

Three in a Bar

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SPEAKERS

Seb Philpott, Verity Simmons, Rebecca Toal, Hattie Butterworth

Hattie Butterworth

Hello and welcome to Things Musicians Don't Talk About with your hosts Hattie Butterworth,

Rebecca Toal

And me Rebecca Toal.

Hattie Butterworth

Within our vibrant musical world, it can often feel that the struggles and humanity of musicians is lost and restricted.

Rebecca Toal

Having both suffered in silence with mental, physical and emotional issues, we are now looking for a way to voice musician stories and discuss them further and to connect with the many others who suffer like we have.

Rebecca Toal

No topic will be out of bounds as we're committed to raising awareness for all varieties of struggle. So join me Hattie, and guests as we attempt to bring an end to stigma by uncovering the things physicians don't talk about.

Hattie Butterworth

We're here with the wonderful Verity and Seb from Three in a Bar podcast. Thank you guys for coming. Your podcast is about music, but it feels very much that's like an umbrella term for the people you interview because it feels like you're not restricted by who you interview or their background or what they might have done. So what's your ... like how do you describe your podcast to other people?

Seb Philpott

We umm...

Verity Simmons

I just immediately turned to Seb because I thought "right, he'll have words".

Seb Philpott

I mean, it's so broad that we just always say is that we have a different musical guest every episode. And that's it really because, well, when we when we started, we weren't sure what our angle was going to be, because ... I dunno, we just wanted to make something that was just quite fun, and we we knew lots of funny musicians and you know, you chat to people in the car or whatever, backstage and you're like "oh, this could be a funny conversation to get down on....Record it." So that's how we started and we started recording ... we did about six or eight or something before we even released any. We just didn't know what it was. And I guess we sort of found it a bit. But it's it's not particularly niche, except that it's niche, because me and Verity do it, and that's like the angle. It's like our perspective on everything, I suppose.

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Seb Philpott

And we always ... we, we sort of talk about what we've been up to in our lives a little bit. And hopefully the listener can relate to it a bit.

Verity Simmons

Yeah, it's kind of a snapshot, isn't it? I think it's like, sometimes ... and this, I could be wrong about this, but I feel like there might be a perception of what musicians are like from people sort of outside the world. You know, that this image of a classical musician maybe being slightly untouchable ... not untouchable, but kind of distant? I don't know, but what we wanted to say is that people are very human, and have got great stories and obviously we've now branched out from just classical musicians, it's all kinds of people but it's just getting a little snapshot of their lives and kind of making them accessible I suppose to some extent, but also just having a great chat and meeting loads of really fun people that we wouldn't have otherwise met.

Hattie Butterworth

How did you guys meet? What's your kind of friendship story?

Seb Philpott

Well, we met a while ago ... um, six years ago.

Verity Simmons

Yeah, 2016 Yeah.

Seb Philpott

Before the podcast was even a twinkle in our eye. Because, we met...

Hattie Butterworth

That's adorable.

Rebecca Toal

Was it planned?

Verity Simmons

It just all happened and then we went with it.

Seb Philpott

It happened late one night.

Rebecca Toal

You thought it'd bring you together.

Verity Simmons

We'd had a lot to drink, we'd been out dancing and just that's it!

Seb Philpott

We recorded our first one ... I had to ask what your name was after which was a bit awkward. No, nothing like that. What was the question?

Hattie Butterworth

How did you meet?

Verity Simmons

How did we meet? On... Funny Girl.

Seb Philpott

Well we, we did Funny Girl, the musical.

Verity Simmons

On the internet.

Hattie Butterworth

Tinder. Musicians' Tinder.

Seb Philpott

No, I must stress there's nothing sexual going on.

Rebecca Toal

Just romantic.

Seb Philpott

Both happily married. Just to make that clear, because I think that is clear?

Verity Simmons

I think if you've listened to any episodes, that's probably quite clear.

Rebecca Toal

Are you clearing it up for the listener or between you two?

Seb Philpott

I'm talking to Verity.

Verity Simmons

This is very awkward actually now. Okay, nevermind we can move on from that.

Seb Philpott

Right the serious answer we ...

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Seb Philpott

We did Funny Girl the musical. We did it in at the Savoy Theatre in 2016. That was it. But, yeah, I did it at the Menier Chocolate Factory for like four months and then when it moved to town, they had a little bit more budget. They could afford a cello player and a horn player.

Verity Simmons

Classic. Great choices.

Seb Philpott

Which is nice. Yeah, that's like the the nice instruments that come in and fill everything out and make it sound classy.

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Rebecca Toal

The unnecessary ones.

Seb Philpott

Yeah, they're not necessary, but they're just nice. Yeah. That's how we met then.

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Seb Philpott

I don't think we really talked about podcast much.

Verity Simmons

No. And then because then after that finished, I didn't see you for a couple of years, and then we did Evita. And that was when we started talking ... I was talking about doing a wine podcast, because I'd been studying wine at the time.

Hattie Butterworth

This is brilliant.

Verity Simmons

Yeah, so I think I've been gobbing off about that, probably, at every given opportunity. And you were thinking about doing one as well weren't you? But not quite sure what.

Seb Philpott

No, I just I've always kind of wanted to do one. I've always loved podcasts. I listened to since very early days.

Hattie Butterworth

Yeah.

Seb Philpott

About 2005 I remember, Ricky Gervais's one ...

Verity Simmons

That's old school.

Hattie Butterworth

That's really like ... an OG.

Seb Philpott

Yeah, it was, yeah, iPods. Just listening on my laptop before iPhones and that, so.

Seb Philpott

That's one of the first ones.

Verity Simmons

Were you taping them on a tape player.

Seb Philpott

They used to play them on the world service, about once a week.

Verity Simmons

Play and record at same time!

Seb Philpott

You'd send off for them.

Hattie Butterworth

I love that.

Seb Philpott

Just for the adverts. Yeah. I don't know ... It's evolved so much, the medium, hasn't it?

Seb Philpott

And I never thought I could do on myself. I always thought ... well, I guess I never thought I was ... maybe I don't know, established enough in the profession to sort of be like...

