

DCB Weekly

Issue 8

Saturday 9th May 2020



Welcome to the eighth edition of the DCB newsletter. Thank you for your contributions this week. We'd be delighted to receive some more contributions for our 'meet the band' feature. Why not get together with some of your section and send us a 'meet the section' feature?

Welcome from the Chair

Good morning everyone. Firstly, I just have to say a huge thank you to everyone who joined our first DCB Chat via Zoom last week. It was great to see so many faces and to hear how you have been keeping busy and what you have been playing over the last few weeks.

We would love you to join us for our next Zoom Chat on Saturday 16th May and will send out the link for this nearer the time.

This bank holiday weekend we remember the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and all those who lost their lives in order to give us the freedoms that we have today. Thankfully, many people have managed to find ways to celebrate despite the lockdown and we will remember them.

Have a lovely weekend.

Stay safe, stay well.



Robert's section follows overleaf...

Musical Director's update

Good morning everyone and I hope that you have all had a good week and have been able to enjoy some music....in whatever form that takes.

Monika, thank you for your lovely and lively recording last Saturday, it was most enjoyable.

I hope that you might have found the upper register developer helpful. To follow on from that a little, here is one that might challenge us all and help in securing the upper range too.

1. Try playing a scale but start on the top note and descend.
2. Even if the first note is not perfect try to make the second or third better.
3. In time aim to achieve a good tone and good response from the first note.
4. If it's too easy then play a higher scale (minor and major) or Dom 7ths! All descending!!

You can try different articulations on that first note with the tongue, higher or lower and discover what difference it makes for your consistency in finding that first high note of a phrase. ie. Daw, Doo, Dee or Taw, Too, Tee.

Let me know if I can help with anything with your playing.....happy to answer questions for those who want.

Have a great week and take care.

Robert



Meet the band

This week, we hear from **Fiona McLean**, who tells us a fascinating story about her great uncle.

My great Uncle George Forrest (1873 - 1932) was one of the Plant Hunters who brought many of the present garden plants to this country.

He was working in the Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh and at the age of 30 he was offered a sponsorship to join an expedition to Southwest China to study the exotic plants particularly rhododendrons in the Yunnan.

He spent the rest of his life dedicated to bringing back many specimens of plants herbs and seeds and in all made seven trips. He managed to escape dangerous situations as foreigners were being killed by the Tibetan lamas following the Tibetan Rebellion.

You will recognise some of the plants as they contain his name e.g. *Pieris Forrestii*

My three sisters and I have the letters he sent back during his years away. It can't have been easy for his wife being abandoned for years at a time.

I am the least knowledgeable of the four sisters but do enjoy lots of time in my garden.

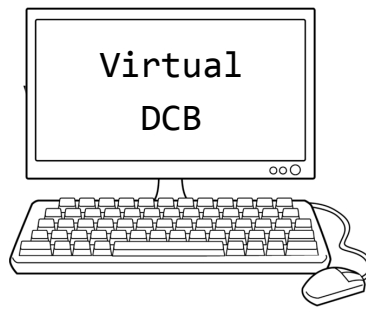
Below is a link to more info:

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Forrest_\(botanist\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Forrest_(botanist))



