

Suburb  
Style editor  
Deborah  
Warland,  
talks to  
residents  
about some  
of their  
favourite  
things



Deborah  
Warland



## SUBURB

### Proms musician

featuring Deborah Calland

*Deborah Calland is a highly successful trumpet player and lives on the Suburb with her husband, Barry Millington. Here she gives an interview with Suburb Style editor, Deborah Warland.*

What, I wonder, is your mental picture of a female trumpet player, performing in what most people regard as a male preserve? Inevitably this thought went through my mind as I planned my interview with Deborah Calland – one of the many talented musicians and writers living on the Suburb.

Before we go any further I must first dispense with the obvious cliché. No, Deborah is not inclined to 'blow her own trumpet', though she is intensely dedicated to her chosen career and her undoubted love of contemporary, less familiar musical compositions – many of which have been written specifically for her.

She and her husband, Barry Millington (who is the music critic of the Evening Standard and also writes for many other publications) moved to the Suburb some thirteen years ago and were very fortunate to find a house

with a lovely garden in Denman Drive, backing on to Big Wood, with all it's wonderful trees (another of her passions).

To complete their dream, it was necessary to have an extension built in which she could practice on her trumpet at all hours, without disturbing the neighbours too much. This was designed by Roz Archer and it won the Suburb award for Architectural Merit.

Deborah studied at the Royal Academy of Music and has since pursued a multi-faceted career as a trumpet soloist, editor and writer on music. In answer to my question as to whether her instrument was indeed a male bastion she recalled that in her first lesson at the Royal Academy her professor informed, or perhaps forewarned, her that 'male players did not want women in the brass section'. She believes that such attitudes have since changed and there are now several prominent women brass players.

To date her highly successful career has included recitals in the USA, France, Germany, Denmark, and Iceland, in addition to numerous venues across the UK. She has also performed concertos with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and the Virtuosi di Kuhmo in Finland (in which country she was married to Barry at the location famous for the Savonlinna Opera Festival).

Deborah is currently touring with her new ensemble, Counterpoise but is looking forward to a return visit to the St Jude's Proms this year when she will perform at the closing concert on 22 June, playing the popular Haydn trumpet concerto with the Southbank Sinfonia. Regarding our Proms she added, "It's fantastic news that they are commissioning the composer David Matthews (another Suburb resident) to write a new work for 2009 as I'm keen to see more music by living composers complementing the classics – the St Jude's Proms really are unique on the festival circuit."

Deborah was keen to express her gratitude to the Arts Council of England for all it's generous on-going financial support. For it's part and in recognition of this important assistance, Counterpoise has offered an education project to Henrietta Barnett School.

When she is not performing, attending receptions, events, concerts, arranging future bookings or practising, Deborah finds the Suburb an ideal place to relax. "Our own garden is a very tranquil spot which Barry and I have made into a wildlife haven with a pond at its centre. I also often visit the string of ponds on the Heath extension and I also enjoy some surprisingly quiet walks in Golders Hill Park."

For further information on Counterpoise you can look at their website: [www.counterpoise.org.uk](http://www.counterpoise.org.uk)

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