

Come lime with me

Natalie Barnett

Do your band members have a nick-name for you?

No, just Nat or Natalie.

When did you begin to play steelpans?

I began playing when I was 17 years old.

What made you decide to play steelpans?

My dad influenced me to play steelpan by persuading me to go to practice one evening, so I will always be grateful to him for that.

Which steelpan instrument do you play?

When I started I played the 6-base but I now play the double seconds.

What do you like about this instrument?

Not only do I like the sound of each and every pan, but I love the way it brings different people closer and requires players to listen and work together with one another to create beautiful music as a band

How often and for how long do you practice?

Now that I am back from university, I practice weekly (once or twice a week) for an hour and a half to two hours.

What style of music do you enjoy playing the most?

Soca.

How often do you perform at gigs?

I try to perform whenever I can and whenever we have a gig.

Do you get nervous before a performance?

I get the type of nerves that I enjoy, the type of nerves that give me an excited buzz to play and perform to people.

Have you played at carnival? If so, which one?

Yes, I've played at Notting Hill Carnival for two years in a row now.

Tell me about your favourite performance and where it was?

My favourite performance were the performances we did in the UAE, Dubai as it was a surreal experience that enabled us to bring something new and unheard of to Dubai but that people really enjoyed listening to and watching.

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Who is your favourite steelpan musician?

I'd pick my band teacher/musical director, Jason as my favourite steelpan musician just because of the effortless talent and knowledge of pan that he has, as well as his ability to transform and arrange the many different parts of a song into the parts of the steelpan band for us to play, it's amazing

What is the name of your favourite steelband?

My favourite steelband would have to be my own band – UFO's

What is your favourite steelpan tune?

My favourite steelpan tune at the moment is "Unlimited Vibes" by Kes and Lyrikal

Do you play any other musical instruments?

Yes, I play the acoustic guitar.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Anything from spending time with family and friends, going out to eat or on a night out and of course playing pan!