

Job Specification: Musical Director

Organisation:	York RI Golden Rail Band
Position Type:	Part-time
Rehearsal Night:	Tuesdays 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Location:	York Railway Institute Band Room, Queen Street, York Queen Street, YO24 1AD. The bandroom is easily accessible by rail, bus and on foot. Parking on site is very limited but there is also reduced price evening public parking within 5 minutes' walk at Nunnery Lane, with a York Residents' Pass

About the Band

York RI Golden Rail Band is a non-contesting, 4th-section equivalent brass band based in York. We have our own bandroom, next to York Station, which we share with the York RI Band and the York RI Development Band. In 2027 we are anticipating that all 3 bands will move into a newly renovated, fully equipped rehearsal space next to our current band room.

We were founded in the mid-1980s and are a versatile brass band with a strong connection to our home city. We play a wide range of engagements, from outdoor concerts in the grounds of stately homes and beautiful parks and gardens to marching for Remembrance Day in Tadcaster and memorial concerts. We play on bandstands, entertaining audiences in Burnby Hall Gardens and Riverside Gardens in Goole and have played prestigious venues including York Minster, Joseph Rowntree Theatre, York Barbican, Selby Abbey, York Citadel, York University and the National Centre for Early Music (NCEM). In January 2026, we featured in the opening episode of the Channel 4 documentary series 'Britain's Favourite Railway Stations with Si King' which was a great opportunity to showcase our band. Over the past year, we have also been asked to perform with a small ensemble of players, providing music for dinners and celebrations held by local businesses and societies. We also continue to love playing community concerts, whether it's a village Christmas carol concert or a local fete or fayre.

The York RI Development Band was started by the Golden Rail Band to teach beginners and bring on learners so that eventually they will be able to progress to Golden Rail. The Development Band has its own Music Director and identity, but we are keen for the Golden Rail Music Director to take an interest in the Development Band and to work co-operatively with their MD to foster and encourage progression.

We are very fortunate to have a great mix of players in the band and we now also have close links with the University of York brass band with whom we have jointly performed. We have a regular flow of university students into the band, which results in a great mix of members from teenagers to octogenarians!

Job Summary

The Musical Director (MD) will lead, motivate, and develop the band's musical abilities. The focus is on creating an entertaining and diverse repertoire suitable for community concerts and charity events while fostering a supportive, non-competitive atmosphere.

Key Responsibilities

- **Rehearsals:** Plan and conduct weekly rehearsals with a focus on player development and enjoyment
- **Programming:** Select and manage a repertoire that balances audience appeal with musical interest for the players
- **Performances:** Conduct the band at all agreed public engagements
- **Committee Liaison:** Work with the committee to plan the band's calendar and growth strategy

Person Specification

Essential:

- A highly competent musician and excellent sight-reader
- Strong conducting experience with band or orchestral experience
- A passion for brass bands and brass music
- Prepared to take an interest in the band's activities and overall musical development
- Professional standards and personality traits that will inspire confidence and effort from players
- A commitment to supporting and encouraging individual growth
- Musically creative with the ability to develop entertaining concert programmes suitable for different audiences/occasions and appropriate to the band's overall ability
- Commitment to Golden Rail Band rehearsals and engagements
- The ability to communicate confidently and effectively with players and audiences
- Patience and a good sense of humour
- A commitment to the "community" ethos (prioritising inclusion over competition)
- An enhanced DBS check will be carried out and the successful applicant cannot have any previous criminal convictions that would present a risk to the band organisation or its members

Desirable:

- Brass playing or brass conducting experience
- Ability to arrange brass band music for varied skill levels

Remuneration

- The band will pay reasonable expenses for rehearsals and engagements – to be discussed during the recruitment process

The Vacancy

- The position of Music Director is ideally from 1st July 2026. An initial trial period of three months will be offered and the applicant will be confirmed in post after that point if both parties (MD and band) are in agreement

Applications

- The deadline for applications is Sunday 31st May 2026
- All applications should be submitted on the appropriate application form and emailed to bookings.yorkrigoldenrailband@outlook.com
- We welcome applications from all suitably qualified individuals, including early career musicians interested in developing this aspect of their work
- We are keen to promote diversity in our brass band and encourage applications from women, people from ethnic minorities and others less well represented among brass band conductors
- Suitable applicants will be invited to take the band for up to two rehearsals (dates to be confirmed but likely to be on a Tuesday night in June 2026). Applicants will be invited to introduce themselves to players and take questions from them
- We would aim for applicants to be informed of the outcome on or before 1st July 2026