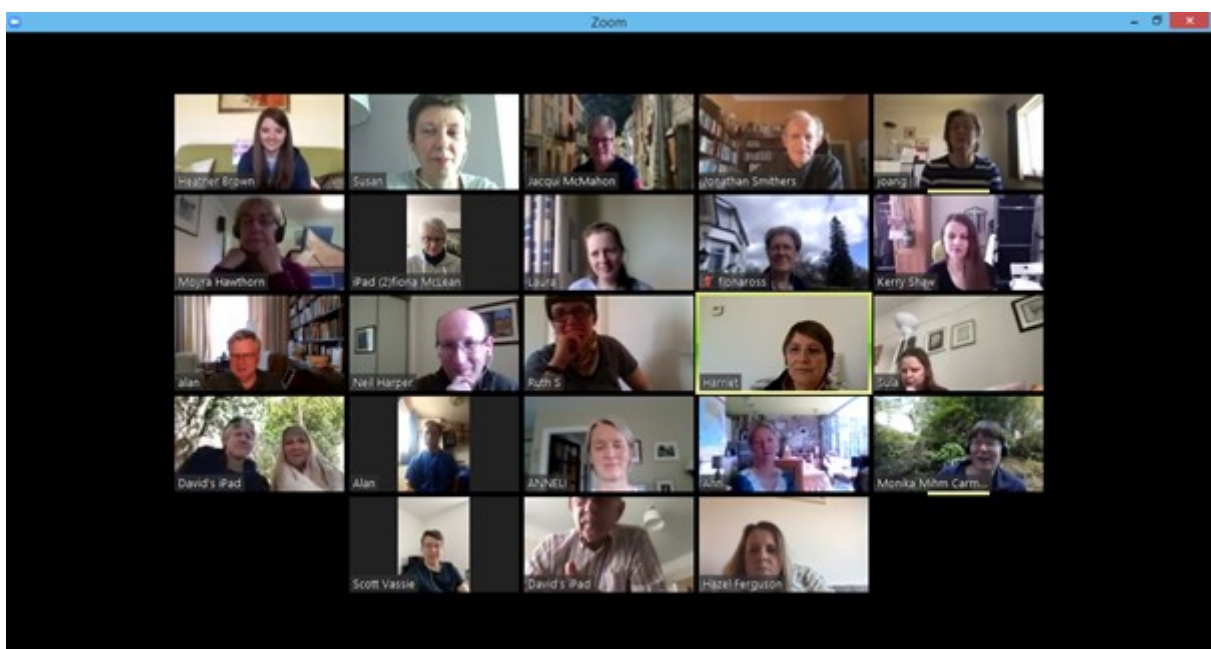
Thanks Fiona for sharing such an interesting story.

If anyone would like to contribute something for a future newsletter, either on your own or with members of your section, please get in touch via the usual email address - dunbartonshireconcertband@gmail.com. We would be delighted to hear from you!



Last Saturday morning, some of the band got together for a video chat using Zoom. It was lovely to have a chance to catch up and hear how everyone has been keeping busy.

Here's an image from the meeting:



We're planning to hold the Zoom meetings every fortnight, with the next meeting on **Saturday 16th May** at 10am. If you weren't able to join us last week, why not join in next week for a chat? An email with a link to the meeting will be sent nearer the time.

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, bassoonist **John** is also a very talented flautist. Have a listen to his beautiful playing here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IO6BzhD3GI8>

Some of the band recorded individual parts for Over the Rainbow, which were then put together to create a final audio recording. You can have a listen [here](#). Thanks to Alan Cooper, Alison McCree, Anne, Anneli, Colin, Harriet, Jan, Karen, Ruth and Susan for taking part. If you listen carefully, you should also hear Alison's friend Anne Marie on viola!



Saturday quiz

We have not one but two quizmasters this week! Part two of **Glyn's Living Creatures** cryptic quiz, followed by some tricky multiple choice questions from **Mike**.

If you'd like to take part, submit your answers by 5pm today using the form attached to the newsletter email.

Part 1

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

1. Large animal represented by large instrument in Carnival by Saint-Saens, with the help of Berlioz
2. Slow animal from the same represented by very slow version of the can can
3. Bird represented by the cello from the same
4. Bird from Tuonela by Sibelius (featuring something neither English nor a horn)
5. Silver, madrigal by Orlando Gibbons
6. Found having a picnic in the woods (before lockdown?)
7. Goldilocks and the Three, Fantasy by Eric Coates
8. Piece with narrator by Prokofiev
9. Three instruments representing the title character
10. Instrument representing the cat from the above
11. Ditto the bird
12. Avian orchestral work by Respighi
13. Bird Variations by Kodaly
14. Batty operetta by Johann Strauss
15. Bye bye

Part 2

1. What is a tear-drop embouchure?
 - A a term in jazz for excess facial sweat
 - B the shape of the upper lip for some flute-players
 - C special lip settings for triple-tonguing
2. What was the name of George Gershwin's brother?
 - A Francis
 - B Ira
 - C Andrew
3. Who composed 'Sailing By'?
 - A Ronald Binge
 - B Albert Ketelbey
 - C Arthur Sullivan





Mike has shared a link to a fun virtual performance - how the musicians of the Orchestre de Paris get their exercise! Have a listen [here](#). Maybe a good way to warm up before you practise?!

