

Rachel Godsill – soprano

Born in Yorkshire, UK, Rachel Godsill began her singing in the local parish church choir. She read music at Selwyn College, Cambridge where she was a Choral Exhibitioner, and was a prize-winning student at the Royal College of Music.

Subsequently studying with Sheila Barnes and Alison Wells, Rachel is in demand as a recitalist and oratorio soloist, performing in major concert venues throughout the UK and Europe.

Highlights have recently taken her to the Czech Republic for a recital of Smetana and Janacek with the Prague University Orchestra, to Budapest and Berlin for recitals of music for voice and viola d'amore, and to Beijing and Shanghai for performances of Britten's Peter Grimes and War Requiem (Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Charles Dutoit). In January she performed in Beethoven's Fidelio (RFH) with the London Philharmonic Orchestra as part of the South Bank's Belief and beyond Belief festival.

Rachel's oratorio repertoire encompasses Bach and Handel through Mozart and Rossini to Tippett and Orff. The forthcoming season includes performances of Carmina Burana and Poulenc Gloria (University concert hall, Cambridge, Stratford-upon-Avon), Handel's Messiah (Choir 2000), Shakespeare settings by Finzi, Gurney and Cecilia Macdowell (Church of King Charles the Martyr, Tunbridge Wells, Corpus Christi, Cambridge) and performances of Schumann's Song album for the Young (Hughes Hall, Cambridge, Stapleford Granary).

Rachel is equally at home with contemporary repertoire and many pieces have been especially composed for her. She has performed Saariaho's La Passion de Simone in the Barbican, UK and Lincoln Centre, New York under the direction of Peter Sellars, works by Lutoslawski and Penderecki at the Lugano Music Festival with Terry Edwards and can be heard on the soundtrack for many films including Harry Potter, The Hobbit, Star Wars and Beauty and the Beast! She is a member of the duo Sopriola.

Within ensembles Rachel has worked with Richard Hickox, Simon Rattle, Roger Norrington, Emmanuelle Haim, Charles Mackerras, Ivan Fischer, and Vladimir Jurowski, performing with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, European Voices, Collegium Musicum 90, Le Concerts d'Astre, Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, The Schutz Choir, London Voices and The Academy of Ancient Music.