

The 2011 RSCM Annual Fund Appeal

Whatever style of music a church wishes to adopt for a particular service, it needs to be ‘the best that can be offered to God’.

Changing social patterns mean we have to find new responses in training a new generation of music leaders who can inspire and develop local musicians, using an increasing range of music resources intelligently and sensitively in worship as well as in a wider church context.

As an organisation dedicated to enriching and supporting music in churches of many traditions, the RSCM is well-placed to secure a vigorous future for music in church. To do so, we intend to extend our core education and training programmes, many of them aimed at children and young people. We are also investing in an accessible, country-wide network of skilled people able to offer advice, encouragement and inspiration to local churches and schools.

By maintaining and increasing the RSCM investment in teaching, training and modelling the finest in church musicianship, we can sustain and broaden this vital component of worship, as well as the valuable church and community resource of bringing to all ages the joys of music making together.

To this end we have a two-pronged campaign: to identify and engage activists on the ground, and to raise the funds to support national programmes, enabling them to make an impact in their local areas. This clearly requires additional funding over and above the subscriptions from members, affiliates and supporting Friends that has been our prime source of income to date.

We are therefore engaged in a fundraising campaign to secure the estimated £96,000 remaining in our Annual Fund goal to support our work – work that is not only practical, but with a clearly measurable impact.

Outcome	Immediate priority	Cost
Church musicians receive professional support wherever they are, whatever their need; innovative solutions to the problems of rural churches, dwindling congregations, and ageing choirs are implemented and modelled across the UK and internationally	More part-time Regional Music Advisers (RMAs) to enhance our work in East Anglia, including Lincolnshire, in the far South West, and the North West of England	Between £45,000 and £63,000 over three years for three part-time RMAs, all expenses included
Young people are introduced to excellent church music, including cathedral music, with their known educational and congregation-growing benefits	Two young peoples’ courses and three residential cathedral courses per year are subsidised to make them available to more young people at an affordable price	Tutor fees: £17,250 Tutor expenses (not including accommodation): £4,000
Musicians enhance their church music skills for the benefit of Christian worship; pianists effectively transfer their skills to organs; singers gain the confidence they need to train their choirs and even start new ones	Popular RSCM Church Music Skills training days and courses, affordable and accessible, are facilitated throughout the UK	Tutor fees: £5,550 Tutor expenses (not including accommodation): £1,000
Singers are trained to a high level in order to take their skills ‘on the road’ as a choir and into their individual churches across the UK	RSCM Voices training choirs need excellent directors and dynamic infrastructure to maintain active recruitment of new singers and a varied and robust programme of singing activities. Recent grant funding has expired and must be replaced to keep the choirs trained and able to sing in a variety of settings within their regions	Three choir directors’ fees for 3 years: £27,000 Additional support and venue expenses: £9,000
Young adults with strong choral backgrounds have a continuing ‘home’ for professional-level concerts, services and recordings and provide an exciting example to children and teenagers of what choral singing can do personally and for their careers	We want to maximise our ability to retain the commitment of talented young people who are too old for the RSCM’s flagship Millennium Youth Choir, by starting an MYC-Plus. These young adults have a great deal to offer with respect to a very high standard of singing in churches. This would aim to be mostly self-financing but additional start-up costs and ongoing administration would need to be covered before commencing.	Choir start-up: £5,000 Ongoing administration: £1,000