



## ARMCHAIR ADVENTURES

### Bonus Episode 2 Transcript – Meet The Musician (Clarinet)

#### AA Theme

Connie: Hi guys, Connie here. Welcome to our bonus episodes- sounds posh eh? In this bonus episode we are going to meet one of the amazing musicians that played on the series. The music in Armchair Adventures is so important. It really helps set your imagination free. I've learnt so much from doing Armchair Adventures and had so much fun, and music is a big part of that. I've still got bags of questions though that I'd love to ask the musicians, so I've asked my friends from the community theatre group who made The Showbiz Adventure in episode 5, to help me out. Over to you. Love you guys.

#### Music fades

Ensemble: Hi, I'm Nicola,  
I'm Chris,  
Hi, I'm Danny,  
Hi, I'm John,  
I'm Mike,  
I'm Habib,  
Hi, I'm Katie,  
I'm John,  
I'm Julia,  
And I'm Michelle.

Nicola: ...and together we're the Johnny Barlow theatre Company!

#### SFX - Applause

We loved listening to the amazing music in Armchair Adventures so we're dead chuffed to be able to interview the musicians.

On this episode....drum roll please...

#### SFX - Drum roll

It's Hannah, who plays the clarinet in episode 4, Jean's Artistic Adventure. Say hello Hannah!

Hannah: Yeh, hello everybody, my name's Hannah. I live in Manchester, and I play the clarinet.

Chris: Ah yes, I love the clarinet, I used to play that when I was at school. Did you know it's got a nickname, 'the liquorice stick'.

Hannah: That's right, exactly, yeh!

Katie: Why's it got that nickname?

Chris: It's because it looks a bit like a piece of liquorice, you know, like you'd find in a sweet shop. It's a long narrow cylinder shape, and it's black.

Mike: So how do you play the clarinet?

Chris: You have to blow down it.

Nicola: Let's all try blowing down a clarinet listener, ready...go!

SFX Ding  
SFX blowing.

Chris: But it doesn't make a sound unless you have a reed.

Katie: What's a reed Chris?

Chris: It's a small piece of wood, cane to be precise.

Hannah: This is the most important thing of the clarinet. What I'm holding up is a very, very small piece of cane. If I don't have it on the clarinet and I blow the clarinet, (Hannah blowing), there's no sound at all.

When I put this on the clarinet, and I blow against it. So, I'm putting the tiny piece of cane at the top of the clarinet and I'm gonna blow against it this time, exactly as I did before...

Hannah plays the clarinet

...That little cane is doing something that is producing sound, does anyone know what it's doing. That's a really difficult question, what's the cane doing?

John: It's vibrating.

Hannah: Yeh, exactly, exactly. It's just like your vocal cords vibrate when you speak and that's how we get sound. So, when I blow against it, it vibrates.

Hannah plays the clarinet

Now if I put my tongue against the reed it stops it vibrating...

Hannah plays the clarinet

...and that's how the sound stops.

Hannah plays the clarinet

Habib: That sounds really good Hannah.

Michelle: So, do you blow differently to get different sounds and effects?

Hannah: We always kind of blow the same, just lots of air coming out, it's like the engine of the clarinet. So, if I don't put air down it the whole time, it won't work. If I just move my fingers like this, you hear them, but nothing really works. So we always blow with lots of air the same, but we do lots of things as well with our tongues to make the sound different and to get different effects. Shall I show you a couple of things?

Ensemble: Yes please, yeh, love to hear you play!

Hannah: Yeh, ok so I could play something which is just blowing normally and it would just sound like this.

Hannah plays the clarinet

That's in one long breath, but if I start to tongue each note.

Katie: What does tonguing mean again Hannah?

Hannah: All it means is that our tongue very lightly stops our reed. I'll show you here, and break it up a little it will sound quite different.

Hannah plays the clarinet

Danny: That sounds kind of spikey!

Hannah: If I do something even more different, if I roll my r's. I don't know, can anyone here roll their r's like 'rrrrrrrrr'

Nicola: Let's all try rolling our r's like Hannah listener, ready...go!

SFX - Ding  
SFX - Rolling r's

Hannah: You can do that with the clarinet, and see if you think sounds more different.

Hannah plays the clarinet

Julia: It sounded like you were playing underwater!

Ensemble: Yeh it did, yeh, you're right!

Hannah: So, there's lots we can do to get different effects with the clarinet, I can show you loads of effects, so it's a good question, a really good question.

Mike: What advice would you give to any young musicians out there?

Hannah: I'd say listen to lots of music and different people playing and do a little bit of practice every day. There'll always be times when you're learning an instrument where something becomes a little bit hard but keep going because it's really, really fun!

