



News from the Royal School of Church Music

MILLENNIUM YOUTH CHOIR SET FOR BBC EASTER TRIP TO ITALY

Final preparations are under way for the RSCM Millennium Youth Choir's (MYC) biggest project to date, a week-long pilgrimage to Assisi in central Italy, the birthplace of St Francis. Radio listeners in the UK will be able to hear the choir during the Easter holiday week on BBC Radio 4's *Daily Service* and *Sunday Worship*.

The MYC's schedule also includes recordings of *Choral Vespers* for BBC Radio 3 and *Sunday Half Hour* on Radio 2. The choir, which is made up of forty auditioned singers aged 16 to 24 from church and cathedral choirs all over the UK, will be broadcasting from the Upper Basilica, now rebuilt to its former glory following the earthquake there in 1997, and from other churches in and around Assisi. It will also give a concert at the church of Santa Maria Maggiore. All broadcast services will reflect on the life and legacy of St Francis through music, readings and prayers.

The timetable is such that the choir's first rehearsal is going to take place on the bus taking the choir from the airport in Rome, having left Stansted on an early morning flight on Easter Monday. "It is probably the choir's biggest operation to date," says David Ogden, the choir's director. "There are forty singers to co-ordinate in a busy schedule of broadcasts and recordings in some wonderful churches." Apart from the singing, there will be two opportunities for sight-seeing. In addition to the broadcasts, listeners and followers of the MYC will be able to follow their progress in and around Assisi in daily entries on an internet blog and on Twitter (both accessible via <http://millenniumyouthchoir.wordpress.com>) especially set up for the trip.

Ends

3 April 2009

Notes for Editors

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an educational charity and 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. More at www.rscm.com

The RSCM Millennium Youth Choir consists of about 40 singers aged from 16 to 24 years, drawn from school, university, church and cathedral choirs all over the UK and overseas. Formed in 1999 at the suggestion of the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, the MYC meets three times each year. The choir sings at cathedral residencies, and gives concerts and broadcasts, and has appeared on BBC TV. It has also sung in a range of contrasting venues from the Millennium Dome to Birmingham Prison.

For more information go to www.millenniumyouthchoir.com.

The internet blog specially set up for this trip is at <http://millenniumyouthchoir.wordpress.com>, containing full details of service broadcasts and music.

RSCM MYC broadcasts from Assisi.

Monday 13th April

9.45 am BBC Radio 4 Longwave

DAILY SERVICE (from Manchester Airport Chapel with music already recorded by MYC)

Tuesday 14th April to Friday 17th April

9.45 am BBC Radio 4 Longwave

DAILY SERVICE from various churches in Assisi

Sunday 19th April

8.10 am BBC Radio 4

SUNDAY WORSHIP from the Upper Basilica

Wednesday 30th September (repeat Sunday 4th October)

4.00pm BBC Radio 3

CHORAL VESPERS from San Rufino Cathedral on St Francis's Feast Day

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