

## 8 of our 9 NEW VOICES



### **Amy Johnston (soprano)**

From Harrogate Amy started singing as a chorister, then a choral scholar at Trinity Hall. She also plays violin. Now living along the canal in the city centre working for the BBC but in addition a water colour artist with her own business

She says she's really excited to be part of a choir again and Birmingham Bach Choir is *"exactly what I was looking for, challenging and fast paced with very competent singers."*



### **Joanna Mason (alto)**

Originally from Somerset, Joanna has sung in Wells cathedral and with a range of chamber choirs over the years as well as the City of Birmingham Choir.

Work travel meant regular choir singing wasn't possible for a long period. She now works on an examining board in education and is really enjoying the pleasure of singing again with "such a friendly and welcoming group".

Her first experience of performing Bach (the Christmas Oratorio) was in Cairo Cathedral, so her first performance with this choir in Lichfield will be "quite a contrast"!



James, Carole, Lisa, Charlotte, Benedict, & Sandy

**James Langstaff** (baritone) - Front row left

Our first ever retired Bishop, James has been involved in singing and music (piano & organ) since his school days. Previously he sang with Norfolk Festival Chorus and Parliament Choir in Westminster.

**Carole Cummings** (soprano) – 2<sup>nd</sup> on left

An active musical life enjoying both classical and folk, Carole started singing as a child with school choirs. Since school she's sung with many choirs and played in orchestras (viola and violin) including performing with Birmingham Opera Company, Midland Opera and South Birmingham Sinfonia.

Living conveniently just round the corner to our new rehearsal venue in Cotteridge she wanted to join the choir because of our 'great repertoire, high standards and friendly people'

So far she's found the choir:

- *"challenging, friendly and fun!"*

**Lisa Thomas** (soprano) – 3<sup>rd</sup> on left

Growing up in Wiltshire, Lisa developed a love of music and singing at school, playing recorders, piano and flute. A long career followed as a primary school teacher in the Birmingham area specialising in music and running various choirs and instrument groups. Now part time at Pearson Vue test centre, and with her family grown up, she has the time to run, read, be with family and friends, play the piano more, and sing in an adult chamber choir again:

*"It's really stimulating being part of such an amazing choir after all these years. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the rehearsals so far and everyone has been so welcoming and friendly"*

**Charlotte Boden** (alto) - 3<sup>rd</sup> from right

Originally from Sutton Coldfield Charlotte is back in the area, close to family and friends again, as a newly qualified doctor in Sandwell Hospital.

She has always loved music, played the piano as a child (which she continues to enjoy) and started choir singing as a physics student at Jesus College, Oxford. Since then she's sung in St Mary's Swansea (when a medical student) and most recently at All Saints Leamington Spa:

*"I'm excited to be singing in the Bach Choir where I have been enjoying the beautiful and intricate repertoire and the wonderfully warm welcome from the rest of the choir"*

**Benedict Landauer** (Bass) - 2<sup>nd</sup> from right

A data analyst by day, a composer and hockey player by night, Benedict lives with his partner Ella and cat Freddie *"objectively the sweetest cat in the world!"*

Learning piano and violin when young, followed by drum kit in school (*in order to make a band, of course*) and joining a choir his dad conducted, as a boy alto, Benedict has been singing in choirs most of his life. He moved to Birmingham a few years ago to do a Masters in composition. Living just by the choir's new rehearsal room in Cotteridge he heard the singing so followed it up.

*"The choir has been so welcoming, and I'm enjoying singing again. The music is challenging (especially for someone a little rusty) but it's engaging and great fun. I'm very much looking forward to my first concert with the choir!"*

**Sandy Hay** (baritone) – far right

Originally from Ayrshire in Scotland, Sandy came to Birmingham to study at Birmingham Conservatoire in the late 90-s and made it his home.

He feels music is very much his 'life and passion', primarily as an instrumentalist: flute player and teacher .

But he did sing at school and joining a choir has been on his wish-list for some years, now it is being fulfilled:

*"I've loved the first few weeks of my time in the Choir. The sound the choir makes is glorious. Singing in the choir is very fulfilling in a very different way to playing the flute. I'm loving it and the sense of community is very welcoming! "*