



# ISOBEL BATES

Musical Director / Singer / Actress / Musician

## PROFILE

Isobel is a passionate Musical Director, singer, actress and musician with over 16 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. She is currently studying for her Vocal Habilitation Professional qualification, having passed her Vocal Health First Aider qualification in May 2021.

She has taught at HE institutions including: 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 a Musical Director, Orchestrator and Arranger for Saga Cruises and 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.

**Musical Supervisor / Musical Director - Live Business** Sept. 2018 - Present  
Musical Supervisor and Vocal Arranger for:  
Saga Cruises and Costa Cruises

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.

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.

**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

## 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 Habilitation Professional -

currently studying for my next level qualification with Vocal Health Ed. UK.

### 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


Alto / Tenor Saxophone, Flute, Accordion.

### Basic

Guitar, Drums.

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## SKILLS

### 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*