

Despite having been offered places at the Birmingham Conservatoire and London College of Music to study piano and bassoon, Tracie eventually opted to study singing at Trinity College of Music. This proved to be the right choice as three years later she was singing the lead role in Kurt Weil's *Knickerbocker Holiday* opposite John Nettles at the Barbican and two years after that she emerged having won the prestigious Singing Department Award during her postgraduate year. On graduation Tracie commenced further studies with the internationally renowned tenor, Wynford Evans.

Tracie's career as a singer and teacher has been very diverse; song and dance roles at the famous Thursford Christmas Spectacular and backing vocals on a commercial CD have gone hand in hand with her career as a lyric soprano and recitalist. Tracie has an enviable versatility and her recital programmes reflect this ability, being as diverse in taste as the audience members she performs to but it has been her love of oratorio which has taken her to the major venues throughout Europe. Her talent and easy-going personality have led to invitations to perform Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony* during the Promenade Season at the Royal Albert Hall under the baton of Leonard Slatkin and she was also the soloist of choice to perform the French premiere of Richard Blackford's *Mirror of Perfection* at L'eglise de la Madeleine in Paris.

Tracie has never shied from new opportunities or experiences; in 1999 she was cast for Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the world-famous Mark Morris Dance Group at Sadler's Wells and to further demonstrate her versatility she has also appeared on an album of what could be loosely categorised as 'Acid Jazz'; Square Window's album *10 Songs for Boys and Girls*.

Since settling in South Lakeland, Tracie has established her own Music Practice offering singing tuition to beginners and semi-professional singers alike and also owned the sheet music shop 'Penwarden Music' in Milnthorpe. As well as conducting her own award-winning vocal group 'Ottovoce', Tracie is the Musical Director of Arnside Choral Society and 'Milli' formerly known as Kendal Millennium Youth Choir, and is also a successful freelance choir trainer and advisor. Tracie is in demand not only as a solo singer but also as an entertaining and informative workshop leader.

Alongside her choral work Tracie is a regular member of Voices of the North, directed by Jolyon Dodgson, a founder member of The Lakes Ensemble, and was a regular soloist with La Serenata ensemble.

Tracie is married to the conductor Ian Allan and they live in Milnthorpe with their two children, Austin and Mabel.