



News from the Royal School of Church Music

HYMN-WRITING BISHOP ON ROYAL LIST FOR CHURCH MUSIC AWARDS

The well-known hymn-writer, the Right Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, is among those to receive honorary awards from the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). The awards, made annually for outstanding contributions to church music, range from the conferral of Fellowships (FRSCM) and Associateships (ARSCM) to Honorary Membership (HonRSCM) and Certificates of Special Service. The 2011 awards will be presented at a special RSCM service in Peterborough Cathedral on May 14th.

Bishop Timothy, one of the leading hymn-writers of his generation, is to receive an FRSCM. Born in 1926, and formerly Bishop of Thetford, he is probably best known for his hymn 'Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord'. He has published around 300 hymn texts to fulfil liturgical and seasonal needs. Bishop Timothy is delighted to have been nominated. "That the RSCM should choose to honour someone known, alas, to be as lacking in music as I am, should be seen as a gracious recognition of the importance of hymnody in Christian worship," he said.

Offering his warmest congratulations to Bishop Timothy, Lindsay Gray, Director of the RSCM, said: "Bishop Timothy has been typically self-effacing; he knows all there is to know about the powerful combination of good words and music in a hymn. He, and the others receiving honorary awards have given exceptional service to church music over many years. Their outstanding contributions have influenced, guided and inspired countless others across the world." In addition to a fellowship for Bishop Timothy, other recipients include former and serving cathedral organists, as well as a number of leading church musicians from the USA, New Zealand and South Africa.

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

Fellowship (FRSCM)

For achievements of international significance, or exceptional work for the RSCM

The Revd Dr Carl Daw

Episcopal priest, hymn-writer and former Executive Director of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada.

The Rt Revd Timothy Dudley-Smith

Hymn-writer.

Terence Duffy

Former Director of Music at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.

Dr Donald Hunt OBE

Conductor, lecturer, composer and former Organist and Master of the Choristers at Worcester Cathedral.

Richard Webster

Director of many RSCM USA courses and involved in courses in South Africa, former Organist and Choirmaster at St Luke's Church, Evanston, Illinois.

Peter Wright

Organist and Director of Music at Southwark Cathedral, Chairman of RSCM Southwark Area Committee.

Associateship (ARSCM)

For achievements of national significance, or important work for the RSCM

Megwenya Matthews

Awarded for long and distinguished service to RSCM Australia. Choral conductor and host of a weekly sacred music programme at 2MBS-FM.

The Revd Edmund Pickup

Former member of RSCM America Board and chaplain for numerous RSCM courses for over 20 years.

Sidney Place

Director of Music at St Mary's Cathedral, Johannesburg and Co-founder of the Transvaal Organ Society.

Honorary Membership (HonRSCM)

For exceptional or very significant work for church music or RSCM, at national or International level but not primarily musical or liturgical

Andrew Timothy Morris

Director of Music at St George's Church, Kidderminster, distinguished member of Worcester Diocesan Music Committee and RSCM Area Committee.

The Revd Alison Pitts

Distinguished officer of RSCM Council in New Zealand.

Deirdre Russell

Chair of RSCM Western Australia Branch, distinguished service to church music in Perth.

George Woods

RSCM Council representative on RSCM South Africa National Committee, Vice-chair of RSCM Northern Branch, South Africa.

Jenny Yates

Chair of RSCM Eastern Cape Branch, South Africa.

Certificate of Special Service

For significant administrative work as a volunteer or member of RSCM staff, or for a significant contribution to church music and/or liturgy at a local level

Robert Allison, South Africa

Philip Bowcock, Oxford

Jenny Campbell-Pitt, South Africa

Dr Lucy Commander, Australia

Maureen de Villiers, South Africa

Eric Dunne, Lancashire

Duncan Patterson, Essex

Angus Smart, Hereford

Further biographical details of FRSCM, ARSCM and HonRSCM recipients:

The Revd Dr Carl Daw (FRSCM)

Reverend Daw is an American Episcopal priest and writer who served as the Executive Director of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada from 1996 to 2009. Admired as an accomplished administrator, liturgist, poet, musician and pastor, he brings many talents to his hymnological endeavours. He continues as Adjunct Professor of Hymnology and as Curator of the Hymnological Collections at Boston University School of Theology. He has been engaged to prepare the Companion for the forthcoming (2013) hymnal of the Presbyterian church (USA). His texts appear in most recent English-language hymnals and have been translated into Spanish, Chinese and Japanese.