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

Yeah.

Seb Philpott

Why would anyone care what I've got to say? And it was only when I got to the age of 32 ... three or whatever I was, it was like, "Oh, maybe I could. I know a few people now." But couldn't really get my sort of format together, what I wanted to do. And then you ... you had your format of your wine labels, which for some reason, three drunk women couldn't work it out and get it together.

Verity Simmons

I know. Who knew? Who knew? Not the most efficient lineup. No.

Seb Philpott

And then ... but then we were just ... it was the the final like after show party of Evita after it'd finished, the run had finished, we'd had a few drinks...

Verity Simmons

This bit is true. Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

Wine?

Verity Simmons

Like we said, you can understand why I'm confused.

Hattie Butterworth

And I think we were just saying bye to each other...

Seb Philpott

And I was like "see ya." And then maybe you were like "what were you ... what you were saying ... what, what are you gonna do about your podcast then?" And I was like, "Oh, wait, what... should ... Should we just do one together?" And then you were like, "yes! I've been thinking this whole time!"

Verity Simmons

Yeah!

Verity Simmons

Yeah!

Hattie Butterworth

This is so sweet!

Verity Simmons

And then what was really good was that we went out for a planning meeting, which ended up involving beer ...

Rebecca Toal

Family planning.

Verity Simmons

...obvs. Yeah, exactly, had to talk through what we were gonna do. Yeah, how it was going to work. And I remember waking up the next day, and thinking "oh god", had a headache, feel a bit rough. And I saw on my phone that I already had messages saying, "right, we need to get this, this, this" and I was like, "this is exactly what I need. Somebody who can be efficient and like actually ..."

Seb Philpott

Efficient?! Oh my god.

Verity Simmons

Well, back then ...

Seb Philpott

Back then yeah, yeah.

Verity Simmons

That's what I thought, you know. How wrong! No...

Seb Philpott

I think we've got not similar skills, different skills, like Yin and Yang.

Verity Simmons

Yes. Just complementary skills, shall we say?

Seb Philpott

Yeah. Because, I mean, it's fair to say you didn't have much technical prowess.

Verity Simmons

No.

Seb Philpott

You've learned a lot.

Verity Simmons

I wouldn't say I've got prowess though would you? No.

Seb Philpott

I dunno.. prow...

Hattie Butterworth

You've got a microphone.

Verity Simmons

I've got a microphone, yeah.

Seb Philpott

So yeah, so you handled certain sides of things...

Verity Simmons

Yeah...

Seb Philpott

I did the other things, and it kind of worked out.

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

Are you more the admin person or is Seb?

Verity Simmons

It's some and some... it's sort of funny. Like, I think ...

Seb Philpott

I should do more admin.

Verity Simmons

I probably say I...

Seb Philpott

I feel I could do more, but you end up...

Verity Simmons

I feel like I'm good at... I contact ... I'm quite happy to contact people.

Seb Philpott

Yeah.

Verity Simmons

I'd say I'm probably more comfortable about doing that than you are? Would you say?

Seb Philpott

Yeah, I get a bit...

Rebecca Toal

Must be a brass player thing.

Verity Simmons

I started hassling, I was hassling him about it earlier. I was saying in the car on the way over because we've got a great lead to somebody, and like we should most definitely utilise this one. And I was saying, "well, just contact him would you? Just do it ... You gonna just do it ... in fact, why don't you just do it now? We're in the car, why don't you just do it?" Did you do it?

Seb Philpott

No.

Verity Simmons

No, of course not.

Seb Philpott

It's like 100% guaranteed... I know, he's gonna say yes. He's mega famous. It's all set up.

Rebecca Toal

Is it Alan Sugar?

Verity Simmons

It's Justin Bieber. It's not Justin Bieber

Hattie Butterworth

Harry Styles.

Seb Philpott

It's not Harry Styles.

Seb Philpott

Ah, it could be. He's in just as famous abandoned.

Rebecca Toal

Stuart beard

Verity Simmons

is we've got a great link to him.

Seb Philpott

I should just get things done then. I put things off and then causes stress down the line.

Verity Simmons

It's alright.

Seb Philpott

It's fine. You don't tell me off.

Hattie Butterworth

Do you like an email Verity? D'you like...?

Verity Simmons

I do like an email.

Hattie Butterworth

Yeah I like an email.

Verity Simmons

Yeah, I do.

Rebecca Toal

Urgh.

Verity Simmons

I ...Yeah. Oh, really? Is that "oh no"? Yeah.

Rebecca Toal

I applied to one today.

Hattie Butterworth

She did.

Rebecca Toal

And I felt on top of the world. But yeah.

Seb Philpott

That's great!

Hattie Butterworth

You know, first of all, what do you do now? We might go back to like, where you come from.

Rebecca Toal

Wow. Story time.

Hattie Butterworth

Inland Cornwall.

Verity Simmons

Yeah inland Cornwall. There we are.

Seb Philpott

Go on, you go first.

Verity Simmons

Well we're kind of the mirror of you guys actually. I'm ...

Hattie Butterworth

It's weird isn't it?

Verity Simmons

I'm a freelance cellist, you know "have cello, will travel." I've been doing a fair bit of show work. I've just spent a summer in Chichester which is lovely, doing Crazy for You at the festival that. Yeah, I play in a quartet with my husband actually and amazingly, we're still together, and so is the quartet. Who'd a thought it? And then I've got two boys who are 12 and nearly 10, so that's time consuming as well.

Hattie Butterworth

So have you been a freelance cellist kind of all the way...?

Hattie Butterworth

Oh yeah.

Verity Simmons

All the way through, but to varying levels and you know just how things go, and I left college, I did Southbank Sinfonia and then I finished that, and sort of had quite a quiet couple of years, really. But

you know how it goes, like sometimes you go through really rich periods of loving what you're doing, and then not so much. So it's definitely been up and down. At the moment I feel quite lucky that things seem nice and I'm enjoying it. And maybe my attitude's changed as well. So I just ... just trying to really enjoy it, to be honest, at the moment. And it's ... yeah, it's all fine. I do a bit of teaching as well. And I have a great lunch down there. I know it's not just about that, but it sort of is.

