



News from the Royal School of Church Music

RIZZA SETS NEW TRANSLATION OF ROMAN MASS

The popular composer Margaret Rizza has just completed a setting of the new text of the Roman Catholic mass, to be introduced later this year in all the denomination's churches and cathedrals where the service is celebrated in English. *The Mass of St Benedict* published by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) sets the new authorised translation of the Roman Missal. It will replace the current version which has been in use since 1974.

***The Mass of St Benedict* by Margaret Rizza, published by the RSCM, is available for review; see Notes for Editors (below)**

Margaret Rizza's setting has been approved by the Music Panel of the Catholic Bishops' Conference in England and Wales. As well as the main movements of the Mass (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei), she has set music for the Gospel Acclamation, Memorial Acclamations, Doxology and Great Amen. In the new translation of the Roman Missal, the most significant textual changes occur in the Gloria (for example with the words "and on earth, peace to people of good will").

The changes in the text are due to come into force later this year; as far as *published* settings are concerned, Roman Catholic churches will only be allowed to use authorized settings such as *The Mass of St Benedict*.

In the Foreword, Margaret Rizza says the setting has been inspired by St Benedict, who writes with tremendous simplicity and openness. She continues, "It is important that it can be sung easily by congregations as well as by choirs who can lift up their voices in praise, worship, thanksgiving, reconciliation, joy and love – a community held together by praying to music."

The authorised setting is written with keyboard accompaniment, and also includes optional SATB, instrumental and cantor parts. The music for the congregation may be photocopied for local church use. "This will be a significant contribution to Roman Catholic worship when the new translation is introduced later this year," says Tim Ruffer, the RSCM's Head of Publishing. "Margaret has a style with broad appeal; it will be easily picked up by

congregations, and I am confident choral singers will appreciate choral writing by a true expert in her field.”

As well as the edition for the new Missal translation, a separate edition following Common Worship texts - used in Anglican and non-Conformist churches - is in preparation.

***The Mass of St Benedict* may be purchased from RSCM Music Direct**

Price: £3.50 (£2.62 to RSCM affiliated churches)

RSCM order number: C0836

ISMN: M 57018 187 2

Tel: +44 (0)845 021 7726

Email: musicdirect@rscm.com

Online: www.rscm.com/shop

Ends

26th May 2011

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 around 8,500 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries, it is an international network, supported by over 600 volunteers and a small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at www.rscm.com

***The Mass of St Benedict* by Margaret Rizza is available for review in bona-fide publications on request. To arrange for a copy to be sent to you, please contact either Stuart Robinson or Heather Bamber (see below).**

Margaret Rizza who was born in 1929, only began to compose in 1997. Since then she has become a major personality in the world of Christian choral music, with substantial sales of both her printed and recorded music. All this followed an illustrious career as an opera singer spanning 25 years, under the name Margaret Lensky, working with conductors such as Britten, Stravinsky and Bernstein.

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