

DCB Weekly

Issue 14

Saturday 20th June 2020



Welcome to the fourteenth edition of the DCB newsletter. Don't forget that it's quiz night tonight! Looking forward to seeing you on Zoom at 7pm if you can manage.

Welcome from the Chair

Good morning everyone. This week has seen some more relaxing of the lockdown, so we are at least moving in the right direction.

Well folks, this is our penultimate newsletter before we have our summer break, so if you have something you would like us to put in our last newsletter, please send it in by Friday of next week.

This week I had a very interesting Zoom meeting with Making Music speaking to a number of Scottish groups both local to us, and further away. It is very sobering to see how lockdown has affected all these groups and how much music, in its various formats, helps to keep communities together physically, mentally and socially, and how encouraging it is to hear that many are starting to look at creative ways in which we can start playing together again in person.

We mentioned in the Week 12 newsletter what the future might look like for DCB so we would really like to try recording a piece by our very own Colin Suckling. Read on to see how!

Look forward to seeing you at the quiz tonight, if you can make it!

Stay safe, stay well.



Musical Director's update

Good morning happy banders,

I hope that you are all doing well and have had a good week of activity, musical and other.

This week I am going to ask you to take part in a full band recording of Colin's work, Souvenir of Schladming that he wrote in 2015. We never quite managed a premiere of this work during a concert and so I thought we should do one now. Once you have sent in your recordings I shall mix them together and we will have our first ever virtual performance.....and a world premiere!

1. What we will send you: The part of music and a backing track to play along with!
2. What you need: A device to play the backing track (PC, Mac etc.), headphones to hear the backing track and a device to record yourself (iPhone is good).
3. Backing track will have bass, piano, and the tick tock of the click track all courtesy of Colin, I have put down the 3 trumpet parts already.
4. What will you hear? Start of the track will have 4 empty bars of 2/4 tempo then the march starts.
5. When you record please count loudly one, two during the SECOND bar of the 4-bar intro. This is simply to help me edit and line the tracks up when I receive them.
6. Suggestions: if you have not done this before:
 - a) Try listening at least twice to the backing track and follow your part through but without playing.
 - b) Test how far your iPhone needs to be away from you to achieve your best tone.
 - c) Try the start with your count in and hearing the click a few times.
 - d) Practise playing with the headphones on just one ear!
 - e) COUNT your bars rest carefully!!

Obviously, this will only work if we can cover a good mix of parts across the band. If any of you would like to record more than one part then please offer as this might cover some players who don't wish to take part. I do urge you to give it a go and don't worry about being heard on your own. Only I will hear you and I've heard you all many times before!

Good luck and enjoy and have fun!

Thanks to Colin for agreeing to a virtual world premiere.



Meet the band

This week, we hear from **Michèle Newall**, who tells us the interesting story of how she took up the oboe.

Thanks (I think?) to Harriet for asking me to say a wee bit about myself. I've had a think about this and, given that I don't consider many of you want to wade through my CV, here is a wee précis of what you might not know about me and my oboe.

I didn't actually choose to play the oboe (let's face it, who in their right mind would?!). It came about as a result of a conversation c1970 with my dad. (I should add dad was a principal teacher of music at this time).

Dad (re learning a second instrument; I kind of played piano): 'do you want to scrape or blow?'

Me: 'blaw'.

Dad: 'blaw what?'

Me: 'trombone'.

Mum (enter stage right): 'that's for boys'.

Me: 'Ok. Flute'.

Dad: 'No, everyone plays the flute.'

Me: 'Clarinet then.'

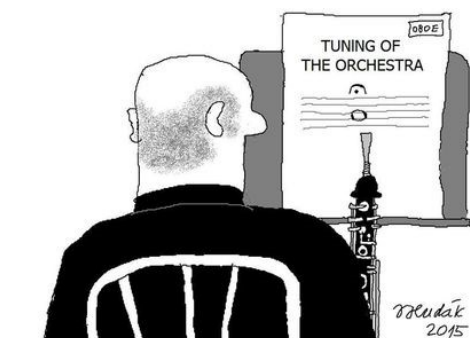
Dad: 'No, everyone plays the clarinet. You can play the oboe.'

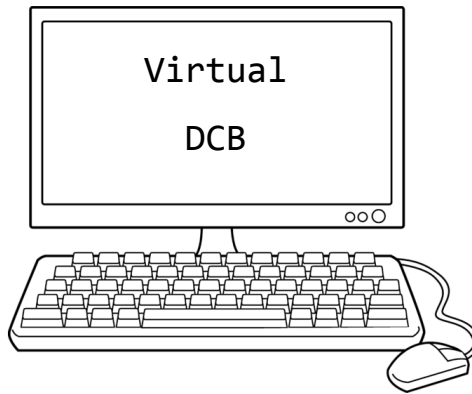
Fast forward to a couple of years later. My (still) friend from school who played first oboe in school, youth orchestra, wind band etc. took poorly the afternoon of a Lanarkshire Youth Orchestra concert. I'm afraid I didn't step up to the plate. My version of the oboe solo in Beethoven's Egmont Overture was memorable for all the wrong reasons. My lasting memory was of my father saying to me 'you chose a solo instrument. If you don't like it get yourself a violin and sit at the back desk of the seconds' excuse me..... apparently I chose the oboe?!?!?

