

A NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR LEARNING

CHRIS PRICE & SUE SNELL

The RSCM and Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) are delighted to come together next year in a new collaboration to support and enhance the work of church musicians. Sue Snell, the RSCM's Head of Education and Chris Price, senior lecturer in music and CCCU's Programme Director for the new Foundation Degree in Church Music*, explain how the partnership will work.

INTRODUCING THE FDCM

The Foundation Degree in Church Music is a new initiative, although it has its roots in the RSCM's previous collaborative Sacred Music Studies programme, offered until recently through Bangor University. Like all Foundation Degrees, the Church Music degree course is grounded firmly in practical, work-based study – in other words, much of the work towards the degree qualification is carried out in the student's own church or place of

worship. The RSCM will also recognize its students' achievements by awarding them the AdvDipRSCM on successful completion of the degree.

A major strength of the course is the way in which the university and the RSCM will work together. Throughout the year, the RSCM's extensive network of practising church musicians will support and mentor students in their musical 'home base', while Canterbury Christ Church University, which has a specialism in church music, will provide tuition at short residential study schools, giving students the in-depth knowledge and understanding which underpins all our work in music for worship.

ABOUT CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY

This new degree programme is an obvious progression for the university. Christ Church is a Church of England foundation; the Cathedral is just across the road from the Canterbury Campus;

the Organist of the Cathedral, Dr David Flood, is a Fellow of the University and a visiting lecturer in the department; two of the Music Department lecturers are Lay Clerks in the Cathedral Choir; and many undergraduates are already active in the Chapel Choir and in local church music groups – often going on to lead those groups when they've graduated. Chris says, 'We thought it was time to turn that energy and enthusiasm into something more substantial, and we are delighted that the RSCM is keen to capitalize on our keenness to do so'.

SUPPORT AND FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS

The residential study schools in Canterbury will provide an unforgettable opportunity to meet new people with a common interest. It's in these study schools that Canterbury will come into its own: whilst the university facilities will be used extensively (an excellent new library, housed in Augustine House, and new rehearsal facilities, including seminar and ensemble rehearsal rooms), students will also spend plenty of time in the Cathedral. While students may be studying 'Ministry and Worship', it is recognized that they are practising musicians. Many of the CCCU Study Days end with a sung compline in the Cathedral Crypt, with opportunities to watch an open rehearsal of the Cathedral Choir and attend evensong. Church Music students will have opportunities to have contact with leading composers

**subject to validation*





Peter Maxwell Davies and Paul Patterson, who are visiting professors at the university. CCCU is also the leading provider of training for the lay ministry in the south east, and will capitalize on this depth of expertise in the study schools.

For the rest of the academic year (October–June), university tutors are only a phone call or an email away, and much of the study will be done using the university's online resources. Students will have access to CCCU's Virtual Learning Environment, 'Blackboard', and all the learning materials will be there. Along with all other CCCU Music students, Church Music students will also have access to the 'E-Library', which will include the Grove Online Dictionary of Music, and the Naxos CD library online. And, not to forget, access will also be available to the RSCM's own Colles Library in Salisbury by arrangement with the RSCM's Librarian.



Chris Price, Programme Director of the new Foundation Degree in Church Music



Canterbury Cathedral is just across the road from the university campus.

INTRODUCING THE NEW FOUNDATION DEGREE IN CHURCH MUSIC

WHAT IS A FOUNDATION DEGREE?

Foundation Degrees (FD) are university-level qualifications which last two years for a full-time student, or four years if the degree is being studied part-time. They are designed to be directly relevant to a particular area of work, and are delivered and assessed using a mix of group teaching and work-based study and with the help of experts and employers from the relevant sector.

This was the reason the FD was adopted as the framework for our new collaboration: both the RSCM and CCCU know that hundreds of people up and down the country are working incredibly hard in their local churches and music groups, and we believe many of them would like to deepen their knowledge and understanding of what they do and why, using their local situation as the context for their studies.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The course is suitable for students of all ages, whether you're an experienced musician already or a young person who would like the opportunity to work towards a degree whilst staying where you are right now. And you can always choose to do a third year to earn a full Bachelor's degree afterwards if you want to.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Take a look at www.canterbury.ac.uk/arts-humanities/music/ for a quick tour around the Music Department, and see how the new Foundation Degree in Church Music is a wonderful way to deepen your knowledge and understanding of your work in sacred music. Course information and application procedure will be available at www.canterbury.ac.uk/studyhere/church-music/

→ Please visit the RSCM website at www.rscm.com/fdcm or email education@rscm.com to make further enquiries.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The degree course has a very simple structure: two sets of four or five modules spread over two (full-time) or four (part-time) years. These are shown below, with a brief summary of what's in each module:

Ministry and Worship 1: a study of the foundations of Christian ministry and worship, and present traditions.

Ministry and Worship 2: basic theology of worship and ministry, with a pastoral emphasis; distinctions of language, style and presentation of worship; and musical ministry – calling, leadership, giftedness, encouragement, spirituality.

Music and Liturgy 1: an introduction to chant, congregational song, choral polyphony, music with instruments and voices; and special study of *one* form of liturgy and its music.

Music and Liturgy 2: special studies of the Eucharist and Services of the Word, including Christian seasons and feasts; availability and use of musical resources; consideration of genres and repertoires for selected styles and settings of worship.

Church Music Management: core knowledge for the effective use of music in church/youth group/band; legal issues of child protection, copyright, health and safety; good practice case studies with regard to, for example, recruitment and training, roles and responsibilities; working as a team.

Practical Musicianship 1 & 2: these are the modules which develop students' skills in church music leadership, allowing specialization in one or more of the following: singer; voice trainer; choir trainer; music leader (cantor or instrumental); keyboard/organ player (solo and accompanying); and/or composer/arranger.

Project 1 & 2: the Projects offer students an opportunity to consolidate and develop their work in areas where they have particular interests and/or abilities. They enable students to demonstrate their assimilation of the whole course, and an opportunity to relate their work more specifically to their local experience of music in worship.