

The pageantry of the Accession of King Charles III and the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

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'The Queen is dead; Long live The King', a strange situation which sees the nation simultaneously mourning a much-loved sovereign while celebrating a new king.

Her Late Majesty died on Thursday 8th September 2022 and this was marked the next day by salutes of 96 guns, one for each year of her life, fired from the various saluting stations around the nation. Military music was to play a major role in most of the events leading up to the state funeral and this is a summary of the principal involvement.

Saturday 10th September

The Accession Council met on the morning of Saturday 10th September and the principal proclamation was read by Garter King of Arms from the balcony overlooking Friary Court at St. James's Palace, heralded by fanfares sounded by eight State Trumpeters under Trumpet Major Julian Sandford.

Following the reading the King's Guard, found by Number 7 Company Coldstream Guards, presented arms, the call Royal Salute was sounded by the State Trumpeters, and the Band of the Coldstream Guards under Major Stewart Halliday played the National Anthem. Three cheers were then given for King Charles III.

This was the first occasion that the balcony had been so used since 1952, on 8th February to proclaim the Queen's accession, and on 7th June to announce the date of her coronation the following year. Up until 1952 a carriage procession with a Household Cavalry escort then conveyed the officers of arms to make further proclamations at Charing Cross, Chancery Lane and the Royal Exchange.

Things were cut back in 2022 with just the one additional reading at the Royal Exchange, supported by the Band and Drums of the Honourable Artillery Company under Major Bruce Miller, with 'The Musik' (drums and fifes) of the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers, and the State Trumpeters, four by the steps of the Royal Exchange and four on the balcony of nearby Mansion House.

Sunday 11th September

The proclamation was read again the next day. In Edinburgh this took place twice, first at the Mercat Cross and later at Edinburgh Castle, heralded by the Scottish State Trumpeters with the National Anthem played by the Band of the Royal Marines Scotland under Captain Tom Griffin and led by Drum Major Stephenson. The band also supported guard mounts at the Palace of Holyroodhouse each morning until the late Queen's coffin left Scotland.

At Cardiff Castle the proclamation was supported by the Band of The Royal Welsh with the drums of the 3rd Battalion, under Major Denis Burton MBE, while playing at Hillsborough Castle was the Band, Pipes and Drums of The Royal Irish Regiment under the Bandmaster, Mr Richard Douglas MBE

In the afternoon, a Guard of Honour from The Royal Regiment of Scotland, with the Band under Major Evin Frost, was mounted at the Palace of Holyroodhouse to receive the coffin of the late Queen which had been brought by road from Balmoral Castle.

Monday 12th September

The Band of the Household Cavalry, with State Trumpeters, had been at the proclamation at Windsor on the 11th and the next morning, Monday 12th, played under Major Paul Collis-Smith in Westminster Hall for the King's address to Parliament.

Later that day, The Royal Regiment of Scotland was back at Holyrood to receive King Charles and, later, for the departure of the coffin in procession to St Giles' Cathedral, where there was a Guard of Honour found by The Royal Company of Archers, The King's Bodyguard for Scotland, with the Pipes and Drums of The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (2 SCOTS). The Scottish State Trumpeters sounded a fanfare as the coffin was carried inside for a period of lying-in-rest.

Tuesday 13th September

The Royal Company of Archers, with the 2 SCOTS pipes and drums, was again in position at St Giles on Tuesday 13th as the coffin was led out by a Pipe Major of The Royal Regiment of Scotland playing *Flowers of the Forest* and conveyed to Edinburgh Airport where it was received by a Guard of Honour from The Royal Regiment of Scotland, with the band, for the flight to London.

Wednesday 14th September

The procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall on Wednesday 14th largely followed the precedent following the death of King Edward VII in 1910 with dismounted Household Cavalry, an Escort Party of The Queen's Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, and the Bands of the Grenadier and Scots Guards (Major Williams, Captain Mason) led by Senior Drum Major Gareth Chambers, Irish Guards.

Her Late Majesty held three appointments in the Grenadier Guards: Colonel-in-Chief since 1952, Colonel from 1942 to 1952 and again recently after the appointment was relinquished by The Duke of York, and Company Commander of The Queen's Company.

Six marches were played during the procession, three of which were published by Hawkes and Son under the titles of *Beethoven's Funeral March*, Numbers 1,2 and 3.

Funeral March Number 1: Although generally attributed to Beethoven, this march was written by Johann Heinrich Walch (1776-1855), director of the court orchestra of the principality of Saxony-Gotha-Altenburg. The march is played annually on Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph during the laying of wreaths.

Funeral March Number 3 (Beethoven): This march is something of a mystery as, despite contacting a number of experts, no one has been able to identify it with anything composed by Beethoven.

