OUR NEWEST VOICES



AIDAN HASLAM (tenor)

Aidan is a medic with specialising in blood cancers, currently doing a Phd at the Uni of Birmingham studying myeloma.

From the north of England, he moved to Birmingham 'for love' to join Katie (also a singer in the choir) & they married this summer. (This makes them the 5th couple both singing in the choir!)

Trained as a musician, mainly as a cellist and saxophonist, he was also a singer-chorister (York Minster) and then studied at Chetham's School of Music (Manchester). Climbing, mountaineering and swing dancing are his other interests all fighting for his time.

He says Katie persuaded him to re-engage with singing:

> "*I'm hugely enjoying the choir, people are really welcoming and there is a great mix of repertoire*"



CHRIS PARKES (baritone)

Chris had a full musical background playing cello & double bass in orchestras and as a chorister at Lichfield Cathedral, then moving to Wells Cathedral on a scholarship. But he opted for a career outside music training as a cabinet maker & designer (studying fine arts at Rycotewood College & furniture design at Leeds) then established his own business specialising in period properties (working with the NT, English Heritage & church Trusts).

Originally from Sutton Coldfield he moved around the UK, always pursuing his love of walking & mountaineering. After a serious rock climbing accident 3 years ago he decided, during his long hospitalisation, to move back to Birmingham to be closer to family. The accident put paid to orchestral playing but not singing: he joined after hearing a performance.

> "*Singing has become a passion for me. I'm really excited to now be in this choir. I have been made to feel very welcome within the choir and am looking forward to learning and performing some of the beautiful choral works within their repertoire"*



JAMES LAY (baritone)

James was a chorister at Lichfield cathedral and says he's been singing "for as long as I can remember" a variety of choral, light opera and oratorio.

He also plays the drums.

On moving to Birmingham last year he spotted the choir performing Bach's Mass in B Minor and couldn't resist the thought of joining.

"Everyone has been really friendly and welcoming. It's nice to be in an environment with people who are passionate about the music"

Working in Warwickshire with children he enjoys running and being in nature when not making music.



IAN HOWARTH (baritone)

Ian is a Birmingham Bach Choir Returner! He sang with the Birmingham Bach Choir many moons ago, under Richard Butt, when he was training for the Methodist ministry in Birmingham after reading music at University.

As an ordained minister he worked in various places across the Midlands and South East .

His last post was as Chair of the Birmingham District when he moved back to Birmingham.

Throughout his life he says he has "always tried to keep music going in various ways"

Now retired, apart from music, he supports his wife in her passion for beekeeping.

He says:

"I was looking for a choir that offered a different challenge and repertoire from others choirs I have been in, and I am really enjoying both the music making and being part of this friendly group"



RACHAEL WYATT (alto)

Originally from Canada Rachael is a research technician in a biomedical research lab at the University of Birmingham with a Phd in developmental biology. She moved to Birmingham with her two cats and husband to follow his career in atmospheric physics. Whilst enjoying settling into a very active life here including walking, reading, and, crafting(in small doses!) she missed music, which had always been a part of her life singing in church choirs with her mother and then grandmother, and then secular groups of various sizes.

She says she's *"so grateful to have been welcomed into this choir! It is such a tremendous joy to sing such exciting repertoire with such a skilled group of singers"*