Other things you may not know.....I've got a pilot's licence, a dog, an irrational fear of wasps, a hatred for Brussel sprouts and a tattoo.

Thank you Michèle for sharing your story. Glad you stuck with the oboe!

To see some of Michèle's photos from her lockdown in France, head to the DCB Members' Facebook page.





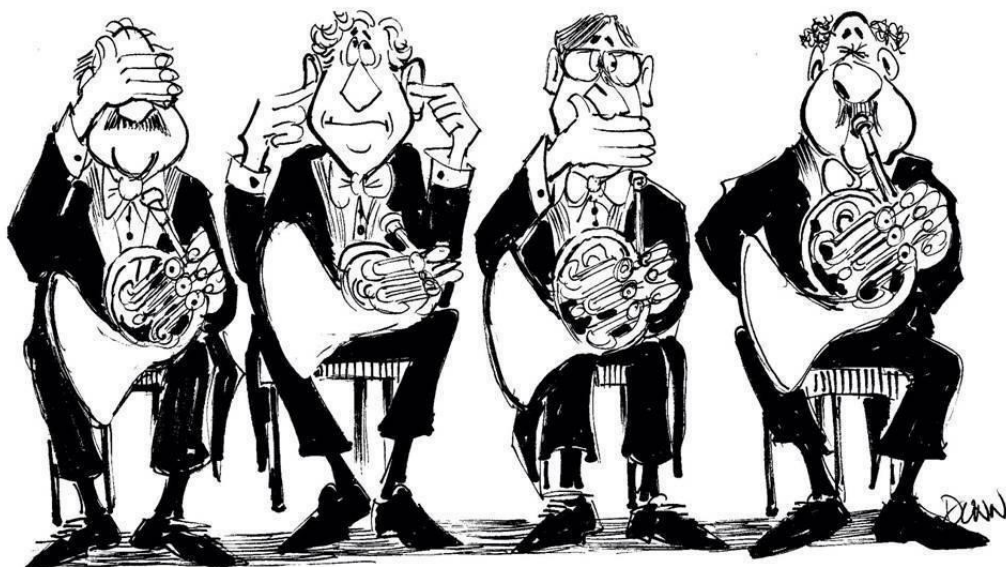
Don't forget that it's **quiz night** tonight! The quiz starts at 7pm on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join, even if you didn't respond to the quiz poll a few weeks ago. We'll split quiz participants into small teams using the breakout rooms facility in Zoom, so you'll be able to discuss your answers to each round of questions. Family members in the same household are also welcome to take part. Quiz questions will all be general knowledge and will be suitable for all ages, so no prior swotting required! Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.



A link to the quiz is below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85605356615?pwd=WnBMU3IxU0tLaHM0UkZ6STZFyndCdz09>

The horn section has been busy again, this time putting together a piece that, according to Colin, 'needs no introduction'. Head to the DCB website [here](#) and have a listen.





Make Music Day is the UK's largest single-day music event and the world's biggest celebration of music, taking place in 125 countries on **21st June** annually. Although we can't meet up as a band, we can still join in with the celebrations and feel part of a community of musicians by joining in with the digital version of Make Music Day UK.

A whole range of music will be streamed on the Make Music Day website between 10am and 10pm on 21st June. You can find out more about what's on offer by heading to the Make Music Day events website [here](#). There will also be a special [Scottish streaming](#) from 2.30 - 3.30pm, with performances from Glasgow musicians from 2.45pm as part of the UNESCO Musical Cities programme.

If you submitted a recording of *Bring Me Sunshine*, the final edited video will be broadcast on the [Make Music Day livestream](#) between 12.15pm and 1pm, so have a look and see if you can spot yourself or any other DCB folk!

On 21st June, we should have been playing at the Mugdock bandstand. Here are a few photos from previous Mugdock concerts. Wonder if we managed to avoid the rain?





Fiona McLean has shared a link to an entertaining rendition of *Mysteries of the Macabre*, performed by Barbara Hannigan and the London Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Simon Rattle. *Mysteries of the Macabre* is an aria from Hungarian composer Gyorgy Ligeti's opera, *Le Grand Macabre*. Have a listen [here](#) and enjoy!

