

SINGER PROFILE

KATE FABER SOPRANO 1

In our regular series of singer profiles, first soprano Kate Faber (pictured, right), talks about touring and taking part in the Choir's outreach workshops.

I began by asking Kate what it was that made her choose The Bach Choir back in 2007. "A friend was a big fan of David Hill and suggested I audition. It is a massive plus that David takes almost all of our rehearsals, and that we cover so much music with just two hours' rehearsal a week."

Arriving at her first rehearsal, she was thrown straight in at the deep end with a brand new work – Carl Ruggt's *Requiem* – which the Choir went on to record, and she now looks back on this as one of her favourite projects. She didn't know a soul but this didn't last long. "My voice rep was particularly welcoming and took me to the pub after the rehearsal. By the end of the evening I was signed up to go on tour to Australia a few months later!" Other tours followed, including two weeks in China and Hong Kong where the *St Matthew Passion* and the *Brahms Requiem* – two of Kate's all-time favourites – were the main works. "The *St Matthew* is very special and I've sung it more often than any other

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work. I adore the Bach *Mass in B minor* and am very excited that we're going to sing that again later this year. And I'd like to have the *Brahms Requiem* at my funeral. Actually I'd really like to have it at my wedding but I've been told it wouldn't be appropriate!"

Touring – whether overseas or at home – is a great way to get to know other Choir members better. "In China I made some more new friends in a continent I had never visited before, and had some wonderful – as well some very weird – food: chicken's feet, duck tongue and several other things I failed to recognise. We had been warned that Chinese concert goers sometimes talk



throughout performances, but our audiences were very polite and appreciative, particularly of our encore, sung in Mandarin."

A speech and language therapist, Kate loves her work on the stroke wards at Charing Cross Hospital in Hammersmith. There's still time for plenty of music-making though; as well as singing she enjoys playing the violin in West London Sinfonia and also doing some chamber music. "Sometimes I miss singing in smaller groups, but one way I get round this is by taking part in the Choir's outreach workshops in schools. I love seeing the transformation in the children who often start off as slightly reluctant singers, but who grow into confident performers, really excited and proud to sing in famous concert venues with The Bach Choir."

As the first soprano voice rep herself now, Kate's most important task is to find a 'buddy' for each new member; this means that everyone has a friendly face to turn to from day one. "Having sung in other large choirs, I think The Bach Choir is unique in its approach to welcoming newcomers."

And if she had to pick just one highlight of her nine years with the Choir: "It's the feeling you get when you're in the middle of, and helping to create, some of the most beautiful sounds imaginable. It can be quite overwhelming."

Katharine Richman