



Claire was born in Derby on the 28th of April 1980 where she still lives today. She did not show any interest in music until at the age of five, her parents took her to Pontins "Middleton Towers" on holiday. This coincided with the A.O.E National Organ Festival week, during this time she met and made new friends and along with a number of other children received free organ lessons. This lit the spark and she returned home full of enthusiasm to learn the organ.

The local Music School was contacted and she was enrolled into a group class. Over the next 3 years she moved quickly through the grades and by the time she was 8 years old had managed to pass the first five grades. At this point her parents decided that she needed private tuition and enrolled her with a very good local professional organist. About the same time the organ was changed to a Wersi Beta with a full set of drawbars and programmable rhythm unit. This enabled her to play lots of different types of music and she started to learn to program rhythms to fit the various pieces of music. It also became clear that she had perfect pitch much to the amusement of the music examiners.

Continuing with the higher organ grades which also now included theory of music, which she found quite difficult at times because of her young age, she was entered for and passed the Associate Diploma (with Hons) at the age of eleven.

By this time Claire had started secondary school, she joined the school Wind band playing the flute and was also playing the piano. She was working her way through the grades on the flute at school but wanted to go as far as possible with the organ exams. Next in line was the Licentiate Diploma and this was followed by the Fellowship Diploma which she passed with Honours at the age of sixteen.

During these years she had played at the local organ society and been involved in a number of charity concerts. Her annual visits to the National Organ Festival had continued, from which she had gained much experience and support over the years. This finally resulted in her first festival booking at the age of seventeen. Just seven weeks before the event she had problems with the organ and had to change it. A Wersi Performer was obtained, this presented a huge problem to learn the computer side of the instrument and produce an hours program on it in the timescale but Claire rose to the occasion and managed it with a few days to spare. In fact, she mastered the instrument so well that she has written a couple of articles for the W.E.S. magazine to provide an easy to follow format for making a sequence and programming of rhythms.

She started playing on the organ circuit in mid 1998 and has played at many of the

various clubs and societies throughout the UK and Channel Islands, firstly on the Wersi Performer and from 2014 Claire will be playing the new Wersi Pegasus Wing Duo Pro.

A return to full time education in 2001 saw Claire studying for A levels in Maths, Chemistry and Human Biology, and a BA(hons) in Popular Music Production and Sports Studies locally in Derby. The musical elements of her degree involved theory, performance in a group and solo context, knowledge of the music industry and using a recording studio for the production of a CD.

The sports part of the degree saw anatomy and physiology along with various mechanisms involved in movement and for sports, nutrition, coaching children, elite performers and disabled performers, various safety issues involved with sports and finally a dissertation on the effects of caffeine on the reaction times of cricketers.

This gave Claire a foundation of knowledge to progress to a Masters degree at Chester University where she completed her studies in 2008. This was an MSc in Exercise and Nutrition Science with her thesis involving carbohydrate consumption for completion of an endurance cycling event.

In 2009 Claire got married to Andy and although she is now officially Mrs Barrett she has kept her stage name as Claire Greig.