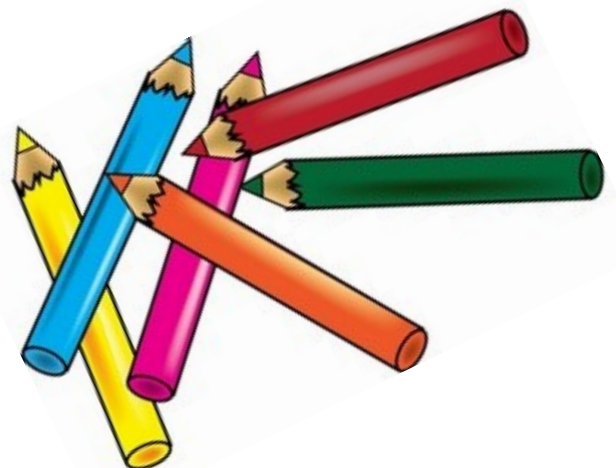
Don't forget that **John** now has his own YouTube channel where you can find his vlogs.

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

If you'd like to feel a sense of achievement during your daily exercise slot, why not try some **virtual walks** around world? Download an app to your phone and 'virtually' walk some famous routes around the world. Choose a walk and then, when you go for a walk locally, bank your steps towards your final goal. Only 2,299,172 steps later and you'll have walked the equivalent of Land's End to John o' Groats! There's more information on the [World Walking](#) website.

For fans of **Andrew Lloyd Webber** musicals, a full length performance of one of his musicals is released every Friday evening at 7pm, and is available for 48 hours. You can find more details [here](#), including clips from some of the musicals released over the last few weeks.

If you feel like something more creative, why not improve your **drawing skills**? There's lot of useful information [here](#), with links to various free drawing tutorials on YouTube to help you improve.



Recipe corner

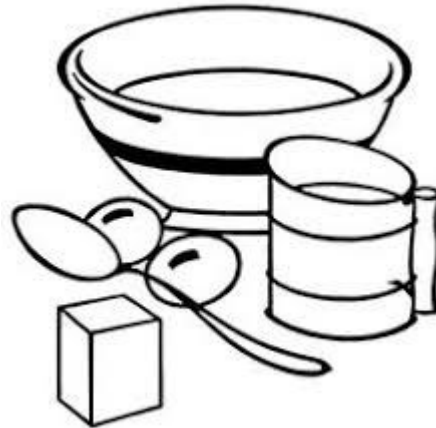
This week, **Bob** has shared his recipe for clootie dumpling, which always goes down well at band tea breaks. It's very simple to make as the cooking is done in the microwave, so why not give it a go?

Microwave clootie dumpling

Stage one

Ingredients

½ pint cold water
4 oz sugar
1 heaped tablespoon cinnamon
1 heaped tablespoon mixed spice
8 oz margarine
8 oz sultanas
8 oz raisins
1 tablespoon treacle (optional)



Method

Put all the above ingredients into a saucepan and bring to the boil. Simmer for five minutes.

Stage two

Ingredients

8 oz plain flour
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
2 beaten eggs

Method

Add the hot mixture to the flour and bicarbonate of soda. When well mixed add the two beaten eggs and mix well.

Pour the mixture into a cling film lined bowl and cook in the microwave for:

650 watt - 9 minutes

500 watt - 12 minutes

Leave in the bowl to cool and firm up then turn out onto a wire rack or plate.

Recipe provided to Bob by John Archibald.



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!