Verity Simmons

It's all about the extra bits because...

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Rebecca Toal

Teaching can just be teaching.

Verity Simmons

Oh it can!

Rebecca Toal

If there's good lunch as well...

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Rebecca Toal

You're saved.

Hattie Butterworth

So...

Verity Simmons

Go on Seb, what about you?

Rebecca Toal

My podcast twin.

Seb Philpott

Yeah.

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Seb Philpott

Well, I play the trumpet, like Becca.

Rebecca Toal

Yeah.

Seb Philpott

I play with a few orchestras and West End shows and pop bands. And I've got a group called the Old Dirty Brasstards, which is a ... we've been going 10 years now. It's a brass group, brass and drums, playing pop songs. And yeah, that's sort of what I do in a nutshell.

Hattie Butterworth

And then looking back...?

Seb Philpott

Yeah?

Rebecca Toal

Tell us everything.

Hattie Butterworth

...question's like "What is your most traumatic music college memory?"

Hattie Butterworth

No.

Verity Simmons

I can tell you that in a second. I've got one of them.

Hattie Butterworth

Yeah, like what's your ... Where did you...?

Rebecca Toal

Background.

Seb Philpott

My background. I'm from Southend in Essex. So I've got a brother Barney Philpott. He plays trombone. We've done so much stuff together, just growing up since ... I guess I started when I was like eight and he's two years below me, so he started when he was seven. So we've just been playing together really since, since then. And obviously doing like, you know, school windbands and orchestra and stuff. But then, we did a ska band together when he was only in like, I think he was 12 or something when he started. I was 14. And we used to play in like Battle of the Bands, all round the town. And my mum used to paint fake stubble on my face and we'd hide Barney inside a bass drum case to get into pubs. And, and we suddenly we went from playing like in school orchestras and stuff, which is fine, but then playing at the front of a band, like a ska punk band. It's just so much fun. So that, that was like the kind of earliest time where I sort of was like "ah right, this is really cool," and like, not just doing orchestral

classical playing but doing something else. And then really, like it's really not changed. I mean, Barney, we play in bands like Bastille, Public Service Broadcasting. And we did Essex Youth Jazz Orchestra as well when we were little, learning a different style of playing. So I don't ... when I play now I don't ... if I'm doing classical or jazz or pop or ... I don't think of them as separate things. It's just all like, it's all different, you just slightly just change your mindset. Same technique really. And I try not to, try not to get nervous in situations, I just think "well what would it be like if I was playing in the Brasstards amongst my mates?" And just trying...

Hattie Butterworth

Ah, that's nice to have that like point of reference.

Seb Philpott

Yeah, because it's just the same, it's like just ... I dunno, just move ... try and move a bit when I'm playing...

Hattie Butterworth

Yeah.

Seb Philpott

... not too much because people'll be like "what's he doing?" but just um...

Verity Simmons

In Covent Garden.

Seb Philpott

Exactly! But yeah, I love playing at ... playing at Covent Garden as well but and BBC Concert Orchestra and all kinds of stuff so...

Hattie Butterworth

What do you do...? Because there's obviously the string quartet.

Seb Philpott

Yes.

Hattie Butterworth

What's the brass version of Covent Garden?

Seb Philpott

Oh, no, not, not the busking.

Seb Philpott

Oh, not the busking. Sorry.

Verity Simmons

The Royal Opera House.

Hattie Butterworth

You're fucking kidding!

Rebecca Toal

Yeah, you know that busking malarkey?

Hattie Butterworth

I genuinely thought you were talking about busking.

Seb Philpott

No, but they did so well that they built a building next to it. "We're gonna put on operas and ballets and stuff."

Hattie Butterworth

I'm just sitting here embarrassing myself.

Verity Simmons

Not at all!

Seb Philpott

I used to think exactly the same thing when I was younger.

Hattie Butterworth

So you're, you're in the opera orchestra?

Seb Philpott

I'm not a member of the orchestra but I ...

Hattie Butterworth

But you play for them?

Seb Philpott

Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

That's so cool. He's so legit!

Rebecca Toal

Hattie! Stop!

Hattie Butterworth

I'm very impressed.

Rebecca Toal

You said that, like you don't, well try not to worry too much about like, the different genres and stuff. Was that always ...? I mean, I guess because you've been doing different genres since you were a kid, but when you went to music college, did that feel the same? Or, or because when I was there, it's very much like, you're a classical musician...?

Seb Philpott

Yeah, that's, that's true... interesting, actually, because I hadn't thought about what my mindset was. Because I used to play saxophone as well till I was 18.

Rebecca Toal

The jazz one?

Seb Philpott

Yeah, I did jazz, the jazz saxophone. And then I was like "I'm just going to trumpet, focus on trumpet." Went to the Royal College of Music. Yeah, I guess you've got to sort of be a bit, not submissive. Is that the word? But sort of allow yourself to just be ...

Seb Philpott

Receptive. That's a better word. Yeah, I guess I went through a lot of confusion in my time at the Royal College, and then I went to the Royal Academy for postgrad. And I just remember being completely confused by conflicting advice between, you know, basically all, all classical training, really. And I did the big band at Royal College of Music. I loved doing that. But the tuition was all, all classical really. I remember going to Academy and having, yeah, it was like different principal trumpets telling me exactly opposite ways to play. I just didn't know what, what to do. I was like, surely you doubt everything? I'm sure you've been through similar things.

Verity Simmons

Receptive.

Rebecca Toal

Yep.

Hattie Butterworth

Exactly what you've said I think, yeah.

Seb Philpott

And it wasn't really till just a few years later, I guess, getting, getting that out my mind, because at the time, I was also going to the Royal Opera House and playing, like, third trumpet on ...

Rebecca Toal

Busking.

Seb Philpott

...busking. Yeah that's right. Made loads of money, sold some CDs. Um, doing things like...

Hattie Butterworth

I'm so embarrassed.

Seb Philpott

It's fine.

Rebecca Toal

Just making sure that it can't be cut out by keeping bringing it up.

