



photo from the cover of Emma Hanna's book: 'Sounds of War'

It was so lovely to see real people join us for our first talk of the new 2021-2022 programme, ***'Sounds of War: Music in the British Armed Forces During the Great War'*** by Emma Hanna. All agreed it was a resounding success.

Here are a few memorable pieces of information from this unusual aspect of WW1:

- The importance of rousing music for maintaining morale had long been recognised by the military. In WW1 military bands gave a tremendous uplift to their colleagues at home and abroad, and also to the public, with the Salvation Army prominent in giving their support.
- The power of music for propaganda became a vital part of the necessary recruitment rallies to greatly expand the armed forces.
- The Military School of Music was based at 'Kneller Hall' near Twickenham, where they oversaw the development of the military bands by promoting 'band leaders,' who then worked with the bands and troops. (Later 'Kneller Hall' gave its name to a Great Western Railway (GWR) steam locomotive.)
- During the early 20th century, the music industry involved a huge number of people – not just the bands & orchestras etc, but also in the supply chain of producing the instruments, as well as those organising, promoting & staging performances and gramophone recordings.
- Many musicians travelled to the front to raise the morale of soldiers. The ability to uplift and cheer, and also calm and comfort proved to be therapeutic to those affected mentally and physically, both on the home front as well as soldiers at war.