

Introduce yourself!

I'm Ruth and I can be found in the 2nd clarinet section – you know, the section pre-covid the 3rd clarinets would ask to move so they could see the conductor! I'm also the lovely person who keeps the DCB Facebook page active – and the architect of Meet the Band. Yes, blame me!!

How long have you been a member?

I think I joined in about 2009.

**Tell us a bit about yourself.**

I'm originally from Northern Ireland but I've lived and worked in Scotland for over 20 years – I work as a Commercial and Financial Analyst for a utility company. As well as DCB, I also play clarinet with Helensburgh Orchestral Society and (in normal times) love to go to classical music concerts, the ballet, musicals and the like. I also spend my spare time doing badminton, walking and photography – and I won't hear a bad word said against goldfish – all hail Baldrick (age 10½)!!!

What other instruments do you play?

I can play piano and recorder. And technically Monika and I could also say saxophone..... but that's another story!

Is there another instrument you would like to play?

Timpani maybe but at some point I would love to have the space for a piano and to start playing that again. I did my Grade 8 when I was 16 and started my diploma but then GCSEs, A-levels, university and life intervened and now I've practically forgotten how to read bass clef notes!! It's one of my biggest regrets that I didn't stick at it and get my diploma but hey, that's life!

**What do you enjoy most about DCB?**

There's playing music with a group of very nice people and playing a wide variety of music that challenges my playing. Plus I really enjoy taking music to the community by playing in venues such as the Queen Elizabeth and Gartnavel Hospitals and Erskine Care Home. And I love the random topics of conversation some of us end up having on Facebook – from the universe to herons blinking, we've covered it all! When they appear on Facebook memories, you do wonder about your sanity!!!

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

Has to be Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum at Christmas.

Favourite DCB memory?

Lots but a few highlights:

All the fabulous concerts at Kelvingrove Museum at Christmas, with the huge crowds.

The concert at Kelvingrove Bandstand in June 2016 when it rained. Heavily. Do you dry music first before ironing it or iron it first so it dries out flat? And how to best dry your music – use a hairdryer, hang it over a dryer or just spread it out in a nice pattern over the floor? Who knew there were so many things to consider?!

Playing at The Fintry Fling some time back. Again, it was raining. We were in a marquee in a field. Hannah and I were under a join in the roof and the rain was dripping in off a dangling plastic duck – a competitor in the afternoon's duck race!

The many laughs we've had in the 2nd clarinet section, mostly caused by not quite hearing things properly.

Following on from Michele's #traumaticscales, the time Glyn was taking rehearsal on 'Lebuinus Ex Daventria' and I thought he said to go from "The Saxons at War". What he actually said was "we'll go from The Saxons at War". It took some time for Michele and I to stop laughing..... We then found ourselves working out the difference between Viking and Saxon helmets (as you do). The TeamClarinet branded Saxon helmet Michele designed will live long in my memory!



Favourite piece we've played?

As a member of the 2nd clarinets, it's a non-negotiable requirement to like music from musicals and films! So something like 'Les Misérables' or 'The Sound of Music' (I can hear the groans from certain people!) – but I also love the Holst Suites for Military Band.

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

You can never have too much music from musicals and films so some big sweeping film overtures, music from the soundtrack to 'Apollo 13' by James Horner..... and the theme to 'Chicken Run'!!

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?

Become a Quizmaster and made Dumbarton Duck a social media star!!! What started out as taking a photo a day in March 2020 when I was out for my daily allowed exercise has turned into a year and more in the life of the local park, with starring roles for the local wildlife. And plenty of circles for Sula!



Looking forward to getting back to rehearsals?

Zoom rehearsals have been great but I'm looking forward to not only seeing people again in person but the next chapter of DCB with the move to Kessington. And what can I say except I think my neighbours will be even more delighted than me when we're rehearsing in person once more.....☺