Seb Philpott

Yeah, just but just doubting everything you play and never really, never really thinking about the music and it's always about the technical way of "how do I play that bottom B?" You're still thinking about the busking thing aren't you? Anyway, so it took me a few years, and I think it really wasn't until I started doing the Brasstards that when I'm suddenly going from playing music, written sheet music and thinking of it like that, actually, I went from playing that to playing Beyonce, like playing melodies, but not even calling them melodies, I'm just trying to embody the singer of that song. And trying not to look at the music too much. It's important to look at the music if you're playing like accompanying things, get all the right rhythms and stuff. But if you're playing like the melody, just getting away from it, and I feel like I unleashed a side of my playing that ...

Verity Simmons

Sort of like I am Sasha Fierce.

Seb Philpott

Or even teaching at the colleges like...

Seb Philpott

Exactly. I am Sasha Fierce basically. Yeah, anyway, then I've taken that into other other things, but, but it took me to find my own like group, and really understand my own playing, my limitations and like what I'm good at. But, yeah, so music college is a tough, it's a tough one because ... I wish the'dy train you for that side of things as well, like, not just the classical. It's a very small part of my career is the classical side of things. And I think it's a very small part of definitely of yours as well and of like most musicians out there, and, and the such a massive amount of stuff you could, you could be learning, especially paying all that money. I wish ... I wish there were more people that do ... were in like, our kind of sphere of the music industry that'd just give you some advice and tell you what kinds of things and...

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

People that do ..

Rebecca Toal

That's true.

Hattie Butterworth

...your kinda work teaching at colleges.

Hattie Butterworth

Yeah...

Verity Simmons

Yeah, I really think that's missing. I mean...

Seb Philpott

Totally.

Verity Simmons

Is it now still? I don't know. But certainly...

Verity Simmons

...when I was there, it was the same thing. They really need a ... they need some people in each department who, even if it's not your teacher, there's somebody you can talk to about that ...

Hattie Butterworth

Yeah it's certainly missing.

Hattie Butterworth

Sustainable.

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

Career of different things.

Rebecca Toal

But also, if you're thinking about going into classical music, and all of your teachers are in the orchestras in London, for example, you don't have the space to try things out or fail at them, because you're essentially kind of auditioning to them every single lesson. Whereas if you have people from a spread of things, not only do you learn more, but you have the opportunity to like, have a go at things and fail and try again.

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Rebecca Toal

It's so bizarre, but I remember being at music college - because it was so long ago - I remember being there and like, thinking, "Well, if you know, if people aren't doing classical music, then that means they must have like failed or like they've gone and done something else because they didn't, I don't know... didn't make it or have the chance or whatever." And in reality, it's so different. But that is also kind of the narrative that's told there is that like, "Okay, well, you can aim for this orchestral job, and if you don't get it, you can find something else. But that's not really our problem because that means you didn't succeed."

Verity Simmons

I 100% felt like that. I remember at college, my teacher saying to me something like, "Well, you're not going to be sat at the front of a section, but you can expect to get a rank and file job," which is a terrible expression anyway, in an orchestra, and, and thinking, "God, I'm not really ..." even then I kind of knew it wasn't really for me. But I thought that was what I was aiming for. Then did Southbank, which is slightly different, cuz it's such smaller forces and it's like a community and I love that feel anyway, then leaving that, I did a couple of auditions for orchestras. And I just knew my heart wasn't in it. Like I, I know, there's hundreds of cellists whose hearts were in it, and were practising properly and, and I just wasn't, I just couldn't make myself really want to do it. And then it was only very similar to what you were saying, I'd started depping for somebody on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Hannah Ashenden, you angel. And um, and I thought, "God, I love this. This is so fun." And then because that made me feel that I got some confidence from that, then I went and did some other things and I actually did do some orchestral playing, and felt completely different about it. I remember going in ...um... my husband's in Royal Ballet Sinfonia and I went and did some with them. And I never thought I'd have the confidence to kind of do that, or do opera or do anything. And it was amazing the difference just changing that mindset and not feeling like a failure, feeling like, "oh, okay, I can do a bit of everything." And now I can go back to those things that I've put so much pressure on when I was at college, and felt so terrible about myself, because I didn't think I was good enough. And now I can go and do it but course I can do it. It's fine. But yeah, it's it's a shame that it may e you're just too young going into college at 18, you know. So ... I was so immature and so full of self-doubt, and I used to shake in performance class, and I just felt sick. I hated it. Like, and it's such a shame, because if I'd been 10 years older when I went in, I would have taken so much more from it.

Hattie Butterworth

Me too.

Verity Simmons

Yeah?

Hattie Butterworth

It just sort of felt like such a waste of time for me, just me at eighteen, like it couldn't have been a worse place for me to be really.

Verity Simmons

Yeah, yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

Did you say you were at Guildhall?

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

But was that just four years? Did you do a masters or you sort of...?

Verity Simmons

No, I did the applications for it, and I got a place to go and do one, and I ... again, I should have been ... you know, when the sensible thing at that point would be to go and find some money to do it. And so I thought it was a pretty good sign that I wasn't sorting that out. So I ended up having a year extra of lessons with my teacher but not being officially at the college. And I think that was probably a good thing, really. And then doing Southbank the year after that, kind of felt like a postgrad in many ways ... well, all the social aspects of a post-grad. It was great! I absolutely loved it. But it ... that did really ... I got a love for playing again. I think maybe if I hadn't done that, I might have gone off down a different course completely, because I was a bit wayward in that year. And then ... I just, I didn't expect to get a place. I was so shocked. I think probably already that was like the first little brick in it. You know where you've just, you're ... the whole time, I feel like you're arming yourself with extra bits of confidence to take, I think getting that place that was like the first little brick in that wall and then just trying to take things ever since then to just try and build up a bit of confidence.

Verity Simmons

Especially when you've been somewhere where someone's telling you like the best you can expect.

Verity Simmons

Yes.

Hattie Butterworth

I think we often talk about how you don't want sort of getting into something to sort of help your self-worth, but it really can, like getting that positive reinforcement of like, "oh, maybe I am good enough to do this."