Funeral March (Mendelssohn): Felix Mendelssohn composed a series of 'Songs Without Words', (*Liedern Ohne Worte*) for solo piano which were published in eight books, each of six pieces. The *Funeral March* (*Trauermarsch*) in E Minor was published in 1843 and is Number 27, or Number 3 in the fifth book, Op.62.

Funeral March (Chopin): probably the best known of all funeral marches, this is the third movement from Chopin's *Piano Sonata Number 2* in Bb Minor, opus 35, often referred to as *Marche Funebre*.

Funeral March Number 2 (Beethoven): This is the only one of the three 'Beethoven, marches that we know he composed, being the third movement of *his Piano Sonata Number 12* in Ab. sometimes referred to as the 'Funeral March on the Death of a Hero' and played by a wind band during Beethoven's own funeral procession. It has been suggested that the tremolando and crescendo section of the march is intended to signify drum rolls and rifle volleys to convey the mood of a military funeral.

Regrets (*Marche Funebre*) (Charles Panne): Charles Panne was a Belgian bandmaster who directed the Band of the Regiment des Carabiniers in Brussels. This funeral march was much used by continental military bands when the occasion demanded; it was published in the United Kingdom some years later under the title *Regrets*.

The bands returned to Wellington Barracks by way of Birdcage Walk playing *Washington Grays* (Grafulla), *Wellington* (Zehle) and *Namur* (Richards).

A Guard of Honour- from the Royal Navy, Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards and the Royal Air Force was mounted outside New Palace Yard, with the Band of the Royal Marines Collingwood under Lieutenant Colonel Jason Burcham and led by Drum Major Crossley. The band marched from Wellington Barracks to Parliament Square playing *Voice of the Guns* (Alford), *Army and Marine* (Zehle), *Trafalgar* (Zehle), and returned playing *Viscount Nelson* (Zehle), *Imperial Echoes* (Safroni) and *Soldiers of the Sea* (Dunn).

Monday 19th September

Following the Lying-in-State in Westminster Hall, came a day that few could forget, with the music making such an immeasurable contribution to the dignity and emotions of the occasion.

The first short procession took the coffin from Westminster Hall to the Collegiate Church of St Peter at Westminster, led by massed pipes and drums representing every piping, regiment in the army, Scots, Irish and Gurkhas, together with the Royal Air Force, playing *Mull of the Mountains* and *Mist Covered Mountains*. They were headed by Drum Major Alan Campbell, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, with Drum Majors from The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, 1st Battalion Scots Guards and 1st Battalion Irish Guards.

The marshal for the pipes and drums was Lieutenant Colonel Craig Hallatt, Principal Director of Music (Army). A marshal is assigned to each detachment in the procession, largely to regulate the pace and interval.

Inside the Abbey, seven trumpeters from the Guards Division, under Lieutenant Colonel David Barringer MBE, were positioned on the organ loft to join with two of the hymns and God Save The King, now with the correct words once again being sung after over seventy years. State Trumpeters sounded Last Post and Reveille from the steps of the Henry VII Chapel, while the Sovereign's piper, pipe Major Paul Burns, played *Sleep, Dearie, Sleep* as the service reached its close.

The main procession formed up and marched to Wellington Arch at Hyde Park Corner in seven groups, each with a band, although sadly missing the Bands of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers which had played for earlier sovereigns' funerals:

Group I - Bands of The Rifles and The Brigade of Gurkhas: Captain O'Neill, Captain Hayes, Bugle Major Keely

Group 2 - Bands of the Royal Air Force: Wing Commander Morrell OBE, Flight Lieutenant Rodda, Drum Major Phelan

Group 3 - British Army Bands Colchester and Sandhurst: Major Bywater, Captain Stead, Drum Major Cook

Group 4 - Bands of the Irish and Welsh Guards: Major Halliday (Coldstream Guards), Major Petritz-Watts, Drum Major Laing

Group 5 - Bands of the Royal Marines, Portsmouth and Plymouth: Lieutenant Colonel Burcham; Drum Major Mace

Group 6 - Bands of the Coldstream and Scots Guards; Lieutenant Colonel Barringer MBE; Major Williams, Drum Major Chambers

Group 7 - Band of the Royal Marines, Commando Training Centre: Major Davis; Drum Major Birt

Again, musicians were utilised as marshals, including WOI (RSM) Simmonds with Group 1 bands, Captain Brydon with Group 4 bands, Major Crane with Group 5 bands, Captain Beckett MBE with Group 6 bands and Captain Button with Group 7 band.

All drums were draped with black cloth, as were the staffs of the drum majors, other than in the Foot Guards. The Drum Majors of the Royal Marines and RAF carried their staffs at the trail during the procession.

An innovation was that the drum horse, Apollo, had black drapes around the silver kettledrums covering the banners. On previous state funerals the normal banners had been surmounted by black bows, although illustrations of the State Funeral of The Duke of Wellington in 1852 show black drapes.

