



## News from the Royal School of Church Music

### **JAMES BOWMAN TO GET ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC AWARD**

The leading countertenor James Bowman is to receive an honorary award from the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). Dr Bowman is one of a handful of international musicians to receive a Fellowship (FRSCM) for services to church music of international significance, along with others nominated to receive associateships and honorary membership. They will receive their awards at a special service in Exeter Cathedral on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2012.

**NB: EDITORS especially UK Newsdesks covering Cambridgeshire, Birmingham, South London, Devon. See below for full list of awards.**

James Bowman is being honoured for an outstanding contribution to the world of church music spanning more than 40 years. His singing career began as a chorister at Ely Cathedral and in collegiate choirs in Oxford, before developing to becoming a world class singer in both sacred and secular music. Lindsay Gray, the Director of the RSCM and himself a countertenor says, "James has been a trailblazer as far as promoting the countertenor voice is concerned, which is a key element in much sacred music. He has been a true inspiration to many singers including myself, and he has gladly offered his considerable vocal support to choir schools and choral traditions."

Others nominated to receive Fellowships for services to church music include two cathedral musicians from the UK. They are Paul Trepte, Director of Music at Ely Cathedral since 1990, and Professor David Saint, who has been Director of Music at St Chad's Metropolitan Cathedral in Birmingham since 1978.

Church musicians from the UK, USA, Australia and South Africa are also being honoured with fellowships, associateships and honorary membership. There are also Certificates of Special Service, awarded for services to the RSCM in their local area. Commenting on the 2012 awards, Lord Gill, Chairman of the RSCM says, "Church music is blessed with some extraordinary musicians whose commitment is remarkable. The RSCM always wishes to honour those whose efforts deserve recognition, but they are only a few among many."

Honorary awards are presented at the annual RSCM Celebration Day service, which takes place in a different cathedral each year. This brings together church musicians from the area, with singers from local RSCM affiliated churches forming a massed choir. The next Celebration Day will take place in Exeter Cathedral on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012. James Bowman has agreed to sing at the service.

ENDS.

28 November 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](http://www.rscm.com)

**If you have further questions please contact:**

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## The full list of Honorary Awards to be presented in 2012 is as follows:

### Fellow of the RSCM (FRSCM)

#### **Dr James Bowman**

James Bowman has made an outstanding contribution to church music during the last 45 years. As a world class counter-tenor he has inspired many young singers to engage in church music, often within church, collegiate or cathedral choirs. Few singers have made such a contribution to the evolution of a particular voice part as James has to the counter-tenor (or 'male alto') tradition which is such a key element in sacred music.

#### **Dr James Forsyth (Australia)**

Dr James Forsyth is a much-loved and respected senior figure in Australian music. His professional skills as chorister, liturgist arranger/composer, choral conductor, organ accompanist and recitalist have been greatly valued by the RSCM in Australia and his contribution has also included organizing and conducting numerous workshops and assisting others in the work of RSCM committees for over 50 years.

#### **Michael James Gordon (South Africa)**

James Gordon has dedicated his life to church music and liturgy in the United Kingdom, Kenya and especially South Africa. From a choral scholarship at Kings College, Cambridge he went on to prominent appointments at Eton College, the Duke of York School in Nairobi, and St John's College, Houghton, Johannesburg. He became a Special Representative of the RSCM in South Africa and regularly directed many RSCM events.

#### **Mrs Enid Oberholtzer (USA)**

Throughout her professional career, Enid has been dedicated to working with children in the church, employing the ethics, mission, and ideals of RSCM. She has been director of the thriving Girls Choir at Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford and music director at several RSCM summer courses. For over 10 years she served on the board of RSCM America.

#### **Professor David Saint**

David Saint has devoted most of his professional career to church music, most notably as Organist and Director of Music at St Chad's Metropolitan Cathedral in Birmingham since 1978. In addition, David has played a critical role in teaching and encouraging young organists, not only as a trustee of the Royal College of Organists, but also as senior organ tutor and Acting Principal of Birmingham Conservatoire.

#### **Mr Paul Trepte**

In a career extending over 40 years Paul Trepte has been consecutively Director of Music at St Mary's Warwick, St Edmundsbury Cathedral and, since 1990, Ely Cathedral. At Ely he has not just supported the establishment of its Girls Choir, but also established a hugely successful children's choir within the cathedral, the Ely Imps, which he relishes conducting himself. He has also been a consistent and active advocate of the RSCM's central role.

### Associate of the RSCM (ARSCM):

#### **Mr Adrian Adams**

Adrian Adams has served as a devoted director of music at a distinguished South London Church (St John's, Upper Norwood) for nearly 40 years, and a former conductor of Croydon Bach Choir and a Head Student at the RSCM College at Addington Palace. He is currently an active member of the RSCM Southwark Area Committee.

**Mrs Marianne de Jager (South Africa)**

Marianne holds church music posts in Pietermaritzburg, including one at the Anglican cathedral in the city. She has founded and trained numerous school and adult choirs, introducing a scholarship scheme for the development of younger singers. Since her election as chair of the RSCM Kwa-zulu Natal Branch in 2004, Marianne has organised two highly successful South African Summer Schools.

**Mrs Colleen Hart (South Africa)**

Colleen has been involved in the activities of the RSCM since her student days and has been a highly sought after workshop, course and event leader throughout the country. Colleen has an ability to inspire young people with music-making. She has been a director of music in Johannesburg for 19 years and published a resource book for African Marimbas, the first of its kind world-wide.

**Honorary Member of the RSCM (HonRSCM):****Mrs Elsie Bath**

Elsie Bath has continued throughout her long and varied life to minister in the church through music in Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa. Elsie's religious music broadcasts during the Second World War on Lorenço Marques Radio are legendary as are the long distances that she would travel alone by road to distant churches. Elsie's dedicated service shines as a wonderful example to all engaged in music ministry in the church.

**Certificate of Special Service:**

These certificates are awarded for services to RSCM area committees, and will normally be presented at RSCM events in the area concerned. Contact us if you would like more information.

Mr Nicholas Brown	Devon
Miss Barbara Fitzsimmons	Australia
Mrs Kathryn Haworth	Durham
Mr Colin Hicks	Ripon & Leeds
Dr Douglas Lee	Lancashire
Mr Graham Vockins*	Buckinghamshire

(\* posthumous award)

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