

Introduce yourself!

John Carswell, the American guy on bassoon.

How long have you been a member?

Started with the band in September '19.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

Six kids, two grandsons, married to Lisa 30 years. Church of Scotland minister. Have only recently started playing bassoon again after a 32 year hiatus. Also love cycling, road and mountain biking (and have the scars to prove it!).

**What other instruments do you play?**

I also play the flute (with Lanarkshire Cecilian Orchestra), the guitar (with church praise band), bass (as a former rock and roller) and recorder (which is really useful for getting hymn tunes when choosing the music for services each week.)

Is there another instrument you would like to play?

I'd really just like to play the ones I already play a bit better (jack of all trades, but master of none!). Though the piano would be wonderful to play.

What do you enjoy most about DCB?

The quality of the musicianship is outstanding. It's a real stretch on Saturday mornings, very inspiring. The friendships are coming along nicely and I miss everyone.

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

Only had a few concerts with DCB, but have to say I enjoyed the Queen Elizabeth Atrium the best. The reverb was simply amazing, like we were playing in a canyon.

**Favourite DCB memory?**

Hmm... I suppose the great surprise of turning up on that first day and realising I was one of *five* bassoon players. How did we become so fortunate?

Favourite piece we've played?

I'm terrible at remembering names of songs (can you hum it for me?). But the march we played the day we were the stand in band at the Conservatoire for the directors training day. As many times as we played it I still never got tired of it.

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

I mostly listen to pop music. Could we play some Katy Perry?



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

I still marvel at Andy who is still playing bassoon at 91 years of age. He can still play circles around me, lovely guy.

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 started learning biblical Hebrew through a virtual class at Glasgow University, amazing language. Also have learned a lot about filming, editing, multi-track music recording and posting videos of church online.

Looking forward to getting back to rehearsals?

Oh yes, I miss the time together and the music so much. I'm grateful for the Zoom rehearsals, but they really just create an ache in my heart for the real thing.