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

Seb is so sick of it.

Verity Simmons

He really doesn't like cello at all, does he? Yeah, you're right. I know you're right. There is ... like there's an argument on both sides, isn't there? Because, of course, like it shouldn't come from validation from other people. But so often...

Hattie Butterworth

It's so nice.

Verity Simmons

... little things people say or ... it can just help you sort of arm yourself. I know, it's kind of like what you were saying Seb, that sometimes when I go into things now, and I might be feeling a bit nervous, I'll just try and access things that people have said or occasions where things have gone well, and just try and really focus on those things. "I did that well before, so if I can do that well, then I can do this well," and, you know...

Hattie Butterworth

This is might be like quite a ... you don't have to answer this if you don't want to...

Rebecca Toal

What's your biggest insecurity? No.

Hattie Butterworth

What's the most car crash performance you've ever given?

Verity Simmons

Oh, oh, I can actually ... actually mine was at college. I can remember it so clearly. You know, I was just saying about shaking in performance classes. I'd had to do Apres un Reve in my first year. I know it's not in the profession, but it's such a car crash. I was shaking so badly that I couldn't keep the bow on the stri-... I literally couldn't keep my bow on my string, and it was just awful. The whole ... all the string players in the year were there. And I was just so intimidated. I had such a massive issue about not feeling good enough. And I just thought "I am the worst by so far." And this was the rhetoric in my head the whole time. "I'm the worst one here. I don't know how I'm here. I'm only here... This is ... I don't know how I got in. It's a ... I'm a fraud," you know, all of that, those voices, and it just came to a head in that class and I'd just practised it just before. My friend was accompanying me and it'd gone fine. I could play that ruddy piece in my sleep. I just got out there and I was like, "they're all watching me and they think I'm hopeless." And I literally couldn't get to the end of it. I got about halfway through and they had to stop it because it was so bad. And I just think ... oh it just set me up so badly. That's in your first of four years. It doesn't set you up well does it.

Hattie Butterworth

Nooo.

Rebecca Toal

Was that in the LRR in Guildhall?

Verity Simmons

It was in one of those little rooms upstairs.

Rebecca Toal

I was gonna say all of the rooms in Guildhall are awful for like ...

Rebecca Toal

...claustrophobia, and like we used to have a performance class in this room that's like, essentially underground, but like ... the ... it's got stacked seating but so steep so you feel like you're at the bottom of a well, and everyone's like...

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Verity Simmons

Yes, I remember it! Oh, it's awful.

Rebecca Toal

IReally bad.

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

Seb, do you care to share a carcrash?

Seb Philpott

I'm just thinking...there's a couple. There's one ... I've had loads. I mean loads.

Rebecca Toal

How could I possibly pick one?

Seb Philpott

I used to go up and do auditions up in Salford. I never played well in Salford for auditions. I've had some bad ones. But um, I was just thinking of one which I didn't find that traumatic at a time, but I did it in my, my second year...2006, I went to do the Maurice Andre Trumpet Competition. And they ... obviously they don't do it anymore. I think it was the last one.

Verity Simmons

My favourites.

Rebecca Toal

No, they're reviving it this year.

Seb Philpott

Are they really?

Rebecca Toal

Yeah, it's back.

Seb Philpott

Wow.

Hattie Butterworth

Classical music news on my left.

Seb Philpott

Wow that's cool.

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Rebecca Toal

Somebody's just walked away from the jury apparently for moral reasons.

Hattie Butterworth

Moral reasons?!

Rebecca Toal

Yeah it was on Slipped Disc earlier when I was looking for beef.

Seb Philpott

Can't help yourself. Look it up on Slipped Disc.

Hattie Butterworth

It's where we go for all of our emotion.

Seb Philpott

So I went and I mean, I had to play ... you played the Tomasi. Yeah, which is really hard.

Rebecca Toal

Really hard.

Seb Philpott

And then you come back half an hour later and you play the first movement of the Telemann Concerto.

Rebecca Toal

On the piccolo?!

Seb Philpott

On the piccolo. Yeah. And that is the ... I think that's the hardest ... or that and Brandenburg 2. Oh my god, I've just thought of another one. I've just thought of another one.

Hattie Butterworth

It's fine. We have all night.

Rebecca Toal

You've done Brandeburg 2?!

Seb Philpott

Yeah, but really badly. So this was a similar time in my life, I think. I did it ... did Brandenburg 2 when I was 18.

Rebecca Toal

Eighteen?!

Seb Philpott

Yeah, but I couldn't play it. I just thought "I'll just play it."

Rebecca Toal

Have a go.

Seb Philpott

It was my school orchestra. They were like, "Oh, you you play trumpet. Do you wanna do this?" It's like "yeah, I've never heard of it before." Turn up for the first rehearsal ...

Rebecca Toal

I wouldn't be able to play that in my wildest dreams.

Seb Philpott

It's so hard, so relentlessly high and hard.

Hattie Butterworth

Oh, this is fascinating.

Seb Philpott

It's the hardest thing ever, but also, the Telemann's really hard too. It's one of the most beautiful pieces of music. It's only about 16 bars long, the first movement.

Rebecca Toal

16 bars of hell.

Seb Philpott

But it lasts about two and a half minutes. And there's no time off your lips or anything ...

Rebecca Toal

Takes about five years off your life.

Seb Philpott

Yeah. And so anyway, I was playing this in the Maurice Andre trumpet competition. One of the ... the most prestigious competition but anyone can enter it, like I didn't have to pass any sort of audition. I was playing to like probably a jury of about 10. People like Eric Aubier, Paul Cosh was on it. Jim Watson.

Rebecca Toal

This is trumpet time. This is big names.

Seb Philpott

Maurice Andre.

Rebecca Toal

Be impressed.

Seb Philpott

Maurice Andre was there, like in the middle. I picked up a piccolo trumpet off on my mates about 10 minutes before, hadn't practised it on it, and started playing it. About four bars in, lost my lip, went down an octave, played it down the octave. It was quite...

Hattie Butterworth

I don't know why this is so funny.

