

DCB Weekly

Issue 2

Saturday 28th March 2020



Welcome to the second edition of the DCB newsletter. Thank you for your comments on last week's newsletter, and for your interesting contributions this week. Keep your ideas coming so that we can keep the content varied and engaging. Remember to keep up the practise too!

Welcome from the Chair

Good Morning all, I hope you are all keeping safe and well and you all managed to play through last week's suggested bars in The Witcher!

I hope you are adjusting to a new way of life and finding things to do, or, doing things you have been wanting to but not had time for. Let us know how you are coping.

My week has been a very steep learning curve, grappling with virtual technology and I am also going to have to learn some dog grooming skills, so watch out for the before and after haircuts!

Stay safe and stay well.

Musical Director's update

Good morning,

How are you getting on with those diminished chords and whole tone scales? I hope that you have all had a good week and are keeping in good spirits. I have played my trumpet a little more this week and the lip is responding.....slowly!

A good thing to try during this unusual time in our lives is to choose a piece of music that you have always wanted to play. Just start really slowly playing a few phrases or even just bars. Then repeat, perhaps with a different articulation or a different dynamic. You can also try one bar then repeat and add an extra bar and keep doing that till you have a line or two of music learnt.

Try singing (out loud) the phrase or passage that you have played and be sure to sing in tune. This will free up your musicianship and allow you to concentrate wholly on the line of music and not any technical issues that your instrument can pass on to you.

If you do not have music at hand then play through DCB repertoire that we have covered this or last season.

Glyn's piece, BY GEORGE! that I mentioned would be good as nearly everyone has the melody somewhere.

Keep playing and listening to music.

Top tip from Michelle

Michelle McCabe has shared a breathing/scale warm up that is great for improving breath control for flute players but may well be usefully adapted to all the wind players. The aim is to practice the scale like a musical phrase, in one breath, and gradually increase the length of the breath.

Choose a scale that you can play well (you will have many to choose from I am sure), one octave or two - your choice.

Set your metronome to a speed that you can manage to play your scale easily in ONE breath, 2 notes per beat to keep a sense of flow.

Play your scale legato and aim to keep the sound even over the entire scale.

Change the metronome to a slower setting and repeat the scale in one breath.

Slow the metronome again and repeat.

Keep slowing the metronome until you reach your limit....if you are an Oboist you can probably keep slowing the metronome forever but you may want to stop and play some actual tunes.

As your scale gets slower, keep listening to the sound, think about your posture - are your shoulders relaxed and rib cage open and off your lungs? What about your head position? Is your breathing deep and relaxed before each scale? Control the breath through to the end of the phrase, don't allow the final notes to have a poorer tone quality.

Vary the scale with different dynamics or start on a different note of the scale each time, but keeping the 'phrase' the same length of 1 or 2 octaves. Choose these variations before you start each 'phrase', don't let the breath choose for you.

Then, enjoy the rest of your practise.



Baxter on the March

Some musical entertainment from Colin, who says:

'After our last big trip to Schladming a few years ago, I put together a short march containing excerpts from many of the pieces that we played there. It's called 'Souvenir of Schladming' or 'Baxter on the March'. It's not been a repertoire piece but I've put together a computer sound simulation of the piece. It may amuse and interest members who were on that trip.'

If you'd like to have a listen, Colin's piece is saved on the DCB website:

<https://dunbartonshireconcertband.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Baxter-on-the-March.mp3>

March 100 Club

Cameron asked a family member to draw this month's 100 Club token, and the winner is ...

#45 - Michael Kennedy

Congratulations Michael!

Meet the band

Did you know that when **John** is not busy practising the bassoon, he's a minister? John has been doing some vlogging that may be of interest to some of you. Below is the link to John's church YouTube page and his first vlog.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxIXilZyzJXEn2ARwFFIOdw/>

The other video on the YouTube page, *CMAC Project Video*, is very similar to DCB's plans for Kessington Hall, so may be worth a watch!

Meet **Ruth's** current co-worker, Baldrick the goldfish! He'll be 10 in October so a way to go to beat Ruth's longest living goldfish who got to the grand old age of 23!



Musical (and more) links

If you're missing visits to live classical music concerts, there are various resources available online. Why not have a look at the links that Ruth has provided below?

