



News from the Royal School of Church Music

RSCM MILLENNIUM YOUTH CHOIR TO GIVE FIRST BROADCAST OF NEW WORK

The Royal School of Church Music's Millennium Youth Choir (MYC) is to give the first broadcast performance of a new set of Evening Canticles by James Whitbourn. The setting can be heard during a live broadcast of *Choral Evensong* on Wednesday 3rd August on BBC Radio Three from Bridlington Priory in Yorkshire.

The broadcast service takes place during the Millennium Youth Choir's summer course, which also includes the singing of services in York Minster and concerts in Whitby and Waltham (Lincs).

The Canticles of Mary and Simeon by James Whitbourn for choir, organ and solo viola have been commissioned by the Millennium Youth Choir and will be premiered during Choral Evensong in York Minster on 2nd August, prior to the radio broadcast the following day. The choir is joined by Howard Breakspear, formerly principal viola player of Opera North.

David Ogden, the Director of the Millennium Youth Choir says the choir is already familiar with Whitbourn's work. *"We recently performed his canticles for choir, organ and tam tam, written for King's College Cambridge. The singers enjoyed his music and the novelty of the orchestration. In our commission, Whitbourn takes a fresh look at the Jewish origins of the texts and accompanies the choir with organ and solo viola with its ability to juxtapose deep sonority with higher, more rapid movements. I'm very much looking forward to performing the piece."*

The 30-strong choir, made up of singers aged between 15 and 24 years from churches and collegiate chapels all over the country, will be accompanied by organist Daniel Moul. Vocal coaching will be given by Alison Hill, a new member of the Millennium Youth Choir team. She sings with the Monteverdi Choir, The Sixteen, Polyphony, Tenebrae and Stile Antico.

As well as singing at Choral Evensong at York Minster on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd August (at 5.15pm) and broadcasting from Bridlington Priory on Wednesday 3rd, the MYC will give two concerts. The first is an hour-long lunchtime recital at **St Hilda's Church in Whitby, at 1.00pm on Thursday 4th August** (free entry, retiring collection). The choir then travels to Lincolnshire, for a concert at **All Saints' Church, Waltham (nr Grimsby) on Friday 5th at 7.30pm**. Tickets are £5 (students and children free), from Robert Adams (01472 824937 or adamspiano@ntlworld.com), or at the door.

The music scheme for the week is as follows :

Evensong at York Minster - Mon 1st August at 5.15pm

Responses: Ayleward

Psalms: Psalms 7 and 8

Canticles: St Martin's Canticles - Cecilia McDowall

Anthem: Aurea Luce - Cecilia McDowall

Evensong at York Minster - Tue 2nd August at 5.15pm

Responses: Ayleward

Psalms: 12, 13 and 14 (omitting verses 5-7 in Psalm 14)

Canticles: The Canticles of Mary and Simeon (Eboracum) - Whitbourn

Anthem: Jesu, the very thought of thee - McDowall

BBC Radio 3 broadcast of Choral Evensong, Bridlington Priory - Wed 3rd August at 4.00pm

Anthem: O nata lux - Thomas Tallis

Canticles: The Canticles of Mary and Simeon (Eboracum) - Whitbourn

Anthem: Jesu, the very thought of thee - Cecilia McDowall

Anthem: Hear, O my Lord - Barry Rose

ENDS

13th July 2011

Notes for Editors

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an international ecumenical charity that educates, supports and enables musicians, composers and clergy in promoting sacred music in churches, schools and the wider community. The RSCM publishes music and training resources (such as its popular *Voice for Life* training scheme for singers of all ages), and organises a wide range of courses, short workshops and activities. With over 8,000 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is supported by over 600 volunteers in area committees and a small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at www.rscm.com.

The RSCM Millennium Youth Choir (www.millenniumyouthchoir.com) was founded in 1999 at the suggestion of the Archbishop of Canterbury, offering young singers from the ages of 15 to 24 years the opportunity to sing in some of the UK's most beautiful sacred buildings. Residential courses are held during school and university holidays, and include individual musical and vocal tuition, as well as participation in services and performance in public concerts.

Two years ago, the choir travelled to Assisi in a choral pilgrimage with the BBC, and made its debut at the BBC Proms in a performance with other leading youth choirs in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*. They regularly broadcast services for BBC Radio, and take part in recording sessions for BBC TV's *Songs of Praise*.

In recent years the choir has sung in a variety of venues from prisons to some of the UK's most beautiful sacred buildings including St Paul's Cathedral in London, the Cathedrals of St Mary's and St Giles in Edinburgh, St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, Salisbury Cathedral and many others. The choir has recorded two CDs, the most recent in 2007 which was recorded and produced by the composer and conductor, John Rutter.

Photographs of the choir for publication may be downloaded from the RSCM website:

http://www.rscm.com/about_us/pictureGallery.php. We will be pleased to arrange for a reporter/photographer/film crew to visit the choir during the week.

James Whitbourn's *Canticles of Mary and Simeon (Eboracum)* are published by Chester Music Limited. More at www.chesternovello.com.

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