

Introduce yourself!

My name is Neil, and I play the French horn.

How long have you been a member?

I've been a member of DCB since the autumn of 2004.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I grew up in Aberdeen where I studied at Uni and later ended up studying further at Strathclyde Uni and then working in Glasgow. I currently work for an Energy Consultancy in Edinburgh and in pre-Covid days was working a mix from home and in the office.

**What other instruments do you play?**

Just the horn currently (I need all the effort to keep going on one!). I also enjoy singing and am hoping one day to perform the St John Passion by Bob Chilcott, which we had to cancel last Easter.

Is there another instrument you would like to play?

When asked by my music teacher if I would like to get tuition to play an instrument I suggested the keyboard, but she presented me with a French horn and asked me to try it out! I am glad I stuck with it but maybe one day I'll try the keyboard again.

What do you enjoy most about DCB?

Playing a wide variety of styles of music with a friendly group of people. It is always very motivating and sometimes challenging.

**Favourite DCB memory?**

The trips to Austria (Schladming and Landeck) were a highlight. Also playing in front of enthusiastic audiences in our local community.

Favourite piece we've played?

It's hard to single out one, but I like Philip Sparke's pieces – 'To A New Dawn' comes to mind.

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

I can't think of a specific one at the moment.

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

Have memories of many different venues ranging from the Perth Concert Hall to one soggy summer afternoon in Fintry with the whole band playing under 3 gazebos joined end to end with rain gushing down the gaps! The Christmas concerts at Kelvingrove Museum were special and I do hope we can play there again.

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?

The DCB horns did some quartet recordings when we first went into lockdown last year. Listening to yourself playing is quite revealing! Also, lots of local walks, some cycling and wild fruit picking in the summer.

Looking forward to getting back to rehearsals?

Indeed – looking forward to playing in our new rehearsal venue soon!