

Introduce yourself!

I'm Susan, and I can be found in the 3rd clarinet section. We're the ones who always ask the folk in front to move a little so that we can see the conductor! I'm also the secretary of the band, so have recently been sending lots of reminder emails about the arrangements for our online rehearsals, as well as learning all there is to know about Zoom.

How long have you been a member?

About three and a half years. I wished I'd joined earlier!

**Tell us a bit about yourself.**

I'm Glasgow born and bred. By day, I'm an Actuary and work for Scottish Widows. Pre-Covid, my commute was a 100-mile round trip by train to work every day in Edinburgh, however the spare bedroom has been my office for the past year. I'm not missing the 5.30am alarm clock but I do miss the interaction with my colleagues. Thank goodness for video calls! When I'm not working, I enjoy playing the clarinet (of course), walking, running, and swimming (really looking forward to the swimming pools opening). I also sing in a choir and I'm part of a handbell group, both now rehearsing online.

What other instruments do you play?

I have a piano but didn't start playing until my early 20s. I had lessons for quite a few years and reached grade 6, but I'm very out of practice now. It's something that I'd like to pick up again. I also have an alto saxophone that I used to play quite a bit when I was younger, just for fun. I think my neighbours may prefer the slightly quieter clarinet though.

Is there another instrument you would like to play?

I'd like to stick with the ones that I have and improve my playing.

What do you enjoy most about DCB?

I love the friendly nature of the band and the mixture of people. It's a very welcoming and inclusive band, and everyone is very encouraging.



Favourite concert venue – past, present..... or future?

Favourite past venue would probably be the Winter Gardens at the People's Palace, as that's where I played in my first DCB concert the day after joining. I've never had the chance to play in the Kelvingrove Art Galleries, so that's somewhere I'd love to play. Folk in the band say that it's a super venue, so I'd like the chance to experience that for myself.

Favourite DCB memory?

Our 2019 Christmas concert in Cairns Church was pretty memorable, as the church was packed and we weren't sure if everyone was going to get a seat. Playing in Cairns always has such a festive atmosphere at Christmas. My friend from my choir came to hear us for the first time and she really enjoyed it, which was lovely to hear.

Favourite piece we've played?

I always like pieces by Rossano Galante, so I'm very pleased that we now have another one of his pieces, Aurora Borealis, to add to our collection. I listened to a recording and loved it.

Any piece you'd like to play with the band in the future?

I enjoy playing all kinds of music. I think the variety of music that we play is another great aspect of DCB.

Any (family friendly!) DCB related story you'd like to share?

Can't think of anything interesting so won't answer this one!

**Have you done anything exciting during lockdowns (other than lots of music practice – obviously!!) – learned a new skill or decided to get back into an old hobby for example?**

I've learned quite a few tech-related things, like how to edit audio parts together into one recording, and how to edit videos for the DCB Christmas social!

Looking forward to getting back to rehearsals?

Definitely! Online rehearsals have been absolutely super, especially as it's given us the chance to hear other parts that we don't always hear during rehearsals. But nothing beats playing together in person and hearing the amazing sound that we make as a group. Fingers crossed that it won't be too long before we're back together.