

## **The Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army was formed in 1878 as a reorganisation of the East London Christian Mission, which had been formed thirteen years earlier under the charismatic leadership of the evangelical preacher William Booth. Brass instruments were used to accompany outdoor hymn singing in the first year of the Army's foundation, but it quickly became apparent that brass bands could fulfil an important evangelical purpose: they drew attention to the Christian message and helped articulate the military metaphor. It was never Booth's intention that brass bands should be prominent in their own right (he equated virtuosity with vanity), but they soon became ubiquitous and ambitious. Salvation Army bands represent an important strand of activity in the history of British brass playing.

### **General William Booth's first Order for Salvation Army bands, published in the *War Cry*, 27 March 1880**

Psalm xcvi.6. - 'With trumpets and sound of cornet, make,' etc.

Psalm cl.4. - 'Praise him with the timbrel,' etc.

Isaiah xxxviii.20. - 'The Lord was ready to save me; therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments.'

Whereas, during the late Welsh and Cornish Councils, and before that time at Plymouth, Nottingham and elsewhere, we have proved the great utility of musical instruments in attracting crowds to our open-air and indoor meetings, we do here express our desire that as many of our Officers and Soldiers generally, male or female, as have the ability for so doing, learn to play on some suitable instrument.

And as in many instances the obtaining of an instrument is a difficulty, we shall be glad if any friends who may have such instruments lying idle will consecrate them to this service, and send them to Headquarters. This includes violins, bass viols, concertinas, cornets or any brass instruments, drums or anything else that will make a pleasant sound for the Lord.

William Booth, General

Headquarters  
272 Whitechapel Road  
London, E.

## Number of bandmen by year

The Salvation Army *Year Book* has been published annually since 1906 with the exceptions of 1909, 1911 and 1912. Each publication has contained a section on international statistics, and the total number of band players has always been declared. The methods used to count these players is far from clear, so even though they might provide an interesting profile of trends, they should be treated with some caution. It is safe to assume that the figures were compiled from the reports of corps and territories but the accuracy of such reports is impossible to test. Some sudden shifts are especially baffling. For example, the increase in young peoples band members from 12,807 in 1979 to 26,967 in 1980 does not have an obvious explanation; neither does the apparently huge increase in senior band players between 1991 and 1992.

Most sets of figures pertain to a census point, which occurred at some time in the year previous to the publication in question. The 1914 and 1915 *Year Books* declare a census point of June the previous year. Between 1916 and 1927 the census point was December two years previous (for example the 1928 *Year Book* uses figures gathered in December 1926). The census date is not declared between 1930 and 1950. From 1951 the *Year Book* once again declares figures as at the year ending two years previous. In 1981 a census date of January 1 the previous year was adopted. The 1995 and 1996 statistics are based on information collected a full two years previous to publication.

### *Statistics of Salvation Army Bandmen 1878-1998*

Year of publication	Senior band players <sup>1</sup>	Junior or youth band members	Territories where S. Army operational <sup>2</sup>
1906	18,507		
1907	19,498		53
1908	19,683		54
1909			
1910	21,681		56
1911			
1912 <sup>3</sup>	23,313	2,553	
1913	25,537		58
1914	23,313	2,553	58
1915	23,994	3,970	58
1916	24,406	3,742	60
1917	24,405	4,218	63
1918	24,477	4,270	63
1919	24,477	4,270	63
1920	25,626	5,763	66
1921	26,181	6,417	70
1922	26,017	7,419	73
1923	27,522	8,782	76
1924	28,908	9,282	79
1925	30,182	10,256	79
1926	30,921	10,450	81
1927	32,412	11,059	82

