

DCB Weekly

Issue 15

Saturday 27th June 2020



Welcome to the fifteenth edition of the DCB newsletter. The newsletter will be taking a break over the summer. Thank you to everyone who has provided such fantastic content. Hard to believe it's been 15 weeks!

Don't forget that we have our Zoom chat this morning at 10am. Looking forward to seeing you there if you can manage. The link to the meeting is below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84747824165?pwd=Uk1lYkt2elpucTVQY1NicHhXYWI5Zz09>

Welcome from the Chair

Good morning all. Well, this is our last newsletter of the session and I hope you have all enjoyed receiving it and that there has been a little something in it for you all.

I would like to thank Susan for all her work putting things together and keeping me right with the technical side of things. It is an enormous amount of work to produce this every week and to keep it going for 15 weeks. Thank you.

Thank you to all of you who contributed to 'Meet the Band' section, some really interesting pieces and it has been lovely to get to know people a bit more. Thank you, also, to all those who have put quizzes together, sent in recipes, and a variety of articles and links for us to include.

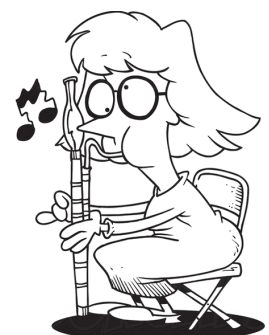
We have also had two great Zoom quizzes hosted by Susan and Ruth along with our most recent guest host, Alison McCree. These things do not happen by themselves and I know that a lot of work has gone into producing the questions and hosting these, so thank you, I'm certainly looking forward to the next one!

Nobody yet knows how things will be by the end of August, but the hope is that we will be able to meet in small groups. Ongoing research continues to assess the impact of playing wind instruments and how we might go about starting up rehearsals again, and, at the same time, ensuring everyone is as safe as possible. Making Music is awaiting guidelines on some of these issues so I will be keeping up to date with them.

Well folks, that's all for now, I hope that you all have a great summer break, don't forget though to send in your recordings by next Saturday for our world premier of 'Souvenir of Schladming'.

Stay safe, Stay well

Harriet



Musical Director's update

Good morning to all at DCB,

I never expected to still be writing for the newsletter after all these weeks but I must admit that it has helped maintain a routine based round my Saturday mornings for the past 20 years.

We have another week left before the deadline for the recordings to be sent in so please do have a think about taking part if you can. Don't worry if you do not play every note or even if you miss a few bars of notes; the idea is to have as many of the band members playing together for the first time since March and to have the first virtual world premiere for DCB.

As we reach this time of year you would normally have just played your main summer concert along with Mugdock performances and other outdoor venues. You would have been gearing up to the wonderful festival in Valencia for the tour and going to perform in the surrounding area of the city for yet another successful and enjoyable chapter in the history and life of the band. Although we have all missed these opportunities and activities of late, I do hope that the newsletters have at least bridged the gap a little and have helped to maintain the presence of the band while also providing communication and support to many members who are still shielding. This of course helps in leading the band to the next chapter, perhaps with small group online rehearsals and hopefully small group 'real' rehearsals at some point in the future.

David, Alan and I are in contact with each other regarding Kessington Town Hall and progress is positive in all areas; building, legal, lets and funding etc.

I would really like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Harriet and Susan for writing and piecing together the newsletters every week....a fantastic effort. A huge thank you to everyone who has provided stories, histories of themselves, recipes, quiz questions, recordings and a variety of other parts of the weekly production!

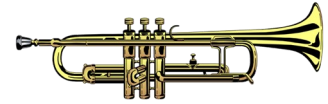
Have a great summer, keep playing and kind regards,

Robert



Meet the ~~band~~ section

A bumper edition this week, as we hear from the **trumpet section!**



Trumpet Twitter – introducing Team Trumpet

The DCB trumpet section are currently nine in number ranging in age from 13 to fifty-something, illustrating the DCB's ethos of being a truly community-led musical organisation.

To get to know some of the personalities in the trumpet section, we thought an insight could be gained by sharing their responses to some of the following questions.....

How long have you played with the DCB?

Emma: *Just a little over three years now.*

Nicola: *Since September 2016.*

Megan: *9 years.*

George: *Sixteen years of Saturday mornings! I need a hobby.*

Andrew: *Over 27 years (OMG! Some of our section were not even a twinkle in their parents' eyes when I joined!!).*

Best thing about playing trumpet?