The Rt Revd Timothy Dudley-Smith (FRSCM)

Bishop Timothy is the leading hymn-writer of his generation. From 'Tell out, my soul', one of his earliest hymns, to collections covering all liturgical and seasonal needs, his hymns have both filled a need and invigorated the entire genre with hymns that combine biblical strength with beautifully crafted poetry. His hymns have been set to music by composers from around the world and provide inspiration to churches Sunday by Sunday.

Terence Duffy (FRSCM)

Terence Duffy is an organist, church musician and teacher who has made a distinctive contribution to Roman Catholic liturgical music in Britain, notably at Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral (organist 1963-1993 and Director of Music from 2004-07). He is a skilled and much respected recitalist and teacher, who, with his brother, Philip Duffy, helped to nurture the music department in the newly established Cathedral. The musical and liturgical standards of the Cathedral are of the highest order, and combine respect for tradition with a healthy promotion of new music. Several generations of musicians have now benefitted from this musical heritage, and the Cathedral Choir celebrates its 50th birthday in November 2010.

Donald Hunt (FRSCM)

Donald Hunt is a conductor, lecturer, composer and teacher. While Director of Music at Leeds Parish Church he conducted several notable choirs including the Leeds Philharmonic, was Leeds City Organist and a lecturer at the Leeds College of Music. He received a Doctorate in Music from Leeds University for his work in Yorkshire. From 1976-1996 he was Organist and Master of the Choristers at Worcester Cathedral, and conducted eight Three Choirs Festivals. He has made many commercial recordings, has broadcast regularly and appeared on television. He has worked internationally, most recently as guest conductor of Cape Town Philharmonia. He has written several books and has had much of his music published. He master-minded and directed the 2007 Elgar 150th anniversary festival in Worcester and is Music Advisor to the Elgar School of Music in Worcester. He was appointed OBE in 1993.

Richard Webster (FRSCM)

Richard Webster is a musician of the highest calibre. He approaches his work with choirs with a freshness and energy that is inspiring for all who work with him. He has directed numerous courses for the RSCM in the USA and has also been involved in RSCM courses in South Africa. He was organist and choirmaster at St Luke's Church, Evanston IL, for several decades, was founding director of Bach Week in Evanston, and was recently named Director of Music at Trinity, Copley Square, Boston.

Peter Wright (FRSCM)

Peter Wright has been nominated for his general contribution to the health of church music. He has served as Organist and Director of Music at Southwark Cathedral and the chairman of RSCM's Southwark Area Committee for over 20 years. He was President of the Royal College of Organists from 2005-2008, and played a significant role in their relations with the RSCM for a number of years. At Southwark he has raised and sustained the standard of the cathedral choir as well as introducing a girls' choir and the Merbecke Choir for ex-choristers. Peter is also much in demand as an organ recitalist and choral conductor, both in the UK and abroad.

Megwenya Matthews (ARSCM)

Megwenya Matthews has given long and distinguished service to RSCM Australia and has made an enormous contribution to choral music education as choral conductor, NSW Branch committee member, and Chair (from 1998). She has organised annual school festivals, steered and planned workshops across NSW and several National Summer Schools, including the 50th anniversary Australasian Summer School in Sydney in 2005. She has undertaken adult education work (Opera Australia and Sydney and Macquarie Universities) which has helped sustain the RSCM's presence as an influential community education body. As a broadcaster she has also hosted a weekly sacred music programme at 2MBS-FM.

The Revd Edmund Pickup (ARSCM)

Reverend Pickup was an RSCM America Board member from 2004-2007 and has served as Chaplain to the Board from 2007 to the present. He has also acted as chaplain for numerous RSCM courses over the last 21 years. During his tenure he has been an integral member of staff and planned hundreds of inspiring worship services, preached many enlightening sermons, as well as providing pastoral care to thousands of RSCM members and course participants of all ages.

