

DCB Weekly

Issue 6

Saturday 25th April 2020



Welcome to the sixth edition of the DCB newsletter. We would really love you to join in, have a go at the quiz, send in a recipe or something for our 'meet the band section'. You could also let us know what you think of the newsletter, or share any links you may have. Give it a go and get in touch!



Welcome from the Chair

Good morning. I hope you have all had a good week and you are managing to keep busy!

I have had a very busy week, taking advantage of the good weather I have been painting my garden fence - a much needed and long-awaited job.

My Mum also celebrated her 94th Birthday in lockdown two days after the Queen!

Having just got to grips with lessons via Zoom, sitting practising the other evening, (yes, you read that correctly), a couple of major pads fell off just to add to some existing problems so it will shortly be on its way to Wales to be fixed. So, for the time being, lessons will now be theory based, help!

Let us know what you have been doing to keep busy. Stay safe, stay well.

Musical Director's update

Good morning everyone and I hope that you have all had a good week.

Can I say a huge thank you to everyone who played on the virtual recording of 500 Miles last week, it was terrific and it really lifted my spirits seeing you all playing again. Thank you!

Over the past weeks we have covered some double-tonguing exercises and mixed intervals and I hope that if you have had a chance to try these that you have found them interesting and challenging.

Here is a challenge for this week. Long Note Recording..... this will start to introduce personal recordings that you make which is probably a good idea as it will encourage us to share sound with each other in the future (you don't need to send these in this week though). Try playing a note for one long breath paying attention to maintaining the pitch, controlling the dynamic and listening to your tone. Try varied dynamics and see how your breath lasts on louder and quieter notes. Perhaps cresc and dim would be good. You can rest after a few notes and listen back to see how you feel about the sound.

Aim for a really beautiful articulation at the start that reflects the tone you make after. If you just need to play and make more 'noise' then play along with a DCB recording!

Have fun and do let me know if any of the technical tips have been of use.

Meet the band

This week, we hear from euphonium and trombone maestro **David Welsh**, who tells us how he's been keeping busy (very busy!) during lockdown.

Please note that David's contribution was written and submitted before the First Minister's statement on Thursday morning.



Lost in Lockdown

When Susan first asked me to contribute something for the newsletter I fairly quickly thought up two possible themes – ‘My Life in Lockdown’ or ‘Music and Me’. And then when I thought a bit more I realised that these were perhaps a bit grandiose so into the dustbin they went. Instead I'm going to offer a few random thoughts. Hope you enjoy the effort.

Firstly my daily routine involves leg-strengthening and balance exercises, practise, gardening and a daily walk, probably not much different from a lot of you folks. This routine involves a lot of exercise and movement and by sometime next week I calculate that I will have completed half a million steps since our lockdown started.

As far as practise is concerned I do roughly the same every day, four days on the euphonium and two on trombone. I start with a slow warm-up (I have found that I require a longer period to warm up as I get older, anybody else have the same problem?) Then comes the technique section – scales and arpeggios, lip slurs and all the other stuff. A regular exercise I enjoy is the one recommended by Michelle playing a scale slowly in one breath. I finish up with a period of personal choice, something that I really enjoy. For example on trombone I play through all some of the old solos I played in various bands - ‘Here comes that Rainy Day’, ‘I loves you, Porgy’, ‘My Love is like a Red, Red Rose’ or ‘As Time Goes By’. I remember playing that one at a concert in Barlinnie with the YMCA Wind Orchestra. That was the night we played ‘The Great Escape’ as an encore! When these and other difficult pieces came up with a band I used to take away the score, copy it and practise it at home, a tip I picked up while playing with Glasgow Schools’ Orchestra in 1957.

For the euphonium I might try some of these but my favourite is a selection of Bach's Cello Suites arranged for trombone by André Lafosse. I didn't quite master these on trombone and certainly find them all but impossible on euphonium. My ultimate aim is to get through one movement from a chosen suite with some semblance of accuracy. These would be a piece of cake someone like young Sam (he's going to be a great player – make sure you look after him, DCB!) but for me they are just some good fun.

Of course the real and most enjoyable part of music is playing together in a group and it is a great pity that we are unable to get together to play on a Saturday morning. And it looks as if it will be well into the autumn, if then, when we will be all back together. But the general picture is very bleak and the country is facing an uncertain future. The regrettable fact that we, the DCB, are unable to rehearse together pales into insignificance when we consider the anguish and suffering many of our fellow citizens are experiencing.

As far as other parts of my daily routine are concerned I spend quite a lot of time keeping in contact with members of the family by various social media platforms. My two sons live in Newlands and Helensburgh with their families and we normally communicate by regular group chats. My daughter has been staying with us for some time now but also joins in these sessions. Incidentally I have to be careful when I want to practise as she carries on her sessions as a Weight Watchers Coach by Zoom at the moment and the metaphorical 'red light' is on when she is 'on air'. Other members of the family are all over the world so Facetime or Messenger Video sessions are in order. I also make a habit of keeping in contact with my friends and musical colleagues, especially but not exclusively if they fit into the 'oldies' grouping.

