

RACHEL PODGER

Baroque Violin / Director



Chris Stock Photography

" Rachel is a wonder ... she engages with this music as if she were Bach's playmate."

"...Podger's youth and Baroque experience combine to bring a charm and freshness of approach which suit these delightful pieces perfectly."

BIOGRAPHY

Rachel Podger is one of the most creative talents to emerge in the field of period performance over the last decade. Rachel has established herself as a leading interpreter of the music of the Baroque and Classical periods. She was educated in Germany and in England at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where she studied with David Takeno and Michaela Comberti.

After beginnings with The Palladian Ensemble and Florilegium, she was leader of The English Concert from 1997 to 2002. In 2004 Rachel began a guest directorship with The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, with whom she has toured throughout Europe and the USA. Rachel directed the orchestra in a televised concert at the BBC Proms in 2007. 2008 saw performances of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante with violist Pavlo Beznosiuk and also a Haydn and JC Bach symphonic programme for the York Early Music Festival and a German high Baroque programme which toured Benelux and the US. Future plans with the OAE include Haydn and Mozart Violin Concertos to be released in 2009. Rachel has also enjoyed collaborations with Arte dei Suonatori (Poland), Musica Angelica and Santa Fe Pro Musica (USA), The Academy of Ancient Music and The European Union Baroque Orchestra.

Rachel's recordings of J.S.Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin and his Sonatas for Violin and Harpsichord (with Trevor Pinnock) were both awarded first place by the BBC's "Building a Library" programme. Rachel's recording of Telemann's Twelve Fantasies for Solo Violin won the prestigious

Diapason d'Or and her 2003 recording of Vivaldi's 12 violin concertos "La Stravaganza" also received the Diapason d'Or as well as winning the 2003 Gramophone Award for Best Baroque Instrumental recording. Her Duo with harpsichordist and fortepianist Gary Cooper has not only enjoyed success through their complete Mozart Sonata recording project which they began in 2004, but also through their diverse concert tours of the US and Europe of Bach Sonatas and baroque duo programmes. Volumes 1-6 of Mozart Sonatas have already enjoyed worldwide critical acclaim as well as receiving various accolades: Gramophone 'Editor's Choice' twice and the Diapason d'Or three times. Volumes 7 and 8 are to be released this year. Future plans for the duo include the Sonatas of Beethoven as well as Sonatas by Corelli and Biber. There are also plans to record the Bach Violin Concerti with her newly formed ensemble Brecon Baroque for Channel Classics in 2010. In 2006 Rachel became artistic director of her own annual event, the Brecon Baroque Festival. Teaching is a significant part of Rachel's musical life; she teaches at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff; she is Visiting Professor of Baroque Violin and Fellow of The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London and Visiting Professor at the Royal Danish Academy of Music, Copenhagen. In September 2008 she took up the newly-founded Michaela Comberti Chair for Baroque Violin at the Royal Academy of Music in London where she is also an Honorary Member.

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