Sidney Place (ARSCM)

Sidney Place has been Director of Music, at St Mary's Cathedral, Johannesburg since 1994. Thanks to his perseverance and positive response to challenges posed by inner-city cathedral parishes, the tradition of 'good music sung well and played well' has been enhanced. He oversaw maintenance of the St Mary's organ and initiated many improvements which enabled the Cathedral to become a venue for international recitals and day-schools. He co-founded the Transvaal Organ Society which did much to promote the organ across denominational divides. Since 1978 he has dedicated himself to the RSCM in South Africa and has served on the Northern Branch Committee, organised Summer School programmes, re-written constitutions and drawn up legislative documents.

Andrew Timothy Morris (HonRSCM)

Tim Morris has made a huge impact on music in worship in the Worcester Diocese, becoming Director of Music at St George's, Kidderminster in 1976. He has been a member of the Worcester Diocesan Music Committee and the RSCM Worcestershire Area Committee (and Area Secretary for 21 years) and has organised many events for the RSCM including the annual choirs' festivals as well as conducting or accompanying the BBC Songs of Praise and Sunday Half Hour broadcasts. He regularly arranges and records hymns and worship songs for broadcast on local radio and promotes interdenominational events which bring people together in acts of worship.

The Revd Alison Pitts (HonRSCM)

Reverent Pitts has been enormously supportive of the RSCM for most of her life, offering her administrative gifts for the organisation. She has been a member of the RSCM NZ Council for over seven years as Secretary and Minute Secretary. She was Chair of Wellington Branch for four years and is currently Deputy Chair. She has organised and administrated several national RSCM Summer Schools and Winter Choir Schools. She conducts the church singing group within her present parish and, though officially retired, assists with services.

Deirdre Russell (HonRSCM)

Deirdre Russell has been a committee member of the RSCM Western Australia branch since 1982, Honorary Secretary 1988-1999 and Chair 1999-2003 and 2007 to the present. She has edited the RSCM magazine West News, directed and tutored on numerous RSCM courses, including a flagship residential course for junior choristers, and has been on the organising committee for four national summer schools. Deirdre is director of music for a Uniting Church in Perth and has ensured the branch remains firmly ecumenical. Her tireless work encouraging, supporting and organising young people's courses reflects her passion for teaching young people in the ways of the church and its music.

George Woods (HonRSCM)

George Woods is an RSCM Council representative on the National Committee of the RSCM in SA, as well as Vice-chair of the Northern Branch. He has co-ordinated national Summer Schools, initiated strategic meetings, and conducted liturgy workshops. He has a vision for initiatives that could grow the RSCM world-wide in both standing and relevance. He provides leadership for the Northern Branch by planning and facilitating branch plans and events including two RSCM Youth Camps and three national Summer Schools. On the National Committee his role has been to guide, direct and chart a measurable and achievable strategic plan, which will see the RSCM in South Africa grow in prominence and value.

Jenny Yates (HonRSCM)

Jenny Yates has been involved in RSCM activities since her student days, and as Treasurer of the Eastern Cape Branch effected a smooth transition when it was transferred to Port Elizabeth. As Chair of the Branch since 2006, Jenny has overseen two Summer Schools in Port Elizabeth and publishes a quarterly RSCM newsletter. She continually ensures links are maintained with other like-minded organisations as well as cathedrals, schools, universities, choral associations and music teachers. Jenny pays particular attention to identifying and nurturing young church musicians, arranging bursaries and grants from various South African and overseas institutions, to develop their talents for their own and the RSCM's benefit.

ENDS

26 November 2010

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

Nominations for awards may be submitted by members of RSCM Council, senior officers, national council or national forum, area or district committee, or overseas branch. Nominations must be received by 1st September each year.

FRSCM, ARSCM and HonRSCM awards will be presented at the RSCM's annual Celebration Day, which this year takes place in Peterborough Cathedral on 14th May 2011. Reporters will be most welcome.

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Registered charity no: 312828