



## News from the Royal School of Church Music

### **VENI EMMANUEL! NEW ADVENT SEQUENCE FROM RSCM.**

**The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has just published a new sequence of words and music for an Advent carol service. *The Advent Sequence: Veni Emmanuel* provides an imaginative range of musical styles, and offers flexibility for choirs of all standards.**

***Copies are available for review (see Notes for Editors below)***

The sequence takes a refreshing new look at the Advent theme of the progression from darkness to light, and is built around processional movement from the West End to the East. The *Great "O" Antiphons* provide the backbone for the service, available both in Latin and English. As well as an antiphon, each section of the service contains a reading, and either a choice of anthem or a traditional congregational hymn or contemporary worship song. The whole sequence builds towards the final well-known hymn "*O come O come, Emmanuel.*"

*The Advent Sequence* includes a range of musical styles, from John Barnard's setting of the traditional Advent carol "*This is the truth sent from above,*" to an arrangement with optional instruments of Graham Kendrick's "*Like a candle flame.*" The book includes the first work of Margaret Rizza published by the RSCM - "*Lord, all truth is from you*" - with optional instrumental parts. Other composers include Bernadette Farrell, George Guest and Richard Shephard, Stanford's setting in C major of the *Benedictus*, and Mendelssohn's arrangement of "*Sleepers, wake!*"

The new sequence has come from the same team that devised the popular sequence for Passiontide, *The Way of the Cross*, - Peter Moger, the Church of England's National Worship Development Officer, and the composer and conductor David Ogden. In the comprehensive introduction which includes notes on how to stage the service, they write, "Advent has a rich repertoire of anthems and hymns but sometimes it is hard to find pieces that express the exact mood of the season. It is hoped this sequence will provide a chance to reflect on the relative simplicity and anticipatory nature of Advent as an antidote to the busyness of the run up to Christmas."

Like *The Way of the Cross*, flexibility has been the watchword. “You don’t have to sing everything,” says David Ogden. “Churches have a wide range of musical resources, and the joyful challenge has been to compile an Advent sequence which will work with small and large musical forces, and in buildings of all sizes.”

**The Advent Sequence *Veni Emmanuel*** (price £7.95\*) can be ordered thus:

online	<a href="http://www.rscm.com">www.rscm.com</a>
email	<a href="mailto:musicdirect@rscm.com">musicdirect@rscm.com</a> .
phone	0845 021 7726 (option 4)
fax	0845 021 8826
post	RSCM Music Direct, St Mary’s Works, St Mary’s Plain, Norwich NR3 3BH

\* 25% discount for RSCM Affiliates and members.

**Ends**  
**14 August 2009**

#### Notes for Editors

**REVIEW COPIES. The Advent Sequence is available for review on request. Please contact Stuart Robinson or Heather Bamber (see below)**

#### Notes for Editors:

**The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM)** is an educational charity that promotes the best use of music in worship, church life, and the wider community. The RSCM also publishes music and training resources, and organises courses, short workshops and activities. With over 8,500 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is an international network, supported by over 750 volunteers and a small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at [www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com)

**Peter Moger** is a composer as well as a liturgist. He is a member of the RSCM *Sunday by Sunday* team, and has done much to facilitate collaboration between the Church of England and the RSCM as the Cof E’s National Worship Development Officer.

**David Ogden** is a composer, arranger and conductor of a number of choirs including the RSCM Millennium Youth Choir. Under his direction they have made a number of appearances on BBC Television and Radio. He is also a regular contributor, arranger and conductor for BBC *Songs of Praise*, and a composer for school and church choirs. More at [www.davidogden.co.uk](http://www.davidogden.co.uk)

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