

# Rachel Brown

*flutes & recorders*

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Best known for her moving and virtuosic performances on a wide range of flutes and recorders, Rachel Brown is an acknowledged authority on historical performance practice, an inspirational teacher and an entertaining and illuminating speaker.

Whilst training on modern flute at Manchester University and the Royal Northern College of Music with Trevor Wye she won numerous prizes leading to performances of flute concertos by Ibert and Nielsen and went on to win the coveted American National Flute Association's Young Artist Competition. She gave first performances of works by Robin Walker, John Ogden, Judith Weir and, for the Park Lane Group, Barry Guy. However, her interest in early music had already been captured by her recorder teacher, Ross Winters, and naturally lead to study of the baroque flute with Lisa Beznosiuk and Stephen Preston and an exploration of the many diverse classical and nineteenth-century flutes.

Rachel's recital discs of French Baroque Music and Quantz Sonatas established her reputation and her recording of virtuosic works by Schubert and Boehm on simple-system, ring-keyed and alto flutes has been described as "a revelation". As a soloist she has recorded extensively and toured in Europe, Japan and North America with a comprehensive concerto repertoire from J.S. Bach, Vivaldi and Telemann to Mozart. She has given many performances of the newly discovered Handel Flute Concerto and her championing of the works of the Berlin School has reawakened interest in largely unknown masterpieces by Quantz. Her dazzling recordings of the Quantz and C.P.E. Bach Concertos have won international acclaim. Rachel appears on many Telemann recordings with Collegium Musicum 90 and she is a founder member and soloist with the London Handel Players with whom she has recorded three discs of Handel's chamber music, described as 'perfection itself'.

Equally at home in the wind section, Rachel has had a long and distinguished career as an orchestral player; first, on silver flute, with the orchestra of Kent Opera and for many years as principal flute with the Academy of Ancient Music, the Hanover Band, the Kings Consort, Collegium Musicum 90, Ex Cathedra and the Brandenburg Consort. An occasional guest principal with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the English Concert, the erstwhile London Classical Players and orchestras abroad such as the Nederlands Bach Vereniging and the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century, Rachel has also appeared as soloist with Arte dei Suonatori in Poland, the Haydn Akademie in Austria and Concerto Copenhagen in Denmark and Germany.

A dedicated teacher, Rachel has given masterclasses in the USA, Canada, Sweden, Poland, Spain, Ireland, Holland, Switzerland and New Zealand. She taught for many years at the Royal Northern College of Music, followed by time at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, the Birmingham Conservatoire and as lecturer in classical studies at the Guildhall School. She is currently professor of baroque flute at the Royal College of Music. She is author of the Cambridge University Press handbook to *The Early Flute* and has composed cadenzas for the new Bärenreiter edition of the Mozart Flute Concertos.

Rachel has recently launched Uppernote, her own recording label and publishing house, with a tour de force recording of the complete Telemann Fantasias and *Private Passion*, Quantz sonatas written for Frederick the Great. Future plans include editions of Quantz sonatas, a baroque flute practice book and style guides to eighteenth-century articulation, ornamentation and cadenzas as well as a trill book for children and help with scales and sight reading.