Keen to have a nosy round Her Majesty's abode? Why not take a [virtual tour](#) of Buckingham Palace? You'll even have your own tour guide to show you round. To experience the tour in virtual reality or 360 degree format, view through the YouTube app on a smartphone.

Or for somewhere closer to home, head to Edinburgh and use your mouse to experience the wonderful views of the city during an [interactive flight](#) over the castle.



Just down the road from the castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse offers a [virtual tour](#) with highlights including The Great Staircase, the Morning Drawing Room and the King's Bedchamber.

Six degrees of separation

Here's an interesting challenge from **Alan Cooper**.

Six degrees of separation is the notion that all of us are just six, or fewer, social connections away from each other, even possibly from historical celebrities. So the challenge here is to see if you can establish a credible link to a notable musician or composer. Here's mine for starters...

Me  Mahler

My first grown-up job, in the early '70s, was in a protein crystallography group where I shared a lab with an old German research chemist, Dr. Rudolf Aschaffenburg – or “Schaffi” for short. Although I didn't know it at the time, as well as being great at growing crystals he had a fascinating musical background. He was born in 1902 in Mönchengladbach (Germany) to a relatively well-to-do Jewish family noted for their support of visiting musicians, hosting concerts and recitals in the family home. His mother studied piano with Clara Schumann, and his sister Katja [1] was an accomplished piano teacher and friend of Alfred Brendel [2]. They made a timely escape from Nazi Germany in the mid-1930s.

Schaffi was also a good pianist, but only much later did I learn that, in his youth, it was said that he had “turned pages for Richard Strauss”, presumably at one of the family recitals. Strauss was great friends with Gustav Mahler – hence my connection.

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katja_Andy

[2] <https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=axpACgAAQBAJ&pg=PT329&lpg=PT329&dq=alfred+brendel+aschaffenburg&source=bl&ots=dBXGf6vxaG&sig=ACfU3U0yt1fniYU56oUXitQDKxAPIChokQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewjXypTrxbDoAhUnREEAHZpzC-wQ6AEwCnoECAoQAQ#v=onepage&q=alfred%20brendel%20aschaffenburg&f=false>

Can anyone else come up with a link to a musician or composer? We'd love to hear from you if you can!



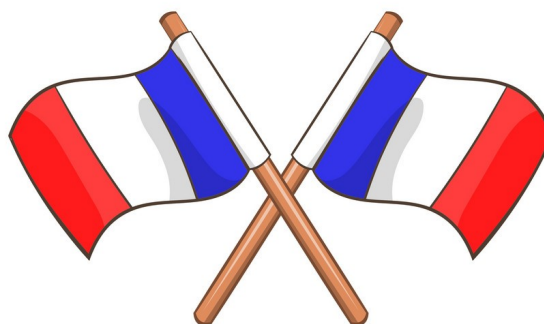
Recipe corner

Michele Newall has shared yet another delicious French recipe for us to try. This week, it's tartiflette, a dish from Savoy in the Alps, made with potatoes, Reblochon cheese and lardons. The name tartiflette is thought to derive from the Arpitan word for potato, *tartiflâ*.

Tartiflette

Ingredients

- 1kg potatoes peeled
- 250g bacon/lardons
- 2 shallots
- 1 garlic clove
- 100ml white wine
- 200ml double cream
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 whole Reblochon cheese (about 450g), sliced



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 7.
2. Cook the potatoes in a saucepan of salted boiling water for 5-10 minutes, or until tender.
3. Drain and set aside to cool slightly.
4. Meanwhile, heat a frying pan until hot and fry the bacon, shallots and garlic for 4-5 minutes, or until golden-brown. Deglaze the pan with the white wine and continue to cook until most of the liquid has evaporated.
5. Slice the potatoes thinly and layer into an ovenproof gratin dish with the bacon mixture. Pour over the double cream. Season with salt and lots of freshly ground black pepper. Layer the Reblochon slices on top.
6. Bake in the oven for 10-15 minutes or until the cheese is golden-brown and bubbling.



Keeping in touch

As well as our online message board, remember that we now have a Facebook page for band members as another way of keeping in touch. This is separate from the existing public page for the band, and is a private page for current members only. The aim is to use it to post videos or audio of any music you've been recording with any groups (or solo), photos old and new, links to articles you'd like to share, details of other concerts you're playing in (when we get back to playing in concerts!) etc.

If you're already on Facebook and a friend of one of the admins, you should have received a request to join the page. Someone who is already a member of the page can invite other band members to join. These requests will be approved by the admins. If you don't have a Facebook account, you'll need to set one up if you'd like to access the page.

If you already have a Facebook account and haven't received a request to join the page, please let us know by emailing dunbartonshireconcertband@gmail.com

And if you're not keen on Facebook, we still have our 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!