Berlin Philharmonic

<https://www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/home>

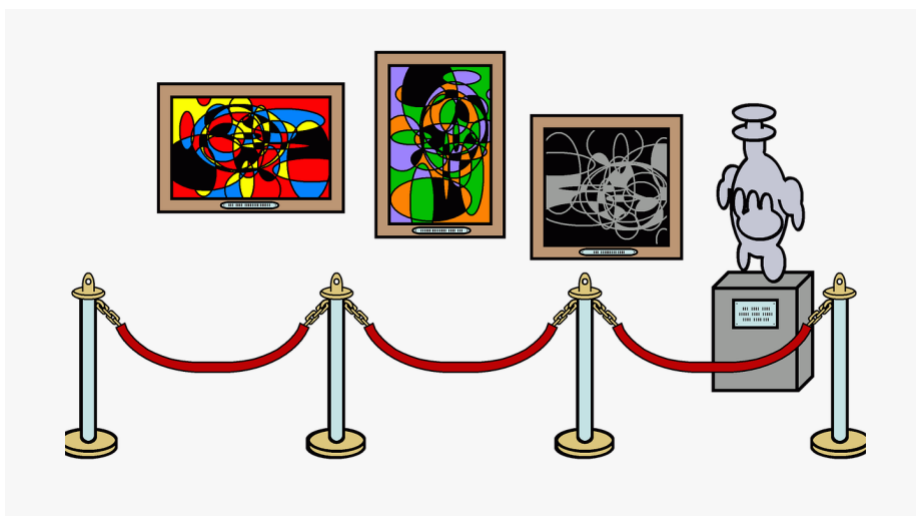
Voucher code for free access (redeem by 31st March) can be found in the link above.

London Symphony Orchestra

https://lso.co.uk/whats-on/2019-20-season/alwaysplaying.html?fbclid=IwAR1X_KdaZr2JheWNBVy3yLJ4o7T4UN6EwUZ301B7bCUI5KXmbexsx58JAw4

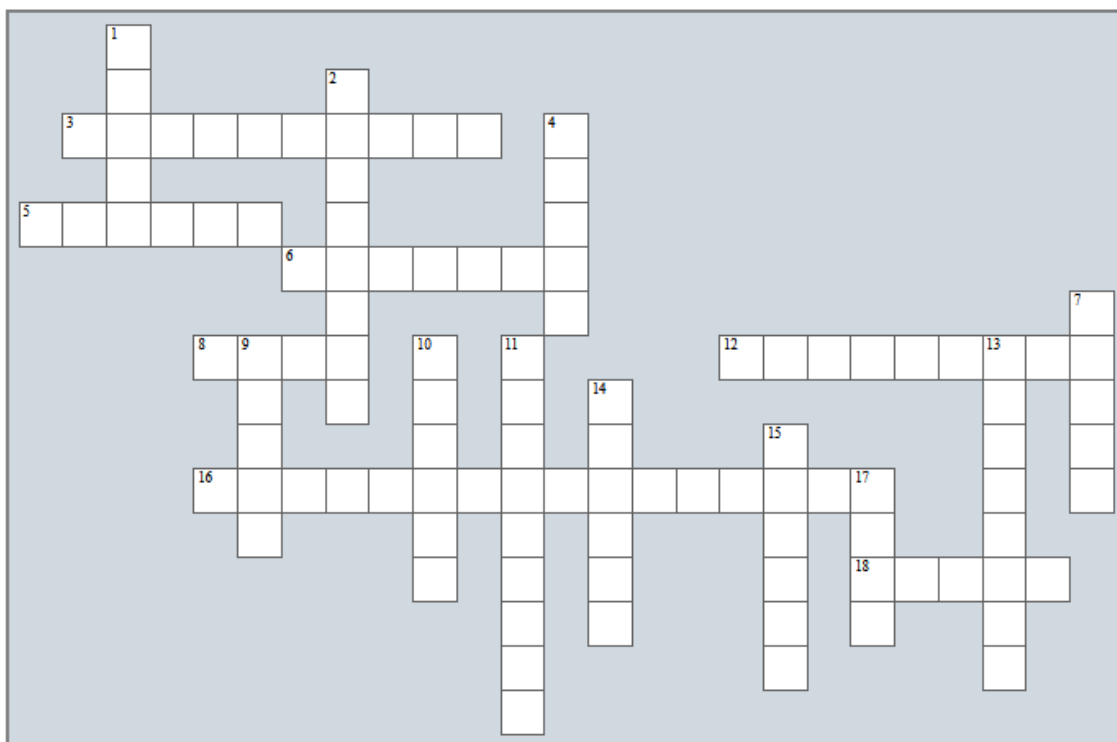
Concerts from the archives, interviews, recommendations and more.