Each band played the same six funeral marches as in the procession to Lying in State, although in different orders. All troops formed up on arriving at Hyde Park Comer with the bands grouped together, making it the largest massed bands assembled for many years, probably since the 1985 Wembley Pageant. Lieutenant Colonel Barringer conducted the bands in the National Anthem and after the hearse had departed (and not seen on the television coverage), played a programme of solemn music for twenty minutes as the procession dispersed: *David of the White Rock*, *Isle of Beauty* (Whitmore), *The Minstrel Boy*, *I Vow To Thee My Country* (Holst), *Jerusalem* (Parry) and *The Supreme Sacrifice* (Harris).

Each group then returned to Wellington Barracks via Constitution Hill with the bands playing:

Group 1 - *Action Front* (Blankenburg), *Sons of the Brave* (Bidgood) and *The Contemptibles* (Stanley).

Group 2 - *Cavalry of the Clouds* (Alford), *Glorious Victory* (Kendall) and *Holyrood* (Alford).

Group 3 - *Arromanches* (Kelly), *Army of the Nile* (Alford) and *Punjaub* (Payne)

Group 4 - *Guards Armoured Division* (Willcocks), *The Guards Brigade* (Darewski) and *General Mitchell* (Hall)

Group 5 - *Trafalgar* (Zehle), *Voice of the Guns* (Alford) and *Viscount Nelson* (Zehle).

Group 6 - *Washington Grays* (Grafulla), *Wellington* (Zehle) and *Namur* (Richards).

Group 7 - *Gibraltar* (Waterer) and *The Captain General* (Dunn).

The Band of the Royal Marines Collingwood under Captain Hairsine was again with the Guard of Honour in Parliament Square. The Band of the Royal Marines Scotland (Captain Weites; Drum Major Vyse) was with street-liners at King Charles Street, the British Army Band Catterick (Captain Simons) was at the Duke of York's Steps in The Mall and the British Army Band Tidworth (Captain Porter) was on Horse Guards Parade,

supplemented by members of the Band of The Prince of Wales. The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment (Flying Officer Parsons) was in Constitution Hill.

The British Army Band Catterick returned to Wellington Barracks playing: *Arromanches* (Kelly), *Glorious Victory* (Kendall), *Holyrood* (Alford), *With Sword and Lance* (Starke), *Arnhem* (Kelly) and *General Mitchell* (Hall).

This arrangement marked a major change from previous sovereigns' funerals when the procession marched to Paddington station and the coffin was taken to Windsor by train, with another procession from what is now Windsor and Eton Central station to the castle. Instead, the Queen's coffin was taken to Windsor in the state hearse and joined the procession which had formed at Shaw Farm Gate in Albert Road, to march along the Long Walk to Windsor Castle.

After the 1st Division (dismounted) and 2nd Division (mounted) of the Sovereign's Escort marched the Massed Pipes and Drums, smaller in number than in London and mostly comprising the regiments of which Her Late Majesty was colonel-in-chief.. Behind marched the Band of the Grenadier Guards (Captain Mason, Drum Major Fitzgerald) followed by the Band of the Household Cavalry (Major Collis-Smith, led by Lance Corporal of Horse Witter). The music for this section was:

Household Cavalry: *Funeral March* (Mendelssohn)

Grenadier Guards: *Regrets* (Panne)

Pipes and Drums: *Loch Duich, Loch Rannoch*

Household Cavalry: *Funeral March Number 2* (Beethoven)

Grenadier Guards: *Marche Funebre* (Chopin)

Pipes and Drums: *Skye Boat Song, My Home*

Household Cavalry: *Funeral March Number 1* (Walch)

Grenadier Guards: *Funeral March Number 3* (Beethoven)

Pipes and Drums: *Flowers of the Forest*

The last tune, *Flowers of the Forest*, is believed to have been composed in memory of the Scots killed at Flodden Field in 1513 and is frequently played by pipers as a lament at funerals and occasions of remembrance.

The moving service in St. George's Chapel was led by the Dean of Windsor, the Right Reverend David Connor. As in London, the service again ended with the Sovereign's Piper, this time playing *A Salute to the Royal Fendersmith* by former Scots Guards pipe major, James Banks.

The street liners at Windsor were supported by the Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland (Major Frost) and the Band of the Royal Air Force College (Squadron Leader Murray) in the Long Walk, and by the Corps of Drums of 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards in the Middle Ward of the castle. The Corps of Drums of 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards led the Guard of Honour to Horseshoe Cloisters and then took position alongside their Coldstream colleagues.

Much of the detailed planning over the past twenty years was in the very capable hands of Major Andrew Chatburn, one-time Director of Music of the Irish Guards, firstly as Senior Director of Music, then Staff Officer Ceremonial at Horse Guards and now a senior member of the Royal Household.

The nation owes him a great debt of gratitude for playing such a major role in organising an event that touched the world and which involved almost all musicians, pipers and drummers from the three services.