Seb Philpott

Finished. It finished. And he always says at the end of everyone, he'd go, "Bravo!" and everyone would clap.

Hattie Butterworth

That's really cute!

Seb Philpott

So he did that. But it was ... it was a long, like last eight bars. But, but I actually don't think it was that traumatic. I think I was still quite young. And I was so early on and I didn't realise just how bad that could have been. And it's pretty bad though isn't it? So...

Hattie Butterworth

Does it get worse? Is that what you're saying?

Seb Philpott

No, my dad, my dad ... my mum and dad came to watch it and he ... I think he took it really badly.

Verity Simmons

Aww!

Seb Philpott

That was ... I think it was really traumatic for them watching that. But I've had loads more and I was just thinking of one in when I was at Royal Academy. Towards the end of the year I was doing some oompah gig and just totally knackered my lips one night. I remember just feeling something like snap in my lip. I was like, "I've done something there." And the next day I had all day just to practise my natural trumpet exam. And you went to Academy right?

Seb Philpott

So I had to play that to Bob and Hutch and nothing would come out. And and the next day I went in for in the morning to do it and I just couldn't play anything more than like four bars nothing was... nothing would work.

Rebecca Toal

Yeah.

Verity Simmons

What did you say?

Seb Philpott

It was just ... nothing. I just, I just started crying

Verity Simmons

Oh no.

Seb Philpott

At that point, I was four years older, I was like ... it was like "this means everything now", doesn't it? Because I'm doing this postgrad, which I've had to like pay money to do and yeah, they were really sweet about it because obviously they knew me, they knew obviously I was having some sort of ... I had an injury basically. So that was, that was bad.

Rebecca Toal

This is why we need a pod therapist Hattie, I'm telling you.

Hattie Butterworth

Ooh.

Rebecca Toal

Well, it's not going to me.

Seb Philpott

What's that gonna...what's that?

Rebecca Toal

Just I feel like we always get people to recall traumatic events and then just sort of we're like "okay bye!"

Verity Simmons

Then leave them.

Rebecca Toal

You have a choice of four quizzes that I found on classic FM. Can we guess your age from your practice habits?

Verity Simmons

Oh, God.

Hattie Butterworth

That's what I said, I was like, "what a stupid question!"

Seb Philpott

Practice habits?

Hattie Butterworth

I know.

Rebecca Toal

Tell us your taste in music and we'll guess your favourite soup.

Verity Simmons

Okay.

Rebecca Toal

Only a music guru can tell whether these facts are about Mozart or Beyonce. Or ...

Hattie Butterworth

That literally is made for Seb.

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Rebecca Toal

How old is your soul based on your classical music taste?

Verity Simmons

Oh, yeah. Okay. Which one do you want Seb?

Seb Philpott

I don't mind. The Beyonce one I think. That sounds that sounds good.

Hattie Butterworth

Verity...?

Verity Simmons

I'll do the "how old is your soul?" one.

Seb Philpott

Oh, yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

How old is your soul?

Hattie Butterworth

You're sure you don't want the practice habits?

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Verity Simmons

I'm so sure I don't want that.

Rebecca Toal

Okay, so this is only a music guru can tell whether these facts are about Mozart or Beyonce. First one. This artist's stage name is a shortened version of their birth name. Mozart, Beyonce, both or neither.

Seb Philpott

Oh, I guess Beyonce.

Verity Simmons

I'm sure that's her birth name. Isn't it?

Rebecca Toal

Wrong.

Seb Philpott

What's...?

Rebecca Toal

Both.

Seb Philpott

Oh, right. Trick question.

Rebecca Toal

Bey's full name is Beyonce Giselle Knowles Carter. Oh, Mozart was baptised Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart.

Verity Simmons

What?!

Rebecca Toal

Gosh, there are 11 questions on this. Okay.

Hattie Butterworth

Speed up then!

Rebecca Toal

Okay!

Seb Philpott

Excellent first question.

Rebecca Toal

This artist achieved great success in their lifetime but is known for staying very private.

Seb Philpott

Is known or... was?

Rebecca Toal

Bit of a give away isnt it?

Seb Philpott

Beyonce Knowles?

Rebecca Toal

Correct.

Hattie Butterworth

Got it with the tenses.

Rebecca Toal

Mozart wasn't as shy of the limelight.

Seb Philpott

Oh, no, he wasn't was he?

Hattie Butterworth

No he wasn't.

Seb Philpott

No shrinking violet.

Rebecca Toal

This artist was a child prodigy. This is a great quiz.

Seb Philpott

I think Mozart was a child prodigy.

Rebecca Toal

It's both.

Seb Philpott

Oh, both. Yeah, well.

Seb Philpott

Yeah. Makes sense.

Rebecca Toal

Sorry.

Hattie Butterworth

You didn't remind him of the options.

Rebecca Toal

Sorry. It says Beyonce's vocal talents were discovered when high school dance teacher began humming a song and Beyonce finished it hitting every high pitch note for note.

Seb Philpott

Wow.

Rebecca Toal

Wow. This artist used to have a pet snake.

Seb Philpott

Oh, I thought you meant the teacher. Sorry.

Rebecca Toal

No, this artist.

Seb Philpott

Um, I mean both of them.

Rebecca Toal

Wrong. Beyonce.

Seb Philpott

Oh right yeah.

Verity Simmons

"Wolfy, put the snake down!" Sorry, I dunno...

Hattie Butterworth

I thought it was just Mozart.

Rebecca Toal

Um, a species of fly is named after this artist.

Seb Philpott

Um, Mozart.

Rebecca Toal

Wrong! Beyonce.

Seb Philpott

Oh know.

Verity Simmons

Oh dear, this isn't going so well for you.

Rebecca Toal

Yeah, it just says the fly is called Beyonce. Which artist is apparently related to Mahler?

Seb Philpott

Beyonce Knowles.

Rebecca Toal

Correct! According to a popular theory...

Seb Philpott

Oh.

Rebecca Toal

...so does that mean not true?

Verity Simmons

Absolute rubbish. Yeah.

Verity Simmons

Oh my god.

