

MUSIC IN THE RAF AIR CADETS

Do you play a musical instrument or sing in a choir? If you do, read on to find out how to get recognised and progress with music within the RAF Air Cadets. After achieving your introductory blue badge. You can enter competitions, represent your Unit, Wing, Region or CCF Area, attend a national music camp and take part in public performances.

TYPES OF BADGES



If you play a musical instrument or sing in a choir you may be awarded a musician badge. There are four types of badge available at blue, bronze, silver and gold:

- **Trumpeter** (crossed trumpets)
- **Drummer** (drums)
- **Instrumentalist** (lyre)
- **Piper** (bagpipes)

For each badge you must meet certain criteria as described below. Ask a member of your unit staff for a full list of eligible instruments (*ACTO 123*).

BLUE BADGES

Blue badges are awarded on your musical ability. You can qualify for a blue badge in one of three ways:

- Pass a recognised music board exam at **grade 3**.
- Provide an expert witness testimony (for example a school music teacher) which states your instrument can be played to grade 3 standard.
- Assessment by a competent person to state that musical ability has been demonstrated.

If you feel you are eligible for this badge, speak to your unit staff, who may put you in touch with your Wing or Area Music Officer.

Record how you achieved this badge in your *Blue Badge Logbook*, where the criteria can also be found.

BRONZE & SILVER BADGES

If you wish to join an RAF Air Cadets band, then speak to your unit staff, who may put you in touch with your Wing or Area Music Officer.

Cadets who achieve bronze and silver badges are normally a member of a Wing or Regional/Area band. You can qualify for a bronze or silver badge in one of three ways. The level of badge will depend on the level of competition and/or examination grade:

- Pass a recognised music board exam at **grade 5** (bronze) or **grade 8** (silver).
- Perform in a band in a representative capacity at **Wing** (bronze) or **Regional/Area** (silver) level.
- Perform regularly in a band or ensemble judged to be at bronze or silver level.

GOLD BADGE

Gold badges are awarded for national representation.

You could gain a gold badge if you have attended an RAF Air Cadets national music camp/workshop and played with the relevant national ensemble at a recognised public performance.

Current national music bands and ensembles include:

- Concert Band
- Marching Band
- Choir
- Strings Ensemble
- Pipes and Drums

The gold piper and gold drum badges can also be awarded for cadets who have successfully completed the ACF Annual Pipes and Drums Concentration.