

I've been interested in music for as far back as I can remember: probably since I was successful in my audition as an 8 or 9 year old to become a chorister in Peterborough Cathedral choir. I had to leave when my voice broke, however, but it didn't diminish my love for listening to music, and even now I still go to as many live concerts and Proms as I can.



When I eventually retired from my job my wife bought me a series of flute lessons and I immediately fell back in love with making music. A couple of years later I joined Thame Concert Band after hearing them in a concert: they all played with great relish and I enjoyed the selection of music in their programme. In more recent years the band has got even better, going from strength to strength improving both repertoire and skill levels.

*Why do I bother to travel from High Wycombe to Thame every Tuesday for rehearsals and concerts?*

The band members are all great colleagues who seem to feel the same as I do about making music. They are welcoming to newcomers and encouraging to everyone. We share our thoughts over a cup of tea and cake at our break, and then get back to the music. There are no auditions on joining - we are a community band and welcome everyone - yet the standard of playing seems to be going up and up. Callum (our Musical Director) has such a way of encouraging us that I often find myself "playing out of my skin" and attaining a standard I didn't think I could achieve.

We have an extensive library of music available to us, so although there are the occasional pieces I like less than others, there is plenty that I do love playing.

*Highlights?*

There have been many over the years, but more recently I have been very proud to be part of our annual "Proms" concerts, and seeing the "SOLD OUT" stickers we have had to make for many of our concerts recently - a testament to our appeal within the community.