



HBS MUSICIAN



**The Henrietta Barnett School
Music Department**

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/In Industria

*Of course, there are many who take a musical related career path further into life, and we are very honoured to have someone share with us about what it's like working in industry! **Fiona Butterworth** is an audiologist who has worked with many big orchestras as part of her job, and here's some details on what it's like to be one.*

Tell us a bit about what you do!

I am a clinical lead audiologist at Harley Street Hearing and the Musicians' Hearing Services.

What led to you taking this career path?

Initially, I studied Acoustics with Music at the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research. I loved the fact I could continue with my bassoon studies alongside the main focus of Acoustical Engineering. When I realised that, aside from the musical acoustics of designing concert halls, my favourite part of the course was everything to do with how we interact with sound, I started looking into what audiology has to offer and continued with an audiology masters.

What does your job involve?

As an audiologist, I spend time in clinic understanding the hearing difficulties my patients are experiencing, and advise on the best steps moving forward. I particularly enjoy the work we do supporting and educating organisations and companies on the importance of good hearing health hygiene, and have given presentations to several professional London orchestras and spoken at several conferences raising awareness and educating on the importance of using hearing protection within all musical environments.

What have you been up to in music?

I still play the bassoon and particularly enjoy the orchestral music I get involved in, but since moving a few years ago, I joined Sing All Together Beckenham. It's a brilliant community choir that really does feel like family - a testament to how singing has such a positive impact on your mental health. There's no requirement to be able to read music to join the group, so I enjoy the challenge of improving my aural skill and music-related memory.

Thank you Fiona!

