

OUR NEW VOICES



Chieun Han (1st soprano) - Front row left

Chieun's music making started at the age of 6, singing and playing the piano in South Korea. Moving to Milton Keynes aged 10 she spent most Saturdays at the music school active in choirs and orchestras. At Manchester University she joined the medical orchestra and choir but time for music was limited by her studies. Now in Birmingham since 2019 she is working and training as a consultant Histopathologist (look it up!).

"Music has always been a big part of my life and I wanted to continue my interest in the new city when I moved to Birmingham in 2019. However with COVID pandemic, my plan to join a choir had to be delayed. I was looking for a choir with a big range of repertoire and was delighted to find out about Birmingham Bach Choir, which is known to have a very varied music spanning many centuries"

Katie Foxton (2nd soprano) - Front row middle

From St Albans Katie then lived in London moving up to Birmingham last year to start a new job working for Birmingham Museums Trust as a Learning & Engagement Officer. She first caught the singing bug as a

chorister in St Alban's Abbey Girls Choir and continued singing in college chapel choirs at university as well as the G & S society. She also enjoys playing trumpet in brass bands & loves Swing & Lindy Hop dancing.

"I liked the look of the repertoire the choir sang and the opportunity to perform regular concerts. It's so lovely to sing again. The Choir has been so welcoming so far! Rehearsals feel very friendly and relaxed, while also pushing the choir to sing at a high standard"

Lucinda Spicer (1st soprano) - Front row back

No relation to Paul! Lucinda's recent life was very different from now. Recently retired she has moved from the remote Highlands of Scotland, where she was a sheep farmer & crofter. She says they moved to Birmingham 'due to her husband's love of cricket' Her family are now grown up and back in a metropolis she was keen to resume singing (which she'd enjoyed at university and while working in London before the Highlands called.)

Singing Bach's Christmas Oratorio for the first time she says:

"it's a piece of pure celebration and wonderful to see Paul's interpretation of it emerging through the rehearsals; looking forward to hearing the final thing in all its exuberant glory in Lichfield"

Jonathan Willis (1st tenor) - Back row left

Originally from Norwich Jonathan moved to Birmingham as Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor in Early Modern History at the University of Birmingham, with a special interest in The Reformation.

He lives with his husband & 'spoilt cat - *Michael Gambon*'. An active choral singer when younger, work and life then got in the way.

"This is my first foray back into choral singing after a gap of about 15 years. I also play the piano, although not terribly well, as I don't get the chance to practice as often as I'd like. Ideally I wanted to join a large chamber choir, so BCC fits my requirements very nicely! I'm very much enjoying getting back into singing. Bach's Christmas Oratorio, which I know but have never sung before, is challenging and exciting to sing"

Jens Christian Claussen (2nd bass) Back row middle

Born and grew up in Kiel (Germany), and after interludes at Lübeck and Jacobs University Bremen, Jens Christian is now an academic at a Birmingham university to develop higher education teaching. Apart from singing (in a number of choirs previously) he plays the recorder (exploring all types) with a number of ensembles from Renaissance onwards. His daughters and wife are all also committed to music-making although for the time-being still in the EU and he joins them as much as possible. Observing that Birmingham Bach Choir is a very agile vocal ensemble he thinks if orientated towards sacred music a bit this is 'the first chorus to be in " around here.

"I was looking for an ambitious choir that is pretty on the toes from Bach to Brahms, with excursions to e.g. Dvorak, Monteverdi, Harris, Bruckner, Pärt, Lauritsen or any alike excursions that spicer up our musical life. I have been contributing to the Bach Choir St Marien Flensburg and the Kiel-Flensburg youth chamber choir conducted by Matthias Janz, for around a decade and that has to quite large degree shaped my musical life. So any choir defining itself as Bach Choir ambitions into this same aspiration from roots to beyond."

James Eyles (2nd bass) - Back row right

James comes from a small village called Ramsbury in the middle of Wiltshire but spent the last 4 years studying in Durham before coming to Birmingham working for his accountancy qualifications with KMPG.

Part of a choir for as long as he can remember he sang in the Chapel Choir at Marlborough College then in the Durham University Chamber Choir and Castle Chapel Choir. He also plays the flute.

Whilst living in Birmingham he pops back regularly to see his parents and make a fuss of their new lab puppy

Outside of work and singing he enjoys clay pigeon shooting, has just started golf lessons, and attends the odd Scottish Reeling ball whenever he can. Passionate about singing he says:

"Joining the choir has cemented my love of choral singing and of those who share my passion . I thoroughly look forward to my time with the choir!"