



ISOBEL BATES

Musical Director / Singer / Actress / Musician

PROFILE

Isobel is a passionate Musical Director, singer, actress and musician with over 17 years teaching and Musical Directing experience. A versatile vocalist, with strong sight reading skills and varied repertoire, she has both classical and Estill training on voice, and gained her Vocal Health First Aider qualification in May 2021.

She has taught at HE institutions including: Italia Conti, ICMT, Laine Theatre Arts, Associated Studios, Urdang Academy and University of Cumbria, as a rep. coach, technique specialist, acting through song tutor and group singing teacher.

In London, she works regularly as a piano / vocalist at various request bars, and is Head of Production and Resident Musical Director for Live Business. She is currently the Managing Director for Bespoke Entertainment, creating shows, arrangements, sheet music and both click and backing tracks for productions and guest entertainer acts.

Isobel has also worked professionally as a Musical Director / Conductor for a number of musicals, including: Jones's Diary - The Musical, Copacabana, A Grand Night for Singing, Guys and Dolls, Beauty and the Beast, The Full Monty and Rent.

EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT

Recent Credits as Musical Director

Founder and Musical Director - Bespoke Entertainment *Jun. 2020 - Present*
Work includes: show creation, backing and click tracks, vocal arrangements, orchestration and charts.

Head of Production and Musical Supervisor - Live Business *Sept. 2018 - Present*
Musical Supervisor and Vocal Arranger for:
Saga Cruises, Costa Cruises, Brittany Ferries and P&O Ferries.
Musical Director, Install MD and Vocal Arranger for
Saga, TUI Blue (Family Life), P&O Ferries, Thomson Gold and Tallink Contracts.
Whole Show Creator / Orchestrator / Band Parts / Backing and Click Tracks for:
Saga Cruises, Thomson Gold, P&O and Brittany Ferries.

Project Manager:
P&O Ferries new shows 2019, Thomson Gold new shows 2019.
Backing Vocals and/or Trumpet recording for:
Saga Cruises, Costa Cruises, P&O Ferries, Thomson Gold, Tallink, TUI Family Life.
- Arranged (tracks, band parts and vocals) and MDed over 30 productions
- Vocal arrangements done both in advance but also 'on the fly' in the room to suit the individual casts strengths.
- Musical Direction work included extra vocal training adapting classical singers to pop/rock material and visa versa.

MD, Kellanne Masterclass - The Theatre Cafe, Leicester Square *Jul. 2022*

Dep. MD, The Barricade Boys UK Tour - incl. Churchill, Bromley, ATG *Jun. / Jul. 2019*

MD and Arranger, Jones' Diary: The Musical - Piano Works West End *Feb. 2019*

MD, Steph Parry 'The Girl Who Ran Down The Road' - PW West End *Feb. 2019*

'The Show Goes On' & 'One Night Only' - PW West End *Sept. 2018 - Feb. 2019*
Weekly West End cast 'take over' Cabarets and events, with celebrity and West End Singers. Alternated being MD and Associate MD, as well as soloist, for these shows.

Show MD / Keys / Trumpet / Sax, Our Day Out - Towngate Theatre *Aug. 2018*

MD, 'Off Broadway' Cabaret Nights - Wyllyotts Theatre *Jan. - Jun. 2018*

Reading and London, UK

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EDUCATION

MA in Performance (Musical Theatre)

Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts
August 2013 - August 2014

PGCE Secondary (Music)

Durham University
September 2005 - June 2006

BA (Hons) English Lit. & Music, 2:1

Durham University
September 2002 - June 2005

Wirral Grammar School for Girls

2002, A Levels: 4As, 1B (Music A)
2000, GCSEs: 3A*s, 6As, 1B (Music A)
September 1995 - June 2002

TRAINING / CPD

Vocal Health First Aider (Level 2) -
Vocal Health Education UK, *May 2021*

Estill Levels 1&2
The Voice Explained *July 2020*

INSTRUMENTS

Expert

- Voice (MA, DipLCM)
- Piano (Post-Grade 8 Standard)
- Trumpet (ABRSM Grade 8, post-Grade 8 standard)

Intermediate

- Accordion
- Alto / Tenor Saxophone
- Flute

Basic

- Guitar
- Drums

Teaching

- 1-2-1 singing technique
- 1-2-1 repertoire
- Audition prep. and technique
- Group technique
- Group singing
- Score reading
- Theory - beginner to advanced
- Workshop