I do hope we manage to meet up again in the not too distant future. In the meantime continue to enjoy your music and remember to stay safe!



Thank you David for taking the time to write such an interesting piece. Great to hear that you've been keeping very busy over the past few weeks.

If anyone would like to contribute something for a future newsletter, get in touch via the usual email address - dunbartonshireconcertband@gmail.com. We would be delighted to hear from you!

Saturday quiz

This week's cryptic quiz questions are courtesy of Glyn. If you'd like to take part, submit your answers by 5pm today using the form attached to the newsletter email.

All of the answers are some form of **living creature**

1. Resident of Kirkcudbright
2. Very short flight by Rimsky-Korsakov (in the key of A minor, not B minor)
3. Song by Mussorgsky
4. Incidental music by Vaughan Williams
5. Scottish rock/pop star
6. ... me to the moon (or Dunoon)
7. Song by Schubert
8. Quintet by Schubert
9. Did it really sing in Berkeley Square?
10. Song of the above by Stravinsky
11. Did they really fly over the white cliffs of Dover?
12. Edith Piaf
13. Ugly thing according to Danny Kaye
14. Neapolitan son and favourite of Luciano
15. Mother..... by Ravel
16. Short-lived insects by Schumann
17. Under the Double, German march
18. Symphony by Haydn
19. Rossini's thievish black and white bird (from Newcastle United?)
20. Golden....., opera by Rimsky-Korsakov
21. Delius first heard it in spring
22. Horn, clarinet or hound
23. They may safely graze according to Bach and Walton
24. Piece by Strauss (Richard) for cello with important part for viola
25. Cunning Lille, opera by Janacek

Virtual DCB

This week we feature a quartet from the horn section of the band. Colin says

“It’s a typical German children’s folk song ‘Es klappert die Muehle am rauschenden Bach’, which Monika might recognise from her childhood. Apparently (Wikipedia.de) it was listed for elementary primary school music classes in Prussia! We’ve recorded two verses. It is possible for all the band to sing along; here’s a translation of the words:

The water mill rattles beside the fast stream, click clack.

The miller’s awake day and night and can’t dream, click clack.

He grinds us our corn to make nourishing bread

So we have our food and we won’t just drop dead,

Click clack, click clackety clack. Click clack, click clackety clack.

The wheels they whir nimbly and turn the great stone, click clack.

They grind up the ears into flour to take home, click clack.

The baker then makes little biscuits and cakes

Which taste good to children whatever he bakes

Click clack etc.

We’re planning further contributions to the ‘Ghost horn quartet’ album in due course.”

If you’d like to have a listen, head over to the [audio track](#) on the DCB website.



(Thanks to **Steven** who provided the fun cartoon above, which he’s called ‘Corona lockdown activity - horn section style’).

Continuing on the virtual theme, **Mike** has sent a link to a virtual performance of Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 (Resurrection), featuring 79 musicians! Have a listen [here](#).



Don't forget that **John** now has his own YouTube channel where you can find his vlogs.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu3UrY4nWf_7Z00c_6lIEjw?view

Have you heard of **Easyfundraising**? It's a way to raise funds for the band. There are no catches, and if everyone were to use it when buying things online, the funds would gradually build. All you need to do is register and set DCB as your chosen cause. Then remember to use it when you buy online from one of the retailers listed.

Sign up using the link below:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

Harriet has shared some useful online links to help us pass the time during lockdown.

[What's on Stage](#) provides information on free of charge musicals and plays being shown online.

You can find plenty of animal webcams on the [Scottish Wildlife Trust](#) website.

And if you fancy even more animal antics, why not take a look at a [live gorilla webcam](#)?



Recipe corner

Neil's rock buns are always a hit when it's the horns on tea duty. Neil has kindly shared the recipe so that you can try them for yourself. Why not give them a go and send us a picture of the results?

Rock buns

Ingredients (makes 10 - 12 buns)

175 g / 6 oz / 1½ cups self-raising flour

½ tsp mixed spice

½ tsp ground cinnamon

90 g / 3 oz / 1 ½ tbsp butter (*you can use 'Stork' or equivalent*)

Grated rind of 1 orange or lemon

90 g / 3 oz / ½ cup of raisins

45 g sugar

1 egg, beaten

About 1 tbsp milk

Method

Grease one large or two smaller baking sheets.

Sift the flour and spices into a bowl, add the butter (or margarine) and rub in until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

Add the fruit rind, raisins and sugar and mix well.

Add the egg and enough milk to mix to a stiff consistency. Put the mixture in 10 to 12 heaps on the baking sheet. Do not smooth the mixture.

Bake in a preheated oven at 200 °C / 400F / gas mark 6 for about 20 minutes or until lightly browned and firm. Cool on a wire rack.



Keeping in touch

Don't forget that we've set up an online message board where you can post comments. Why not have a look and post a message for your fellow band members? Just click the link below.

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

And finally...

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

dunbartonshireconcertband@gmail.com

Keep practising!

Emergency Zoom Repair

