

Introduce yourself!

Hi, I'm Harriet and play the bassoon. I'm also the Chair and took over the reins just prior to the pandemic and lockdown, so it has been something of a challenge!

How long have you been a member?

I learnt clarinet at school and had not played for a number of years until I had an opportunity to join the band in 1992. I played 3rd clarinet initially before switching to play bass clarinet and then decided it would be a 'good idea' to learn one of the most difficult of wind instruments, the bassoon. After finding a local bassoon teacher and in an effort to challenge myself I worked through all the practical grade exams, except grade 8, which I hope to take at some point in the future. I also had to take grade 5 theory as it was too long ago to find proof of a previous certificate! I was delighted last year when Robert asked if I would like to switch from the bass and play bassoon in the band.



Tell us a bit about yourself.

I am a qualified nurse and worked for 28 years in the NHS. I now work in Advocacy, supporting people under various pieces of legislation. I like my job but it has been extremely challenging over the last year working from home and trying to support clients over the phone or via other social media platforms. I am passionate about animals, have a dog, two cats and a tortoise and in another life would have followed my dream to be a vet! I had my own horse for many years and used to compete in dressage and cross country. I never quite got to grips with show jumping though! It was difficult to fit music in around owning a horse, they take up so much of your time (and money!). I had a bad riding accident followed by a period of ill health so had to give my horse up but I'm very lucky that music was my second hobby so I threw myself into that instead. I have also taken up sewing and love making presents for friends and family. It was a bit ropery to begin with but I think I'm slowly improving!

What other instruments do you play?

Bb clarinet and bass clarinet.

Is there another instrument you would like to play?

Oboe, although I love the bassoon and still have so much to learn, so the chances are fairly slim.



What do you enjoy most about DCB?

Making music with friends, learning new and challenging music and being able to play the bassoon in the band. I enjoy our concerts and going to different venues but still get very nervous. There is always a great atmosphere and a sense of achievement.

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

I think Kelvingrove has to come top of the list. A great venue to play in and an amazing atmosphere.

Favourite DCB memory?

Our first overseas tour to Malta and Gozo. I was persuaded to be the Treasurer for the tour, maths not being one of my strong subjects, it was quite a responsibility! You may have read in another member's 'favourite memory' that someone forgot the cheque book. It wasn't so much that I forgot it, I had switched bags at the last moment and didn't transfer the cheque book to the new bag. I realised as we were on the outward bound flight, so you can only imagine my panic at that point! If it hadn't been for one member returning home mid-tour for her daughter's graduation and some helpful friends back at home, I dread to think what would have happened. I've managed to keep it from the rest of the band (I think) right up until relatively recently and there are probably a few who still didn't know, until now!

Favourite piece we've played?

There are too many to mention, but I love musicals and the composer Rossano Galante, especially 'Journey to the Lion's Castle', 'Cry of the Last Unicorn' and 'Aurora Borealis' (still to be performed).



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

More music from Les Misérables, more Rossano Galante. All musicals!

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 been building on my minimal sewing skills and also continued weekly online bassoon lessons, playing some very challenging pieces and studies. I rescued a hedgehog from down a drain, providing it with full board and lodgings for a couple of nights and plenty of food whilst it recovered from its ordeal. Thankfully, it was not hurt, just exhausted and was released back to the garden.

Looking forward to getting back to rehearsals?

Can't wait! It will be so good to see everyone and just make live music again.