Musical

- Professional Musical Director
- MDing from Keys
- Conductor - orchestral and pit band
- Pit band musician (keys and trumpet / flugelhorn)
- Arranger
- Composer - including MT work with Michael Webborn

Vocal

- BV recording specialist
- Choral singing
- Classical singing
- Close harmony singing / small group
- Contemporary singing
- Experienced session singer
- Harmony singing
- Improvisation - both harmony and jazz
- Jazz singing
- Sight reading

Arranging

- Vocal arranging - classical, musical theatre and pop/rock
- Orchestral arranging
- Pit band arranging
- String Quartet arranging
- Chamber ensembles
- Expanding reduced orchestrations
- Creating live band parts to go alongside click / backing tracks
- Backing / Click track creation
- Charts for cruise ships / scratch bands

Specialist ICT

- Sibelius
- Dorico
- Logic
- QLab

General ICT

- PC and Mac Literate
- Experienced with Zoom, Teams, Microsoft Suite and Mac equivalents.

Other

- Drama and Workshop Leader
- Experienced Timetabler - passed ATCL Timetabling Course in 2013
- Enhanced DBS

Other Credits as Musical Director

MD / Keys, Rent - MeMe Productions, Wyllyotts Theatre

MD, Beauty and the Beast - (Semi- Professional) Wyllyotts Theatre

MD, Seasons of Song (Cabaret) - (Semi- Professional) Wyllyotts Theatre

MD, The Full Monty - Wyllyotts Theatre

MD, Copacabana - (Professional Band) Harpenden Public Halls

MD, A Grand Night for Singing - (Professional Band) Harpenden Public Halls

MD, Guys and Dolls - (Professional Band) Harpenden Public Halls

Credits as Keys 2

Keys 2, Sister Act - Court Theatre, Tring

Keys 2, Kiss Me Kate - Luton Library Theatre

Selected Credits as Pit Band Musician / Guest Entertainer Act (Trumpet)

Trumpet - Little Women, Bernie Grants Arts Centre

Trumpet / Flugelhorn - Beauty and the Beast, Harpenden Public Halls

Trumpet 1 - Les Miserables (Youth Edition), Grove Theatre

Trumpet 1 - Annie Get Your Gun, Harpenden Public Halls

Trumpet 1 - The Sorcerer, West Theatre

Trumpet 1 - Iolanthe, Wyllyotts Theatre

Trumpet / Lead Vocalist - The Daisy Chains

Professional Theatre and Performing Credits

Freelance request bar and 'Duelling Pianos' Piano / Vocalist *Aug. 2014 - Present*
Contracts and venues worked include:

- Pianoworks (Farringdon & West End) including main bar, Blue Lounge (West End) and SingEasy (West End)
- Phoenix Arts Club - including Duelling Pianos and Theatreland Singalong
- Overtures - musical theatre singalong bar, requiring back to back sight reading
- Charing Cross Players Bar - single piano request bar in Charing Cross Theatre

Ensemble, 1st Trumpet / Vocal Captain - Zorro, Hope Mill Theatre *Feb. - Mar. 2020*

Fairy Fortywinks, Trumpet - Sleeping Beauty, King's Lynn Corn Exchange *Dec. 2018*

Flora / Clothilde, Trumpet - Poppies / A Foreign Field, Selladoor Creative *Nov. 2018*

Mimsie, Trumpet / Flute - Summer Holiday, Bolton Octagon *Apr. - Jun. 2018*

Trumpet / Lead Vocals - The Daisy Chains, Various Gigs, UK *Jan. 2017 - Dec. 2018*

Bo Peep, Keys / Trumpet
- Red Riding Hood, New Wolsey *Oct. 2017 - Jan. 2018*

Mrs Pankhurst / Nurse, 1st Trumpet
- Oh What a Lovely War, Oldham Coliseum *Aug. - Sep. 2017*

Lead Vocalist - Belinda King Productions / Holland America Line *Feb. - Nov. 2016*

Fairy Aubergine, 1st Keys / Trumpet / Trombone
- Jack and the Beanstalk, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre *Nov. 2015 - Jan. 2016*

Laura / Lesley Gore, Trumpet / Alto Sax / Drums
- Leader of the Pack, Waterloo East *Sep. - Nov. 2016*

Lead Soloist - Magic of Broadway, de Havilland Philharmonic *May 2015*

Jill, Keys / Trumpet - Jack and the Beanstalk, Theatre Clwyd *Oct. 2014 - Jan. 2015*