

Come lime with me

## **Amanda Joyce Barrows**

My band members usually call me Manda as well as friends and family.

I began to play steel pans in March this year (2016) when I was 16 years old, I'm now 17.

I wanted to start playing the steel pans as the music produced by steel pans is very uplifting and positive, also I as an individual like to get involved with as many things that incorporate music as possible. This is mainly because I am an aspiring session musician and music journalist so joining a steel band has opened up more possibilities for me.

The group that inspired me to start playing is funnily enough the one I'm in now which is my town's local steelband, RASPO (Reading All Steel Percussion Orchestra). Seeing them perform regularly in my towns shopping centre made me eager to get involved as it looked like a lot of fun,

I play the Tenor lead steel pan .I like playing the Lead Tenor because it's the voice of the whole band.

I practice one to two times a week for a couple of hours each time as I don't have a pan at home. The styles I enjoy playing the most on pan are Reggae and Pop.

I perform with the steel band whenever the opportunity arises for me to do so. However away from the steel band I play in bands in the Reading area. I am able to do so through studying music at Reading College.

I recently performed bass guitar in a band with my friends at a school fair. The last time I performed with my steel band was a month ago in my town centre. We provided music for a few hours and I also helped to sell my steel bands CD's .This was actually my favourite performance due to the amount of people that got involved whilst we were playing, here is a short video of this performance:

<https://youtu.be/QrPvMeRueZA>

No matter when or where I'm performing I tend to get very nervous. However I'm in the process of learning mindfulness to help deal with my stage fright.

I am yet to play a carnival with my steel band however I'm looking forward to performing in one in the very near future.

My favourite steel pannist /musician is Mary - Venetia Genis, she is my favourite because her energy and will power to direct and run RASPO is outstanding to say the least. She was also the first person to help me on my journey of playing pan

My favourite tune to play on pan is Uptown Funk by Bruno mars as this song was the first i ever learnt.

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As well as lead tenor I play electric guitar, bass guitar and drums. In my spare time I like to practice my instruments, write music and make reviews on all things music related

I would lastly like to say that anyone at any age coming from any background can learn to play the steel pans. It's one of the most rewarding things you could do with your time and will gain you a lot of close friends :)