

## BIO

My name is Barbara, She/Her and I am a London, UK Artist.

My mediums involve working with my hands to produce sound, textiles and words on paper. My main musical instruments are flute and piccolo. I make fabric by knitting and crocheting with yarn and even incorporated it into my hair as super bright yarn braids. I cross stitch and tat - a method of forming lace with shuttles and needles and I recently learned how to use a sewing machine. I have written down my thoughts and crafted stories since I could form the written word.

Music has been a part of my life since my first memories of singing along to Zaminamina by the Cameroonian band Zangelewa on an African stars music videos VHS cassette in my family living room with my siblings. I started with the voice, singing in school choirs and singing for the first time in the Royal Albert Hall within the Redbridge Choral Music Festival. The festival is a biennial celebration of chorus and orchestra from amongst all the schools; primary, secondary, sixth form of the borough of Redbridge, East London.

I was in year 5 at the time, about 11 years old and I had begun flute lessons in the previous term at age 10. I had spotted my flute teacher down in the orchestral pit and it was then that I made the promise to myself that one day, I too would be down in the pit playing my flute and I achieved that goal, 6 years later in my last year of school, playing the flute, piccolo and gamelan.

From there, I went to university to study Maths and I put my flute and my needles, hook and pen down to study. It was one of my hardest years. The following year I picked up my hook, my needles and my flutes again and felt grounded once more. No matter what was happening in my personal and academic life, my art has been

there for me and over the years, I have made enduring friendships and even found love.

Music has always been a place I can be myself and feel at home. Music is where my friends are and where I feel safe. Music is home.