects the maritime heritage of the Finnish coastal town of Hamina. The festival will feature an impressive international line-up, including the Royal Netherlands Navy Band and the Marine Band of the Royal Netherlands Navy's Drums & Pipes Corps, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Pipes & Drums and Dancers, the Swiss Army Central Band, and the Royal Swedish Navy Band. Representing Finland are the Conscript Band of the Finnish Defence Forces, the Finnish Dragoon Band, and the Finnish Navy Band, all of which will contribute to a memorable celebration of military music and tradition.



Oslo Military Tattoo, September 4–6, 2026: The Norwegian Military Tattoo is Norway's largest indoor military music event, bringing together more than 800 performers in a spectacular display of music, ceremony, and military tradition. This year's programme features an outstanding international cast, including H.M. Kongens Gardes Musikkorps with Drill Team, the Japan Air Self-Defense Force Central Band, the Royal Norwegian Navy Band, the Norwegian Armed Forces Staff Band, the Central Band of the Czech Armed Forces, and the Guards Band of the Finnish Defence Forces. Also appearing are the Honoured Academic Orchestra of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the Exemplary Orchestra of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and the United States Air Force Band, joined by the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard and the renowned *Ambassadors in Blue*. With participants from across Europe, North America, and Asia, the Norwegian Military Tattoo promises an unforgettable celebration of military music at the highest level.

Netherlands Military Tattoo, August 10-13, 2026: After nearly twenty years in Rotterdam, the Netherlands Military Tattoo will move to the Brabanthallen in 's-Hertogenbosch. This new, centrally located venue will make the event more accessible to audiences from across the Netherlands. The theme of this year's edition is *Protecting What Is Dear to Us*. Participating bands: Marines Band of the Netherlands Royal Navy with Fifes and Drums Marine Corps, Royal military Band 'Johan Willem Friso', Orchestra Royal Netherlands Air Force, Orchestra Royal Marechaussee, Fanfare Band Mounted Arms, Show- & Marchingband Exempel, Limburg Police Pipes & Drums, Central Military Band of the Latvian National Armed Forces, Croatian Armed Forces Band and the International Tattoo Highland Dance Team.

King Carl XVI Gustaf Celebrates His 80th Birthday



On 30 April 2026, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden celebrated his 80th birthday in grand style in Stockholm. The festivities included a military parade, an air display, a special *Te Deum* service, and a gala dinner attended by numerous international guests. Swedish television broadcaster SVT provided more than five hours of live coverage of the celebrations. Two recorded programmes are now available and can be viewed internationally via SVT Play on the SVT website. By selecting "Watch without logging in," viewers can easily access the broadcasts. For enthusiasts of military ceremony, pageantry, and military music, the most interesting segments include the *Te Deum* service, the Military Parade, the Changing of the Guard, and the *Tapto* ceremony.



Photo: Evening tattoo at the palace performed by Armens Musikkår

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Sweden's National Day



Each year on 6 June, Sweden celebrates its National Day, which has also been a public holiday for several years. Those unable to attend in person can follow the festivities online via SVT Play, the streaming service of Swedish Television. The day's highlights include the Changing of the Guard at the Royal Palace, followed by an invitation from Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess for the public to visit the palace. In the early afternoon, the Royal Cortège travels in an open landau, escorted by the Life Guards Dragoons, before arriving at the Skansen Open-Air Museum. The official ceremony at Skansen features the singing of the King's Hymn—traditionally performed in place of the National Anthem when the King is present—followed by the Army Parade March, the hoisting of the national flag, and a performance of *"Fladdra stolt"* ("Flutter Proudly, Swedish Flag"), a patriotic song dating from the late nineteenth century. At the conclusion of the National Day broadcast, viewers can hear and see the Swedish Army Evening Call (*Svenska Arméns Tapto*), performed by the Swedish Army Band. An interesting historical detail is that the composer of the full military band arrangement was the Saxon musician Johann Heinrich Walch (1775–1855). Following the Napoleonic Wars and the Swedish campaign in Germany in 1813–1814, several German musicians settled in Sweden and became military musicians and directors of music. The band arrangement of the Evening Call was prepared by one of these immigrants, Franz Preumayr, who served as Director of Music of the Royal Foot Guards in Stockholm. The penultimate march in the symphonic introduction, or serenade, is *Kungarop* ("Royal Acclamation") by Per Berg (1897–1957), Director of Music of the Royal Södermanland Regiment. The work incorporates bugle motifs inspired by the famous *Marcia Carolus Rex*. Berg also composed the celebrated cavalry march *Hertigen av Västerbotten*, dedicated to the father of the present King Carl XVI Gustaf. Another interesting connection is that the evening bugle call used in Sweden is identical to that of the German Bundeswehr, often heard in performances of the well-known song *Lili Marleen*.