And if that's a bit of a musical overload, why not go on a virtual tour of some museums? Google's [Arts & Culture platform](#) has exhibits and virtual tours of 1200 leading museums. Other museums have their own virtual tours - the [Louvre](#), [Uffizi Gallery](#), [Vatican Museum](#) and [Smithsonian](#) in Washington.



Saturday quiz

Not a quiz this week, but a cryptic crossword, courtesy of Alan Cooper. If you'd like to take part, send your answers to the DCB email address by 5pm today. There's an Excel sheet attached to the newsletter email where you can type your answers.



Across

3. Not English, and not a horn (3,7)
5. Wind group with polish
6. Small, but mighty high
8. Ill wind that nobody blows good
12. Ensemble for carthorse arrangement
16. What a trumpeter with wonky equipment may need from a heart surgeon (5,11)
18. Father & Son Nobel Prize winners have this name in common with our local hero

Down

1. Delicate flower, but not for DCB
2. Licorice stick?
4. Criminal bassoon part
7. Slow, sleepy seaside town with end replaced by nothing
9. Singers are this, but change "v" to "b" and you get what American bassoonists blow through
10. Often found on hilltops where we play
11. Head banger?
13. Geometrical figure of percussion
14. Really slow computer lady attached to our George
15. Mr. Baxter's trade name
17. Tubby?



Looking after your physical and mental health

As we all know, it's important to look after both our physical and mental health, especially at the moment when we're not able to take part in all of our usual activities. The charity Mind has published some useful hints and tips in the link below, which some of you may find useful.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

Good to see that playing a musical instrument is on the list of suggestions for how to relax and be creative!

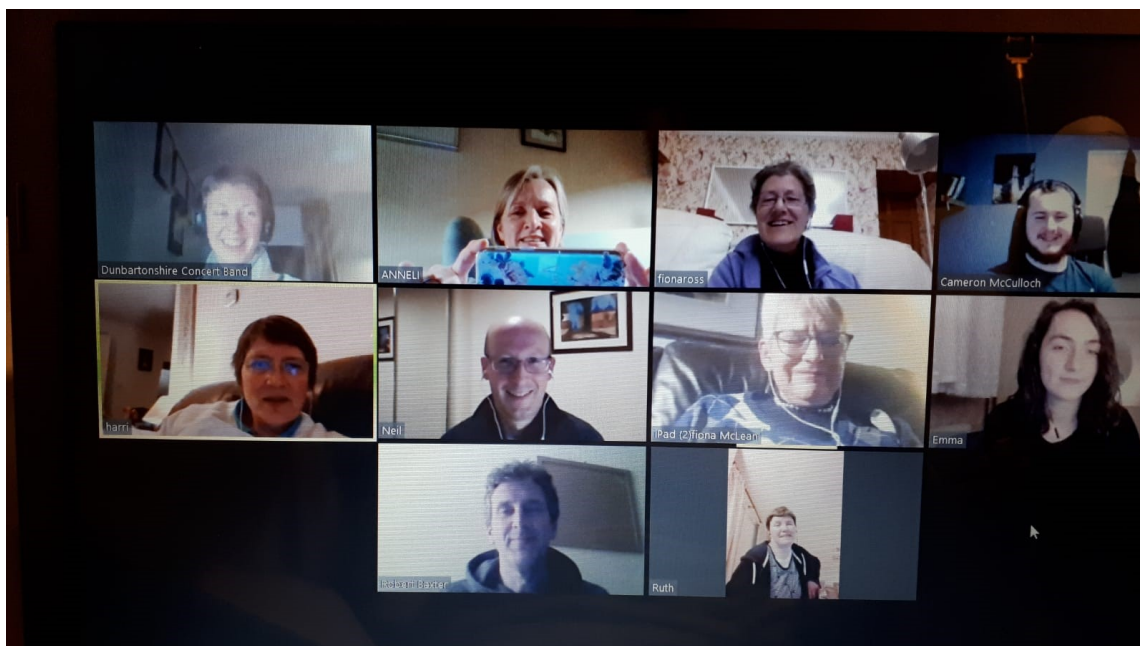
Keeping in touch

Just a reminder that if you'd like to contact another band member but don't have their phone number or email address, let us know and we can check if they are happy for us to give it to you.

Don't forget to post some comments in our online message board - link below:

<https://xoyondo.com/mb/6myg33qLg1QpWlb>

The committee had a very successful virtual meeting last night using Zoom. Zoom allows video conferencing for up to 100 people, and is free for meetings of up to 40 minutes. It's easy to register and simple to use. Why not try it out by setting up a meeting with some members of your section?



And finally...

Please feel free to contact us via the usual email address at any time:

dunbartonshireconcertband@gmail.com

Keep practising!