Emma: *I really enjoy the versatility and different styles you can play.*

Nicola: *The camaraderie between trumpet players (and other brass players in general). I didn't take up trumpet until adulthood, but immediately felt like I'd "found my people".*

Megan: *Versatile instrument - can play many different genres. Also, it's shiny.*

George: *The challenge. Three valves limit trumpeters to eight possible positions to produce the thirty notes that make up 2½ octaves(ish).*

Andrew: *It's all about the tone, about the tone!*

And the most difficult?

Emma: *I struggle the most with double tonguing, no matter how hard I practice it never seems to improve much!*

Nicola: *Everything! It's such a difficult beast to tame. One day you can feel like you're making progress and the very next day you have lumpy air, terrible intonation and can't play any high notes. You never quite know what you're going to get!*

Megan: *Probably high notes - not my forte.*

Andrew: *Playing in tune, in time and to the correct dynamic – apart from that it is fairly straightforward?*

(continued overleaf)

If you didn't play trumpet what instrument would you like to play?

Emma: *Probably the French horn - I love the sound and great range – had to stay within the brass section of course!*

Nicola: *I get quite jealous of the trombone parts sometimes, but I also love the French horn.*

Megan: *maybe French horn - sounds really nice in film and orchestral music. But I already play trumpet, bagpipes and piano so maybe a fourth instrument would be taking it too far!*

George: *Trombone. I'd fit in cos I have no idea what I'm doing.*

Andrew: *Trombone – those guys always look as if they know what they are doing!*

Favourite musician?

Emma: *Tine Thing Helseth and Ole Edvard Antonsen – keeping it trumpet related!*

Nicola: *I love Ole Edvard Antonsen's tone. I could listen to his trumpet playing non-stop! I'm also a big fan of Phil Cobb. Emma and I took a trip to Birmingham to hear him perform a cornet concerto and he was just perfect!*

Megan: *Probably Tine Thing Helseth - I have seen her live and she was amazing. Also it's good to have a female trumpet player to look up to!*

George: *Chris Botti - with extra cheese.*

Andrew: *Wynton Marsalis – if I was reincarnated I would like to come back as a cool jazz musician like the Dudes in Lincoln Jazz Center.*

What piece of music are you practicing during lockdown?

Emma: *I've mostly been working on the Hindemith Trumpet Sonata but I've also spent a lot of time focusing on technical studies – something that usually gets neglected!*

Nicola: *What's this practice that you speak of? I currently feel it would be unfair to subject my neighbours to my trumpet playing when they are locked down and can't escape!*

Megan: *I have bought a Fleetwood Mac piano book so I have been working through that! Been mainly mucking about on trumpet playing old music I played in college....but for Robert's sake I will say I have been practicing scales....*

George: *Messed around with some minor scales the other day...how desperate is that?*

Andrew: *I downloaded some sheet music – Bridge over Troubled Waters, Georgia on my Mind. I also rediscovered a book of trumpet exercises by Max Schlossberg that Robert introduced me to over 15 years ago.*

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If you could choose who you would lock down with, who would it be?

Emma: *I'm happy being in lockdown with my parents and my brother, can't say they aren't getting bored of me yet though!*

Nicola: *The rest of DCB's Team Trumpet, of course!*

Megan: *[Editor's note: she is not saying!]*

George: *happily, my wife!*

Andrew: *I wouldn't mind trumpet virtuoso Tenge Helseth or Alison Balsom in the house to give me a few lessons. My wife might disapprove though?*

Favourite film and why?

Emma: *Avengers Endgame – I've watched and enjoyed the Marvel films for years and I loved this one so much I went to see it in the cinema twice!*

Nicola: *Probably A Beautiful Mind. Such a powerful story that really pulls on the heartstrings.*

Megan: *Pulp Fiction - good cast and I really like Quentin Tarantino.*

George: *Local Hero. Rom com where the guy loves the country and the gal then ends up with neither. Typically Scottish - glorious failure.*

Andrew: *Crocodile Dundee. I saw it in 1987 and it encouraged me to go to New York that year!*

Best Holiday?