Excerpt of clarinet in Armchair Adventures Episode 4 – Jean's Artistic Adventure

Mike: So Hannah, what was the role of the clarinet in Armchair Adventures then?

Hannah: The clarinet in Armchair Adventures was to bring some of the script to life, so it was to play certain little tunes and little melodies and paint a musical picture really, to help describe what the story was that the group had written.

Mike: I'm interested to know how you can represent characters through music?

Hannah: That's a really good question! There's lots of different ways so, if you imagine an artist, you know an artist has an artist palette which is a big piece of wood with lots of colours on it. And artists can use lots of different colours to create different moods, different characters....

Julia: I'd love blues and yellows for a lovely sunny day.

Habib: Or reds and greys for a storm out at sea.

Hannah: And we can do that on our instrument as well, there's lots of things we can do to create different characters and effects. We can play fast, we can play slow, we can play high, we can play low. We can use different notes, different styles, to make the listener imagine a certain character or a certain feeling.

Mike: While Hannah plays listener, let's use our imaginations to think of what the music could represent.

SFX - Ding

Hannah plays the clarinet

Danny: It sounded to me like a leaf floating in the wind.

Katie: I could imagine a little animal scurrying on the ground.

John: I was thinking about the start of spring.

Hannah: Hmm, yeh. Like things blooming and opening up.

Mike: It sounded to me like a river flowing, as the waves ripple towards the bank.

Nicola: Let's move our hands to show the shape of the waves as Hannah plays listener, ready...go!

Hannah plays the clarinet

Habib: What's the difference between the music you played to describe the sunny day and the music to describe the storm Hannah?

Hannah: There were quite a few differences actually, so I'll play what I did for the sunny day.

Hannah plays the clarinet

Hannah: That as a sunny day, it was like what John said earlier about spring, things blooming and opening up. We created a tune that went up so it bloomed, it kind of came up and then it settled and slowed down at the end to give it that peaceful feeling, that sunshine gives us all when we feel warm, and we feel calm and it's very nice.

Hannah plays the clarinet

Hannah: And actually as a musical thing as well I played that in a major key.

Katie: What's a major key?

John: It's something to do with which notes you choose to play, isn't it Hannah?

Hannah: So major keys have a much lighter sound or they sound much happier than minor keys.

Hannah plays the clarinet

And if I turn it into minor

Hannah plays the clarinet

Which some people find quite dark. So, when it came to the storm, I put it in a minor key and used different notes to make it sound darker, to make it sound more intense.

Hannah plays the clarinet

Ensemble: That does sound scary, it does sound like a storm, you can actually feel it in the music.

Mike: So Hannah, where would you go on an Armchair Adventure?

Hannah: Ooo, that is a really good question and don't we all need to go somewhere at the moment, it's been a really difficult year. Do you know what, it sounds a bit boring but I think I'd go to Scotland because I've got loads of family there that I've not seen for ages. Or, I'd go somewhere I've never been before like, Brazil and hear the music like all the Latin American music would be really really great.

SFX – Latin American music

Chris: I'd probably go to West Virginia.

SFX – Bluegrass music

Chris: Oh, I'd love to go back there. I went there about 20 years ago.

Hannah: Oh, that's great!

Chris: The weather was that hot it felt like a hairdryer blowing in your face. They have really big insects flying around, massive locusts the size of a small bird!

### SFX – Flying insect

Mike: Can you play the clarinet to sound like a flying locust Hannah?

Hannah: Chris, you're talking about just really fast round and round or more of a buzz?

Chris: Bit of both really.

### Hannah plays the clarinet

Chris: That's it!

Nicola: Let's pretend to be wafting away the huge insects while Hannah plays, ready listener...go!

### SFX Ding

### Hannah plays the clarinet

Ensemble: That was great! Great stuff Hannah, Yeh cool! They were flying everywhere!

Michelle: We're almost at the end now, but before we go, could you recommend a piece of music for us to go away and listen to please Hannah?

Hannah: Definitely, well I have to recommend for the clarinet and for Chris in the room who is a clarinet player as well, and loves jazz, if you've never hear 'Rhapsody In Blue' go and listen to 'Rhapsody In Blue' by Gershwin with the big clarinet solo at the beginning and it gets dead exciting and jazzy after that.

### Extract – 'Rhapsody In Blue' by George Gershwin

Ensemble: That was really inspiring, thanks Hannah. Yeh, that was so good. See ya Hannah. Thanks Hannah, Bye! I loved that, thank you Hannah.

Hannah: Bye everyone!

Connie: That was great. I learnt so much. Thanks for your help everyone and thanks to you too listener. Love you guys.

### AA theme

