

A joint news release from Canterbury Christ Church University and the Royal School of Church Music.

A NEW FOUNDATION DEGREE COURSE FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS

A brand new foundation degree course for those working in church music will start from September 2011. Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) and the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) are working in partnership to offer the course, which can be achieved in two years by a full-time student or four years if studied part-time.

Many of the practical elements of the course, which is aimed at students of all ages, are focussed around the student's work in their own church. The modules cover a wide range of topics from 'Ministry and Worship' and 'Music and Liturgy' to practical musicianship and the management of church music.

The new course brings together the expertise of two church-based institutions. The core content has been devised by, and will be administered from CCCU, itself a Church of England foundation, while the RSCM will use its regional network of practising church musicians to mentor and support students in their home base. "We know there are many church musicians working incredibly hard, who would like to deepen their understanding of what they do, and why," says Sue Snell, RSCM's Head of Education. "The structure of a foundation degree offers an ideal opportunity for students to develop all they are learning on the course in the context of their own church, choir or music group."

The core content of the course will be delivered flexibly using extensive online learning resources and with specialist tuition at residential study schools based at the university campus, just across the road from Canterbury Cathedral. These study days include opportunities to observe open rehearsals of the cathedral choir and attend Evensong, or sing Compline in the cathedral crypt. The university has a strong team of musicians on its staff: two of the course's lecturers are lay clerks in the cathedral, the cathedral organist, Dr David Flood, is a visiting lecturer, and leading composers Paul Patterson and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies are visiting professors. Students will also use the university's impressive music rehearsal facilities and brand new library centre. Chris Price, a senior lecturer, and CCCU's Programme Director for the new foundation degree, welcomes the new

course. “We thought it was time to turn our energy, expertise and enthusiasm for developing church music into something more substantial, and we are delighted that the RSCM is keen to capitalise on our eagerness to do so.”

The course is now open for applications to begin studying in September 2011 – subject to validation. More information is available on both the CCCU and RSCM websites; www.canterbury.ac.uk/studyhere/church-music and www.rscm.com/fdcm.

ENDS

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Notes for Editors

Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) has, since its foundation by the Church of England as a teacher training college in 1962, developed a wide range of taught programmes, research and educational services. The University now has approximately 18,000 students at five campuses, and is the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the major public services. Its mission is to pursue excellence in academic and professional higher education thereby enriching both individuals and society. More at www.canterbury.ac.uk

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 about 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

We would welcome feature coverage of this new course. Interviews can be arranged on request, and photographs are available from the RSCM Picture Gallery at www.rscm.com/media

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