

Come lime with me

John 'Groover' Unwin

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

Groover... Not sure why!?

When did you begin to play steelpan?

As a child

What made you decide to play steelpan?

I can thank friends for getting me involved..... It was all very much a serendipitous time of my life!

Which steelpan instrument do you play?

Tenor is my main pan, but I play all pans

What do like about this instrument?

The energy, vibrancy and youthfulness of the instrument. It is still moving across the planet with so much still to do....

How often and for how long do you practice?

Every week between four and eight hours.

What style of music do you enjoy playing the most?

Calypso

How often do you perform at gigs?

At least every month (at an average)

Do you get nervous before a performance?

Always

Have you played at carnival?

Afraid not!! We would love to play at the Notting Hill event, but have never managed an invite! If so, which one?

Tell me about your favourite performance and where it was?

Oistins Fish Market, Barbados. We played to a massive crowd alongside the Banks Steel Band... I enjoyed every last second...

Who is your favourite steelpan musician?

I have a lot of respect for Rachael Hayward.

What is the name of your favourite steelband?

Desperadoes

What is your favourite steelpan tune?

Pan Here to Stay

Do you play any other musical instruments?

Bass Guitar, Keyboard, Anything you can hit or play with a stick...

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What do you like to do in your spare time?

Write music, Practice, Catch up with people in my life...

I am a Pannist, Tutor and drummer... I've been performing and playing for 25 years now.... Lots of stuff under my belt and in the past! I am one of the members of Panfire Steel Band from Manchester...

May the instrument grow stronger and may it be taken more seriously by those within the musical communities that have existed for more than a hundred years....

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