Emma: *Brugge – can't beat Belgian chocolate!*

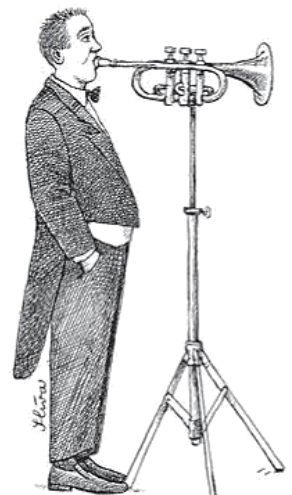
Nicola: *I am basically a child in an adult's body, so my favourite holiday was probably Disney World.*

Megan: *My best holiday was probably going to Alicante - it was a holiday/work trip. I worked in Intensive Care over there but had the opportunity to see the sights and enjoy the nice sunny weather on the beach after a shift!*

George: *Austria 2017. Snowboarding where James Bond Spectre filmed; a rave 2000 metres up; 3 countries in one afternoon; Swarovski world; a surreal encounter with DCB; cattle in the basement; and two marriage proposals.*

Andrew: *St Lucia 2017 when Jill and I got married on a beach.*

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What do you like to do when you are not playing?

Emma: *I study music in Edinburgh so spend most of my time playing or traveling and rarely have much time for anything else! In the free time I do get I enjoy reading and often take a book on the train to keep me company.*

Nicola: *I spend a lot of time throwing a ball in the park for my hyperactive Border Collie, Skye. When I finally get her to go home and sleep, I like to read and do a lot of crafty stuff. I used to enjoy doing martial arts, but I'm now too scared I get a tooth knocked out and would have to give up trumpet playing!*

Megan: *I like to run occasionally when I'm not lazy - which is rare. I go to yoga and spin classes at the gym, I like a good pint so a visit to the pub is a must and I like sleeping...especially after a run of 12 hour shifts!*

Andrew: *I am spending too much time caught up in managing an Architect's studio and designing buildings. When I have free time I love to get outdoors – walking, gardening, and canoeing. I do also like watching a good drama.*

Best kept secret in the DCB?

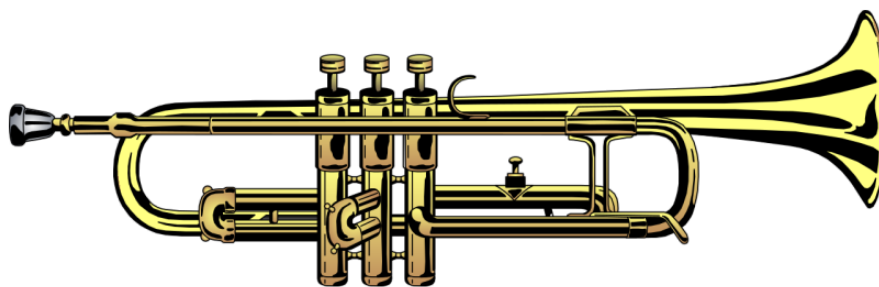
Emma: *I find it hard to believe that much remains a secret for long in DCB!*

Nicola: *Is obviously kept so well that I'm totally oblivious to it!*

Megan: *[Editor's note: she is keeping it secret]*

George: *DCB are sequential descending musical notes and will feature in a treasure hunting mystery novel Dan Brown may write. In the movie Tom Hanks comes to Cairns looking for clues but is thwarted by a tuning difficulty. Having recently come from France the Arundo Donax was still a bit continental and not particularly trim. This was only muddled more by the trumpet's alternative fingering... D=1 or $\frac{1}{2}$; C=0 or $\frac{2}{3}$; B=2 or $\frac{1}{3}$. Confused? See...it's a secret...or a mystery?*

Andrew: *Ah, not so much secrets but stories maybe worth sharing! Give me a call and I can enlighten you.*



(continued overleaf)

Most Memorable concert with DCB

Emma: Probably playing at Mugstock – it was great that everyone came together despite the weather and it was fun to see everyone up dancing and enjoy some of the festival afterwards.

Nicola: Probably playing in Landeck. I had only been playing trumpet for a year, had no idea what I was doing and found myself sitting on a stage in Austria beside Mark O’Keeffe (and, of course, Andrew and George)! Three years on and I still have no idea what I’m doing most of the time!

Megan: I will always remember the Christmas concerts at Kelvingrove - really good atmosphere and a big audience! Also, Christmas music!!!