Golden Wedding Anniversary King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden



Sweden as been celebrating a lot these past weeks. First the King's 80th birthday, the the National Day and to-day, June 13th, 2026, the Golden Wedding. Swedish state TV followed the day, and you will find the program as follows: click on SVT.se, click on SVT-play followed by "alla program". Click on "tillåt nödvändiga" (for allowing only necessary cookies), click on "titta utan att logga in" (view without log-in) look for and chose "kungaparets guldbröllop" and you will find: Te deum in the palace church, King and Queen boarding the Royal Navy Sloop (oars) to cross over to the other beach, royal cortege with cavalry

escort and at the end an open air concert. The Swedish Armed Forces are very present including regimental colours - colour bearers in old or modern uniforms are regular units; in battle dress Territorial Army. Lots of ceremonies and military music.

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500 Years of Swedish Military Music/MMS Commemoration Medal



In 1526, King Gustav Vasa established his household troops in Stockholm. The payroll records from that year list two musicians—a trumpeter and a drummer—marking the earliest documented evidence of military musicians serving within a permanent Swedish military unit. This milestone is being celebrated in 2026 as 500 years of Swedish military music. Although trumpeters, drummers, and other military musicians had long been used for communication on the battlefield, military music as we know it today did not begin to develop until the mid-eighteenth century, reaching its peak during the nineteenth century with the emergence of large military bands. Nevertheless, the documented presence of musicians within the Royal Corps of Trabants in 1526 is a significant historical landmark worthy of commemoration.

An interesting aspect of the anniversary is the commemorative medal issued by the Swedish Military Music Society (MMS). Originally introduced in 1971 to mark the transfer of military bands from the Armed Forces to civilian regional organizations, the medal has now been redesignated to celebrate 500 years of Swedish military music. The 1971 system, under which civilian bands were responsible for providing military music, proved less successful than anticipated. Today, the Swedish Armed Forces maintain three professional ensembles—the Swedish Army Band, the Royal Swedish Navy Band, and the Mounted Band of the Life Guards—as well as 25 Home Guard bands throughout the country. The redesignation of the commemorative medal is a fitting tribute to five centuries of military music tradition in Sweden.

Försvarsmusiken 500 år



On May 22, 2026, the anniversary recording of Swedish military music was released digitally and is available to listen to on platforms such as Spotify. The following works were recorded by the three professional military bands: Arméns musikkår, Livgardets dragonmusikkår, and Marinens musikkår: *Jubileumsmarsch - In Posterum*, 2. *Uvertyr till operan Fra Diavolo*, 3. *Guld Jubileum Ode till CG S*, 4. *Schwedischer Reitersignalmarsch*, 5. *La Traviata - Fantasia I. Prelude*, 6. *La Traviata - Fantasia II. Akt 1,* 7. *La Traviata - Fantasia III. Akt 2:1*, 8. *La Traviata - Fantasia IV. Akt 2:2*, 9. *Södermanlands regementes marsch*, 10. *Soaring Flight*, 11. *Livregementets husarers marsch*, 12. *Gryning vid havet*, 13. *Till Jacob*

trumslagare, 14. *Vaktparaden*, 15. *Tapto: Pilgrimssång.*

Basel Tattoo 2025



The Basel Tattoo was founded in 2006 by the local Top Secret Drum Corps. Since then, it has grown into one of the world's premier military music events and is now regarded as the second-largest military tattoo in the world, both in terms of participant numbers and production budget—surpassed only by the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Those who would like to experience the atmosphere of this remarkable event can watch the complete 2025 performance on YouTube: [Basel Tattoo 2025 – Die grössten Schottischen Hits | Basel Tattoo | SRF](). It offers an excellent introduction to the scale, pageantry, and musical excellence that have made the Basel Tattoo an internationally acclaimed spectacle.
