



News Release from the Royal School of Church Music

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR TWO YOUNG ORGANISTS

Two lucky young organists will have the chance to play with 120 young singers in the glorious surroundings of Bath Abbey next summer. The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is offering two scholarships for young players to assist the Course Organist during its annual singing course for young people at Kingswood School in Bath.

The Bath Summer Course for Young People, which is directed by Geoff Weaver, draws many young singers from RSCM-affiliated choirs around the UK to return year after year for its mix of specialist teaching, the chance to sing services and concerts in some lovely venues, and plenty of fun and friendship. The music-making reaches a high standard over the course of the week, accompanied by experienced tutor and Course Organist Steven Grahl.

The scholarships will be awarded to young organists aged 16-25, at Grade 8 standard or thereabouts. "This is an excellent opportunity to learn with the Course Organist and gain experience of all aspects of accompanying a large group of singers," says Sue Snell, the RSCM's Head of Education. There will also be opportunities to direct choir rehearsals in some of the course's wide ranging of repertoire. "And there's the added attraction of the chance to play the four-manual Klais organ in Bath Abbey," she said.

Previous organ scholars have gone on to take up organ awards at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and at Manchester Cathedral. Anthony Fort, a scholar on the course in 2007, said: "The opportunity I received through being awarded a scholarship proved to be one of the most valuable in my time as an organist. Through observation, tuition and participation I noticed a significant development in my accompanying skills. I wholly recommend this course to any young organists who are keen to develop their liturgical playing skills."

Full details of the course and scholarships can be obtained from the RSCM website at www.rscm.com/courses or by calling 01722 424843. The course runs at Kingswood School, Bath, from 17th to 23rd August 2009, and the closing date for scholarship applications is 15th May 2009.

Ends

28 November 2008

Notes for Editors

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 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is an international network, supported by over 750 volunteers and small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at www.rscm.com

Stuart Robinson:

RSCM Media Relations Organiser srobinson@rscm.com 01492 818183 / 07831 827701

Heather Bamber:

RSCM Marketing & Communications Administrator hbamber@rscm.com 01722 424847

The Royal School of Church Music
19 The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2EB
Tel: 01722 424848
Fax: 01722 424849

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