George: Clic Sergeant Christmas concert 2004? My first gig with the band and first time playing in the Glasgow Concert Hall which was full. That was amazing. DCB accompanied the choir conducted by their MD. Later, on being asked by a choir member what I thought of their conductor I threw in a remark about his eccentric style to elicit the reply...“That’s my husband”. We’ve never been invited back. Sorry.

Andrew: Difficult one as I have played in so many - probably a late night concert we did in Malta in 2020. I remember the percussion section with “see you Jimmy” hats on dancing to “Burns on the March”.

What are you most looking forward to when lockdown lifts?

Emma: I’m looking forward to seeing my friends and family again and getting back to ensemble playing – particularly DCB of course!

Nicola: Getting cuddles off my nephew and niece. We’ve been Facetiming, but it isn’t quite the same.

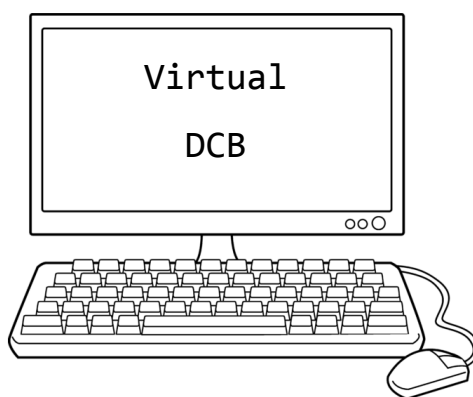
Megan: Looking forward to being able to take my mind off work by getting out of the house more, seeing family and friends and of course coming back to band.

George: I might celebrate with a night in.

Andrew: Getting into the countryside for a canoe trip.

Thank you Team Trumpet for allowing us to get to know you a little better!





Don't forget that we have our fortnightly **Zoom chat** this morning at 10am. If you haven't joined us before, why not come along and have a chat? We split into smaller groups of four or five so that we don't all talk over each other. We aim to finish around 11am, although you're free to leave at any time. Here's the link to the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84747824165?pwd=Uk1lYkt2elpucTVQY1NicHhXYWI5Zz09>

As Robert mentioned in last week's newsletter, he would like us all to submit an audio recording of Colin's piece, ***Souvenir of Schladming***. Parts, a backing track and an instructional video from Robert can be found on the DCB website [here](#). Recordings should be submitted to the DCB email address by **Saturday 4th July**. If you have any questions, please get in touch and we'll be more than happy to help.

Thank you to everyone who came along to our second **virtual quiz night** last Saturday. Congratulations to the winning team, Alans et al (**Alan Cooper, Alan Hunter, Fiona Ross and Neil**), who impressed us with their knowledge of a range of topics, including flags, famous sidekicks and DCB repertoire!

We hope to organise another quiz over the summer, so keep an eye out for details.