Rebecca Toal

Beyonce and Mahler may or may not be cousins four times removed.

Hattie Butterworth

I love that.

Rebecca Toal

Classic FM, what are you ...? Ooh, who has a species of frog named after them?

Seb Philpott

Both of them.

Hattie Butterworth

The Mozart frog.

Rebecca Toal

Correct. No, wrong. Mozart Frog.

Verity Simmons

Mozart Frog?

Hattie Butterworth

I've heard of it, yeah, got one of my garden.

Verity Simmons

Have you?

Hattie Butterworth

No.

Rebecca Toal

Okay, we're on question number eight out of eleven. This artist's father managed their career from a young age.

Seb Philpott

Both of them.

Rebecca Toal

Correct.

Seb Philpott

Yeah!

Verity Simmons

Well done.

Rebecca Toal

Leopold Mozart and Matthew Knowles both played a big part in their children's lives.

Seb Philpott

He wrote a hard trumpet concerto as well didn't he?

Verity Simmons

Beyonce's life.

Rebecca Toal

Yeah.

Verity Simmons

Matthew Knowles?

Seb Philpott

Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

I thought that as well!

Hattie Butterworth

trumpet noises

Verity Simmons

That was Halo.

Seb Philpott

Oh that was Halo was it?

Verity Simmons

It's very hard. You have to pretty to three.

Rebecca Toal

Okay, this is a good question: which artist famously ate a block of cheese just before a performance?

Verity Simmons

Owh, that's madness. Who'd do that?

Rebecca Toal

Just before?!

Seb Philpott

I don't think she would do that .

Verity Simmons

She wouldn't, would she? she was she?

Seb Philpott

I don't think so. I think that's Mozart.

Rebecca Toal

There is also a neither option. But I don't Classic FM would do that to us.

Seb Philpott

No, Mozart.

Rebecca Toal

Incorrect.

Verity Simmons

Was it when she was pregnant?

Rebecca Toal

Oh, it was neither.

Verity Simmons

Oh.

Rebecca Toal

Did we manage to trick you? It says.

Verity Simmons

Yes. You did.

Rebecca Toal

Never listening to that radio station again. This artist has a very talented musical sister.

Seb Philpott

Well, I know Beyonce does. But does Mozart. The sister of Mozart. Probably, yeah, she probably was like, cast out of all history books because she was a bloomin' woman.

Rebecca Toal

Corrict.

Verity Simmons

Ignore her.

Rebecca Toal

Corrict? *in an Australian accent* Correct.

Hattie Butterworth

I wonder if she wrote a trumpet concert.

Rebecca Toal

Maria Anna Mozart and Solange Knowles.

Verity Simmons

Ah.

Rebecca Toal

Okay, we are on the last question.

Verity Simmons

Good luck.

Rebecca Toal

Oh, this artist is taller than the other Beyonce or Mozart.

Seb Philpott

Beyonce has got to be taller.

Verity Simmons

Oh, is she?!

Rebecca Toal

Correct.

Rebecca Toal

Mozart stood at roughly five foot four.

Hattie Butterworth

Yeah, he gives me that kind of vibe.

Verity Simmons

Yeah, little man syndrome!

Rebecca Toal

Beyonce is five foot seven.

Verity Simmons

Oh!

Seb Philpott

Yeah...you can tell, you can tell those three inches.

Rebecca Toal

Okay, you got five out of 11.

Hattie Butterworth

That's no bad actually Seb.

Seb Philpott

Thanks.

Rebecca Toal

It says that you gave it a good shot...but it wasn't good enough. Well, there we go. I hope you've learned something.

Seb Philpott

Thank you. That was great. Thank you. I feel like I have learned something actually.

Verity Simmons

Yeah, me too!

Hattie Butterworth

That was actually a good quiz.

Rebecca Toal

Frogs and flies snakes and cheese.

Hattie Butterworth

Quite hard at some points.

Verity Simmons

Can I just ask if I do better do I get a prize?

Rebecca Toal

You can have a sticker if you want.

Verity Simmons

Oh, yeah.

Seb Philpott

You can choose anything off these bookshelves.

Verity Simmons

Okay, great. Great.

Hattie Butterworth

Okay, Verity.

Verity Simmons

Right.

Rebecca Toal

I will say that we didn't we haven't done these quizzes, so ...

Hattie Butterworth

No.

Rebecca Toal

It's a complete surprise to us as well.

Hattie Butterworth

Well, this one is ... this one is how old is your soul based on your classical music taste?

Verity Simmons

Okay, so it's not really a win lose situation? Well I suppose it is for me.

Hattie Butterworth

Oh yeah.

Rebecca Toal

Well, yeah, it absolutely is!

Hattie Butterworth

Maybe you're an old soul. It's alright.

Verity Simmons

I might be.

Hattie Butterworth

There are nine questions here. So you've been offered to tickets to a Britten opera and Seb is playing. But it doesn't finish until 11. Okay, Seb isn't playing.

Seb Philpott

Okay.

Hattie Butterworth

You decline the tickets? It sounds boring. 2) nervously accept worrying about how it will affect your sleep. 3) except them. What an amazing freebie! Or 4) You're going anyway. In fact, at this very moment, you're wearing a Britten Pears t-shirt.

Verity Simmons

Oh, I'm gonna say three.

Rebecca Toal

What was that?

Hattie Butterworth

What an amazing freebie.

Verity Simmons

I love a freebie.

Rebecca Toal

Yeah, to be fair, even if it a Mozart...

Hattie Butterworth

It says Sebastiaan Bach ... is the final two names of your favourite Baroque composer, is your favourite 1980s heavy metal singer songwriter, or plays Gil your favourite character on Gilmore Girls.

Verity Simmons

Oh, blimey. Well, I'm gonna have to go one because it's true. You know, no.

Hattie Butterworth

The last thing you used on your phone was 1) TikToe? I think they mean TikTok.

Verity Simmons

TikToe?

Hattie Butterworth

TikToe.

Verity Simmons

Tic tac toe. I'm from the 18th century, I've got a very very old soul.

Hattie Butterworth

TikTok.

