



News Release from the Royal School of Church Music

RSCM CELEBRATES IN SALISBURY

Several leading figures in the world of church music will be presented with honorary awards from the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) in a special service at Salisbury Cathedral at 5.30pm on 16th May 2009. Among the recipients are Ms Pam Rhodes and Dr Noël Tredinnick, who are both well known from BBC Television's *Songs of Praise*, and composers Malcolm Archer and Philip Wilby.

Certificates and diplomas will be presented to students who have completed the RSCM's *Sacred Music Studies* course. This distance-learning programme enables musicians, clergy and worship leaders to understand the role of music in worship, and learn to use their musical skills more effectively.

The awards service (known as the RSCM Celebration Day) takes place in a different cathedral each year, and this is the first time it has been held at Salisbury since the organisation moved its administrative office to Sarum College in the Cathedral Close three years ago. Director of the RSCM, Mr Lindsay Gray, said: "I'm delighted that we are hosting the Celebration Day in Salisbury this year, enabling us to strengthen the RSCM's links with the Cathedral, Diocese and community. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the work of RSCM volunteers, members and students, as well as honouring those who have made special contributions to sacred music at a national and international level."

The RSCM's Celebration Day service promises to be a musical feast, with a wide range of choral music from Hildegard of Bingen and Haydn to contemporary pieces written by some of those receiving awards. Singers from RSCM-affiliated choirs in the region will join together with the RSCM Midlands & South West Cathedral Singers, under the direction of David Ogden. Salisbury Cathedral's Boys Choir and Girls Choir will also be taking part, and the organ will be played by the Daniel Cook (Assistant Director of Music, Salisbury Cathedral).

Members of the public are very welcome to attend the service, which begins at 5.30pm.

ENDS

11 May 2009

Notes for Editors.

- **You are welcome to send a representative / photographer to the event, but we ask that you arrange this with us in advance – contact Stuart Robinson or Heather Bamber below.**
- **A complete list** of those receiving awards is below; please note they may not necessarily be present at the Celebration Day. **Awards criteria** can be found here http://www.rscm.com/about_us/awards.php

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.

The names of those receiving awards are as follows (fuller biographical details appear below):

Fellowship (FRSCM) - for achievements of international significance

Malcolm Archer Winchester College, Hampshire
Jonathan Bielby Wakefield Cathedral, Yorkshire
Dr Neil McEwan Christchurch St Laurence, Sydney, Australia
Professor Noël Tredinnick Music director, composer, arranger
Professor Philip Wilby Composer

Associateship (ARSCM) - for achievements of national significance or within the RSCM

Robin Bell Administrator Scottish Church Organists' Training Scheme (SCOTS)
Peter de Blois Director of Music, Auckland Cathedral, New Zealand
Alan Wilson Music director, composer, arranger

Honorary Membership (HonRSCM) - for significant work not primarily musical or liturgical

Iain Nisbet Former Secretary and Acting Chairman, RSCM Guildford Area
Pam Rhodes Presenter, BBC TV *Songs of Praise*

Certificates of Special Service - for outstanding service to an RSCM branch or area

These certificates will normally be presented at area or overseas national or overseas branch festival.

Alwyn Clegg Wakefield
Norman Kershaw New Zealand
Donald Haigh Wakefield
Frank Rogers Somerset
Peter Smith Oxford
Richard Stephens West Wales
Tim Storey London
Neville Holt Derby (*posthumous award*)
Christina Wishnowsky New Zealand
John Witham Portsmouth

More information about honorands receiving the award of Fellow, Associate and Honorary Membership:

Malcolm Archer (FRSCM) has achieved the highest standards with all the choirs of which he has been Director, including, Bristol, Wells and St Paul's Cathedrals and now at Winchester College. As a composer, Malcolm has a unique gift for composing for parish choirs; many of his popular pieces are published by RSCM Press and are widely used both in the UK and around the world.

Jonathan Bielby (FRSCM) has been Director of Music at Wakefield Cathedral since 1970, and is England's longest serving cathedral organist. There is no choir school, so he has worked tirelessly to maintain and enhance the tradition. In 1992 the cathedral became the second in Britain to establish a girls' choir. Jonathan has provided tuition and help for music in parish churches in the area.

Dr Neil McEwan (FRSCM) was appointed organist and choirmaster at the age of 17 in his native town of Invercargill, New Zealand. In the early 1960s, he moved to Sydney, Australia and became Assistant Organist and later Director of Music at Christ Church St Laurence where the choir has gained an international reputation. He gives master classes at RSCM Summer Schools, and is also Director of the Sydney Conservatorium choirs.

Professor Noël Tredinnick (FRSCM) has been Organist and Director of Music at All Souls, Langham Place, London since 1972, and from 1975 a Professor at Guildhall School of Music. He has made a significant contribution to the development of church music in UK and internationally. He is also a composer and arranger as well as a contributor to RSCM publications. He can work competently across denominations, and is at home both with traditional choral repertoire and worship bands.

Professor Philip Wilby (FRSCM) has been Senior Tutor in composition at Leeds University since 1984. Recently he was awarded a doctorate in composition and made professor in 2002. He has given outstanding service by composing challenging, contemporary repertoire and also accessible and singable works for parish and children's choirs. He has contributed extensively to sacred music composition both in the UK and USA.

Robin Bell (ARSCM) has been active in Scottish church music for well over 20 years. He set up and now administers the Scottish Church Organist Training Scheme (SCOTS). This includes devising the syllabus, producing newsletters, and administering training days. He has built up a countrywide network of organ advisors; this highly successful scheme has given help and encouragement to organists and choir trainers throughout Scotland.

Peter de Blois (ARSCM) is now Director of Music at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland, having been Assistant Organist at three cathedrals in New Zealand, and Director of Music at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Wellington. His work as a tutor over many years, and latterly as Director at Residential RSCM Schools in New Zealand has been exceptional. He has encouraged and set up many opportunities for young people and has been a tower of strength in the Auckland Branch of the RSCM.

Alan Wilson (ARSCM) makes an invaluable contribution to *Sunday by Sunday*, the RSCM's quarterly liturgy planner, bringing a broad knowledge of hymnody and other forms of congregational song. His workload has been increased by a number of recent changes in the hymn books featured in our tables. He also contributes to the BBC's *Daily Service*, as music director, and in his role as composer has written liturgical music for choirs and congregations.

Iain Nisbet (HonRSCM) has been a long-serving member of the Guildford Area Committee, latterly as Secretary and subsequently as Acting Area Chairman. He has been described as "punctilious and highly efficient" in all his dealings.

Pam Rhodes (HonRSCM) has been a presenter of BBC TV's *Songs of Praise* for over 20 years. She is also an after-dinner speaker, compères musical events around the country, has written thirteen books, and is patron of a number of charities. Her enthusiasm for all varieties of church music is obvious from her work on *Songs of Praise*; the RSCM recognises the popular contribution of the programme to the culture of church music around the world.

For further media enquiries contact:

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