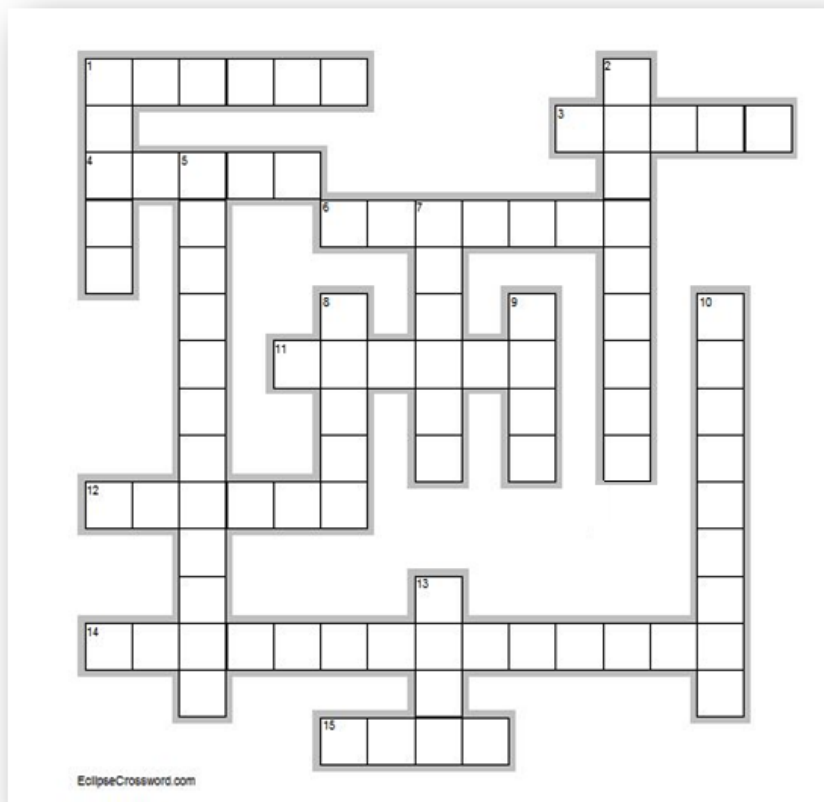


Alison McCree, Ruth and Susan, along with almost 200 other musicians and singers from across the UK, featured in a [virtual performance](#) of *Bring Me Sunshine*, which was premiered live on Make Music Day last Sunday. Definitely one to get the toes tapping!

Saturday quiz

Another cryptic crossword from Alan Cooper to round off the quiz section before the summer break. If you'd like to have a go, submit your solution by 5pm using the template attached to the newsletter email.

Composers & decomposers - conductors, superconductors, semiconductors



Across

1. Get a grip!
3. Ecstasy?
4. Rhymes with "tired and emotional"
6. Chemist composer
11. Our man up front
12. Phonic sounds like disorganised buyin'
14. Camel mice belch for a super semi-conductor (anag. 8,6)
15. Shhhh... 4'33"... Did someone rattle his?

Down

1. Gun holder without hesitation
2. The other DCB first (5,5)
5. Jazz suite composer
7. Shake, - , and roll
8. Initially, he's a young daft numpty
9. Near mix up
10. Where you might roast a root vegetable stuffed with 'h'
13. Sank the Titanic?



Saturday quiz part two - just for fun

As part of last Saturday's virtual quiz night, Alison McCree kindly put together some cryptic questions on current and past DCB repertoire. The questions are below if you'd like to have a go. No need to submit your responses - this one's just for fun. The answers will be issued later today.

Current Repertoire

1. Be bold and courageous.
2. Will ye go up the hill to gather herbs?
3. It's a game of strategy.
4. Non-UK national doing the daily chores.
5. Dance... but not on 11th Avenue.
6. The men became monks then there was a war then a party.

Back Catalogue

7. No time off for these 3 trumpeters.
8. A hundred thousand songs (literal translation).
9. This brisk walk is not for adults.
10. A celebration at the wrong time of year.
11. He wept and then there were no more mythical creatures.
12. The title is in our name.
13. Quite the opposite of the god of water.
14. Travelling to the king of the pride's home.
15. What DCB makes the best!
16. There are far too many slides in this piece!
17. There's no wonder why we enjoy this tribute to the big band leader.
18. Never one to make a big fuss...this piece has many tricky rhythms.
19. This piece is fantastic! Brilliant! Great!
20. It's the start of a new day.





Why not take a virtual visit to a Scottish castle? **Blair Castle** in Perthshire offers visitors the chance to take a virtual tour of the castle and its magnificent grounds. During the [interactive tour](#), learn about the castle's rich history, then fly across the grounds to discover the beautiful Hercules Garden and the ruins of St Bride's Kirk. You can also visit the roof of the castle to enjoy a 360 degree view of the grounds, an area which is closed to the public.

Or why not take a [virtual trip](#) to London's **Natural History Museum**? Google Arts & Culture gives you access to 300,000 specimens within the Museum's collections, along with 14 digital exhibitions, virtual tours and an interactive gigapixel photo (so enormous you can zoom in on the tiniest detail) of Hintze Hall's gilded canopy.

For something further field, head to the **Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History** in Washington DC and take a [self-guided, room-by-room tour](#) of select exhibits and areas within the museum. You can also access select collections and research areas at the museum's satellite support and research stations as well as past exhibits no longer on display.



For fan's of Dan Brown's bestselling novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, head to **Rosslyn Chapel** and admire the inside of the chapel during a [virtual wander](#).

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. If you get up to anything musical over the summer, why not share this with other band members via the Facebook page? Anyone who is a member of the page can post photos, videos, links, or anything else that you'd like to share.

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,
and have a good summer!*