1928	33,297	9,589	82
1929	34,901	8,858	83
1930	35,323	9,741	82
1931	34,747	10,082	82
1932	34,544	10,130	83
1933	34,394	10,035	84
1934	35,065	10,957	86
1935	35,910	12,065	88
1936	36,867	12,842	88
1937 <sup>4</sup>	36,867	12,842	90
1938	38,036	13,293	95
1939	38,036	13,293	97
1940	38,335	12,179	97
1941 <sup>5</sup>			97
1942			
1943			
1944			
1945	39,116	11,458	
1946	39,082	12,090	
1947	39,173	12,382	
1948	39,235	12,458	
1949	35,647	10,801	94
1950	34,962	11,632	92
1951	34,593	11,937	89
1952	34,795	12,935	89
1953	35,137	13,416	89
1954	35,268	13,778	85
1955	35,524	13,959	85
1956	36,076	13,769	85
1957	36,389	14,729	85
1958	36,233	14,973	86
1959	37,444	15,212	86
1960	38,040	16,230	86
1961	38,336	16,395	86
1962	37,435	16,603	86
1963	38,755	16,658	86
1964	45,554	15,029	71
1965	39,474	15,245	69
1966	39,260	15,767	70
1967	39,417	13,283	70
1968	39,389	13,546	70
1969	39,517	12,634	71
1970	39,772	12,701	71
1971	38,714	12,791	74
1972	33,203	12,853	77
1973	37,253	13,479	79
1974	37,333	13,770	81
1975	41,044	14,449	82
1976	41,719	13,940	82

1977	39,663	12,218	82
1978	40,030	12,825	82
1979	42,035	12,807	83
1980	41,333	26,967	83
1981	41,481	27,161	86
1982	42,401	26,861	86
1983	43,521	26,829	85
1984	43,968	27,311	84
1985	44,244	28,350	84
1986	43,987	28,018	86
1987	41,474	20,346	89
1988 <sup>6</sup>	36,865	25,493	89
1989	40,347	27,902	90
1990	41,998	31,681	91
1991	48,986	33,433	93
1992	60,240	24,458	93
1993	52,791	19,142	94
1994	52,791	19,142	98
1995	39,838	11,020	100
1996 <sup>7</sup>	25,041	11,124	101
1997	25,166	11,271	103
1998	25,183	11,763	103

#### Notes

- 1 Until 1914 numbers are given only for 'Bandsmen'. From 1914 the compilers distinguished between 'Senior Bandsmen' and 'Junior' or 'Youth' band players.
- 2 In 1906 this category was described as 'Countries, Colonies and Dependencies'. Between 1907 and 1966 it was called 'Countries and colonies'. From 1967 to 1989 'Countries' and since 1990 'Countries and other territories' The sudden decrease in the number of territories declared in 1964 is accounted for by Federation and revisions (See 1964 *Year Book* p.45).
- 3 The figures given for 1912 were published in the 1930 *Year Book* (for the purpose of illustrating growth in the Army's membership in the previous twenty years) and are spurious.
- 4 In 1937 the figures given were those for the previous year. The explanation was that detailed information could be found in the statistics for individual countries.
- 5 Between 1941 and 1944, because of the war, numbers given for senior and youth band players were those which were published in the 1940 *Year Book* (gathered in December 1938). No figures were published in respect of the number of countries in which the Army was active between 1942 and 1949.
- 6 The 1988 *Year Book* announced a new system for calculating statistics which was based on 'definitive IHQ records'.(see 1940 *Year Book* p.86)
- 7 In 1996 two additional new categories were introduced: 'Other musical groups' and 'Other young peoples musical groups'. The numbers recorder for the former in 1996 was 17,686 and 19,028 the following year. For the latter category the numbers were 21,011 in 1996 and 39,164 in 1997.

## **Bandmasters of the International Staff Band of the Salvation Army**

Harry Appleby (director of 'all staff bands')	1891-4
Frederick Fry	1891-2
Jabez Lyne	1893-4
Caleb Burgess	1894
George Mitchell	1894-1920
George Fuller	1923-42
Eric Ball	1942-4
William Stewart	1944-7
Bernard Adams	1947-75
Ray Bowes	1975-90
Robert Redhead	1990-4
Stephen Cobb	1994-

**Editors-in-Chief of the International Music Editorial Department of the  
Salvation Army**

Frederick Fry	1881-3
Richard Slater	1883-1913
Arthur Goldsmith (with F. Hawkes)	1913-21
Frederick Hawkes	1913-36
Bramwell Coles	1936-52
Albert Jakeway	1952-8
Charles Skinner	1958-67
Ray Steadman-Allen	1967-80
Ray Bowes	1980-90
Robert Redhead	1990-2
Trevor Davis	1992-4
Richard Phillips	1994-