



News Release from the Royal School of Church Music

“CHURCH MUSIC CAN ATTRACT YOUNG PEOPLE” SAYS CHURCH MUSIC LEADER

Lindsay Gray, the Director of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is to travel from England in early January to attend the 2009 International Festival of Sacred Music, being held in Brisbane. The RSCM is an international ecumenical charity supporting church music-making all over the world, and has a strong membership in Australia.

The Festival, which takes place from the 3rd to 11th January, is the 54th such event to be organised by RSCM Australia, and will be attended by church musicians, choir trainers, teachers and young people from all over the continent. For Lindsay Gray, who was appointed Director of the RSCM in April 2008, this will be his first opportunity to see the work of the organisation outside the UK. *“I am looking forward to this visit immensely,”* said Lindsay Gray. *“I am very keen to help and support church musicians; the issues and pressures in sustaining their work are not dissimilar to those in the UK; for example, the recruitment of choristers, relations with clergy, and the effectiveness of music in worship.”*

The Sacred Music Festival in Brisbane offers a number of training programmes ranging from singing and composing for the church, to organ playing, use of instruments, and choir training. Over 100 high school singers are expected to attend the Youth course. Lindsay Gray, who was Headmaster of a UK cathedral choir school before his present appointment, is passionate about the recruitment of young people into church music. *“I have seen at first hand how young people can be engaged in church music; I feel strongly that there are many clergy and ministers who haven’t had the opportunity to experience the immense value of having really good musical forces in a church, and to enable children to take an active part rather than be passive members. Their presence can make a huge difference.”*

The Festival is directed by Ralph Morton, President of RSCM Australia and Director of Music at St Stephen’s Roman Catholic Cathedral in Brisbane, Queensland. *“We are very excited about the Summer School. We have a great line up of guest presenters both from overseas and from Australia and it will be a particular pleasure to welcome Lindsay Gray; I think he has much to offer the RSCM.”*

Following the festival, Lindsay Gray will also visit New South Wales where his schedule includes meetings with representatives of RSCM affiliated churches.

Ends

23 December 2008

Notes for Editors

The International Festival of Sacred Music takes place in Brisbane from 3rd – 11th January. For further immediate information you can download a brochure in pdf format at <http://www.rscmaustralia.org.au/PDF/IFSM%20brochure%20final.pdf>

A photograph of Lindsay Gray can be downloaded for publication from the RSCM's UK based website: www.rscm.com/media - click on picture gallery. Lindsay Gray is willing to be interviewed, subject to availability.

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The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an educational charity and 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 subscribing affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries, it is an international network. In Australia, there are branches in each state, made up of affiliated churches and individual members. RSCM Australia website is www.rscm.australia.org.au. The UK-based website is at www.rscm.com.

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