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

Something with 'Gram' in the title, the Berlin Phil digital concert hall ...

Rebecca Toal

On your phone?

Hattie Butterworth

Or snake?

Verity Simmons

I'm going to say 2, but can I just say that if I had snake on my phone still, I'd flipping well play that, but 2.

Hattie Butterworth

Okay.

Rebecca Toal

Also that's not your music taste... what is this quiz?

Hattie Butterworth

It's how old is your soul.

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

Don't diss the quiz.

Rebecca Toal

Based on your classical music taste.

Hattie Butterworth

Oh yeah!

Rebecca Toal

TikToe.

Hattie Butterworth

One of the best known classical string pieces is playing on the radio.

Verity Simmons

Okay.

Hattie Butterworth

What is it? It is either Barber's Adagio for Strings, the soundtrack to the 1986 film Platoon, Tiesto's biggest 2005 hit or what's a radio?

Verity Simmons

The thing is right, I feel like I'm being stitched up.

Rebecca Toal

Yeah you're being pigeonholed.

Verity Simmons

I know it's Barber because I've got flipping training. So I can't lie.

Hattie Butterworth

Well, I've already clicked Barber for you.

Verity Simmons

Thank you. Okay.

Hattie Butterworth

It's the interval in your school's Christmas concert. To you keep you going through the second half, you pick a package of Werther's Originals, a glass of wine, a rum and coke, a hot chocolate or I'm not going mate.

Verity Simmons

It's the second half of a school's concert.

Hattie Butterworth

So what are you having in the interval?

Seb Philpott

Rum and coke.

Verity Simmons

No, I'm gonna have a glass of wine.

Hattie Butterworth

Lovely, not the Werther's originals tonight.

Verity Simmons

Yeah, I'll probably have some of them shoved in my back pocket.

Hattie Butterworth

You want to pick up a new instrument. You pick: the organ so I can finally play at church, ukulele then set up a new Instagram account and start my career as a musical influencer, or piano to impress my dates or my husband.

Verity Simmons

Oh god he wouldn't be impressed by that. I'm gonna say ukulele because I'm sad.

Hattie Butterworth

Yeah, that's nice. You're at a classical concert. Your hands find themselves: reaching for your iPhone, reaching for your reading glasses to study the programme, clutching a copy of the score or feeling the pimple on your chin.

Verity Simmons

Oh, that's horrible.

Rebecca Toal

What is this quiz?!

Verity Simmons

That's horrible.

Hattie Butterworth

That'd probably be me.

Rebecca Toal

I love this quizzes where they're like "this is obviously the answer for if you want to be like the young person."

Verity Simmons

Yeah, I'd be, I'd be reaching for my monocle.

Rebecca Toal

My will.

Verity Simmons

I think we all know there'll be my iPhone, I'm afraid. Not proud of that.

Hattie Butterworth

In the middle of a...

Seb Philpott

In the gig?

Verity Simmons

In the what?

Seb Philpott

In the gig?

Verity Simmons

In the gig?

Seb Philpott

In the middle of the concert.

Verity Simmons

Well, are they playing or are we talking about the ... you know when we're sat down between pieces or something?

Rebecca Toal

Yeah, and also like, you know, gigs can be pretty cool nowadays.

Seb Philpott

During the pieces.

Verity Simmons

During the pieces.

Hattie Butterworth

iPhone. She's already told us.

Rebecca Toal

You have like, digital programme notes.

Verity Simmons

I did say that'd would be my first thing because I wouldn't be doing those other three things I don't think, whatever they were.

Hattie Butterworth

Reaching for your reading glasses to study the programme.

Verity Simmons

No.

Rebecca Toal

It sounds old.

Seb Philpott

You wanna be oblivious to what's going on.

Verity Simmons

No, no. And what were the other two choices?

Hattie Butterworth

Oh, well I've already clicked on the iPhone.

Verity Simmons

Oh, iPhone'll do? Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

So eight of nine. You love Gershwin because it's classical but jazzy, or it's jazz but classical.

Verity Simmons

Oh, that's interesting, isn't it?

Hattie Butterworth

Yeah. Clever one there.

Rebecca Toal

But which Gershwin?

Verity Simmons

God. I'm gonna say it's jazz but it's classical.

Hattie Butterworth

Like that.

Verity Simmons

Oh no, what's this?

Hattie Butterworth

And the nine of nine.

Verity Simmons

Okay.

Hattie Butterworth

You ready Verity? Are electric violins cool? Yes or no?

Verity Simmons

Oh god, this is a really contentious question.

Hattie Butterworth

Come on Verity.

Rebecca Toal

This will bring you down.

Verity Simmons

I gonna say no.

Hattie Butterworth

No.

Verity Simmons

They're not cool.

Hattie Butterworth

Calculating results.

Rebecca Toal

97.

Hattie Butterworth

66.

Verity Simmons

Oh my god.

Hattie Butterworth

There's a picture ...

Verity Simmons

What?! Oh, look at me. Look at me. I know my Mrs. Doubtfire. This is terrible.

Hattie Butterworth

You're middle aged at heart.

Verity Simmons

Oh.

Hattie Butterworth

And we respect that. Now grab your reading glasses, pop some Beethoven on and get back to that Jilly Cooper novel.

Verity Simmons

Oh wow.

Rebecca Toal

What are Classic FM trying to achieve with that?

Verity Simmons

Well...

Hattie Butterworth

That was really funny.

Verity Simmons

That's great. That's just great. I know we accessed loads of like sad memories, but that's affected me far more.

Rebecca Toal

Yeah, 66.

Hattie Butterworth

Think we're done now. Thank you guys.

Verity Simmons

Thanks should we have a few moments to have a shakedown.

Rebecca Toal

I need the loo.

Seb Philpott

We're gonna do you now.

Verity Simmons

Yeah.

Hattie Butterworth

So...

Seb Philpott

Said that so aggressively.

Verity Simmons

You did. Do we need to do anything to ...

Hattie Butterworth

Go over to the other guy's podcast for part two. Nice.

Rebecca Toal

Doo doo doo.

Verity Simmons

Doo doo doo.