

Come lime with me

## **Rachael Valentine**

I started to play steelpans when I was 9/10 years old.

My band member's nickname for me is "The Giddy one"

My brother played steelpans at his high school and when I was at one of his concerts, I thought that I would love to play them.

I normally play 'Tenor bass' but I am able to play all the rest.

I like steelpans because they are very different from other instruments like the Violin.

My steelband practice every week for an hour,. However, I do help with a separate group which is also an hour long.

I love to play the carnival style of music. However, some pop songs do sound rather good.

Normally, we have concerts roughly three or four times a year, sometimes more.

I always used to get nervous before a performance but I've been playing for over seven years now. I think I've overcome the pre-show nerves.

My favourite performance was about four or five years ago where we played at a wedding. It was such a lovely atmosphere.

Soul Limbo is my favourite steelpan tune to play.

In my spare time, I sit and listen to songs and I usually see if they would sound good enough to try and play them in my steelband.

If anyone has any spare time and there is a steelband local to them, go for it and play it because it's such a lovely experience and there is a wonderful sound that comes from the steelpans.

I personally love being a steel pan player. It is a different instrument to most others and the sound is so lovely. Being able to be skilled enough to play most of the different types of steel pans gives me happiness.

Playing the steel pans makes me feel like I'm in a whole different time schedule. I feel so happy when people watch and hear me and my group play.