

## October 21<sup>st</sup> 2009

### The Arts Experiment

The final instalment of Buddy Beat's involvement in this year's Festival took place at Dykebar Hospital in Paisley. The event was called "The Arts Experiment" and ran from 7-9pm and was for the patients and staff of the hospital. Buddy Beat was not alone for the evening- there was also singing and drama too.

Jane couldn't be with us as she is away in Paris, taking her magic to patients in hospitals, helping them with musical therapy.

The Buddy Beaters were:-

Jeanette Allan, Karen Auld, Tom Chalmers, Anne Dowie. Eileen McGrory, Anne Ross and Sarah Van Der Molen.

Tom became Buddy Beat Taxi Driver and firstly picked up Anne Ross and Sarah across from the museum before zipping over to Seedhill in Paisley to collect Eileen and then onto Barrhead for the one and only Anne Dowie. Tom and his Lovely Ladies arrived at the hospital 20 minutes prior to the start of the event and Jeanette looked relieved to see us. The hall itself looked beautiful- the pink sofas were set out in rows at the front and behind that several tables were set up with smart white table cloths. In the corner the tea and coffee table was set up with what looked like 10,000 cakes and buns. Scottish saltires and flags hung from the ceiling and strings of blue and white lighting reached across the room from once side to the other. The scene was set for a party night!



*The brightly decorated hall*

Jeanette showed us to our table. That was the 2<sup>nd</sup> event in a row that we have had a table to ourselves- this is the standard that has been set. All that was missing was the champagne, flowers and caviar, but there is still time. We unpacked our drums and Jeanette asked how we would proceed with our time slot and it was kind of agreed that we would, to use the technical term, "wing it".



*Some of Girls Aloud dropped in- Anne D, Eileen and Sarah*

Our number was boosted by the welcome sight of Karen Auld, making us The Magnificent 7! We had some time to kill and sat chatting, with some cups of tea and cakes. The patients and staff began to trickle in and by the time the proceedings started, there must have been a good 100 people in the hall.

Occupational Therapist Joe Kane has an amazing zest for life and he was the ideal candidate to be the host for the evening. He said a few words of welcome, telling everyone it was “Showcase Showtime” and introducing the first act of the evening.

The Wynd Drama Group from Paisley were due to premier their show “Friends Re-United” on the following day. This is a play that stresses the importance of staying in touch with old friends and follows a group of school chums as they meet periodically in their adult lives. The group chose to perform the last scene and it was very entertaining and thought provoking.

The second act was quickly on and this was a Gaelic Choir called Sonas. Their first number had a haunting melody and their 2<sup>nd</sup> had a good Highland lilt to it and everyone was soon clapping along, and at the end the choir received a warm round of applause.



*Sonas Gaelic Choir in fill swing*

Buddy Beat was up next and host Joe, who is surely another ideal candidate for an honorary Buddy Beat membership, gave us a special introduction. In the absence of Jane, Jeanette took to the floor, instructing the gathering that we would soon be making music together, but that firstly Buddy Beat would give a little example of drumming. Tom counted everyone in and we started with a quiet 8 beat rumble, and then paused for 4 beats before launching into a mid rumble for another eight. Another 4 beat pause and a loud rumble came before launching into freestyle. Tom let them play free- style for a moment or two and then instructed the Buddy Beaters to stop suddenly and then restart. Then we lowered and raised the

volume, stopped and starting once more before Anne Ross got us to play just in the centre of drums and then Jeanette gave us the nod and we finished with a huge rumble, receiving a great round of applause.

Jeanette, who had earlier passed out an ocean of shakers and Boomwhackers, then took over. Jeanette began with getting the audience to rumble on their instruments and then instructed them on how to stop and start as one. Buddy Beat provided a quite background beat and Jeanette continued by teaching each Boomwhacker “colour” their own little beat. Singling out the shakers she got them to sound by themselves and then threw everyone into the deep end with a big jamming session. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and the atmosphere in the hall was electric. Jeanette then produced cowbells and initiated an echo and response exercise. The cowbell is wonderful to hear as its tone rises above all the other percussion and can’t be missed. To close we played as one and ended on a big finish! What an excellent appreciation we heard from everyone in the hall!



*Jeanette in her alter ego as community musician.  
Didn't she do well?*

We quickly retreated to our seats and Sonas were back on for another two numbers which had everyone clapping and humming along.

Then it was time for the main act of the evening- Muckle-a-doo from Edinburgh. Muckle-a-doo are three men who are part of Hospital Music and seem to spend all their time playing around Scotland’s hospitals and also tour a lot of nursing homes. Two guitarists and a drummer, they introduced themselves and said well done to everyone that had been on before but stressed that they thought the drumming had been superb! It’s really rewarding to hear musician’s say that!

They played for 45 minutes and amongst their many songs, they added some humour. We were told jokingly that their first number was the old classic “When the Bed Collapses I’ll See You in the Spring.” On another occasion we were informed that “If you know any of our songs and feel the notion to sing along with the chorus, then please don’t as it puts us off!” Lastly one of the guys said-“Why is it women are always on a diet? My wife has been on a banana and coconut diet but hasn’t lost any weight- but she sure can climb trees!”

Their brand of music was very infectious and they played many crowd pleasing standards- Waltzing Mathilda, Little Old Wine Drinker Me, Billie Jo Spears and Carpenters favourite Jambalaya, Whisky In The Jar, Oh Boy!, a medley that included “Does Your Chewing Gum Lose It’s Flavour on The Bed Post Overnight?”, “Bonnie Wee Jeanie McCall and in a rousing finish “Mhairi’s Wedding. Everyone was singing along, and Buddy Beat were tapping rhythms to the music on the table-top apart from the ever inventive Anne Ross who slid her drum beneath the table and battered out beats that way!



*Muckle-a-doo thrilling the audience!*

Joe Kane then closed the event with a list of thanks. The evening was another success and a real tonic. As we packed up and left, the lady who led the Sonas Gaelic Choir told Tom that they had loved the drumming very much indeed.



*The Lovely Ladies- Sarah, Anne R, Anne D and Eileen*



*Anne R- "Tom, this is like Eurovision!"*

Wow! There can be no doubt whatsoever that Buddy Beat's involvement in The Festival 2009 was second to none. It was a busy, exciting, funny and inspiring time for everyone. What will happen next year for Buddy Beat? Whatever it is-bring it on!

Words and pictures by Tom Chalmers