



**News from the Royal School of Church Music**

## **RSCM MILLENNIUM YOUTH CHOIR TO SING IN CHESTER AND LIVERPOOL**

**One of the country's leading youth choirs is coming to the north-west later this month. The RSCM Millennium Youth Choir (MYC) will be singing in cathedrals in Chester and Liverpool (July 27<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup> inclusive) as part of their summer course. The choir, comprising forty young singers from all over the UK, will also record music for BBC TV's *Songs of Praise*. (Full schedule below.) Later in the summer, the MYC makes its first appearance at the BBC Proms.**

The choir will be based in Chester for the week, singing Choral Evensong in the city's cathedral during the week (daily 5.30pm except Thursday). On Thursday, the MYC gives a free lunchtime concert in Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral at 1.00pm. The choir will also sing all the choral services at Chester Cathedral during the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The filming for BBC TV's *Songs of Praise* will take place in Chester Cathedral's Chapter House, and will be broadcast on 20<sup>th</sup> September on BBC One, as part of a programme on a theme of pilgrimage.

A wide range of music will be covered throughout the week, from Magnificat settings by continental Baroque composers Jan Pieterzoon Sweelinck and Giovanni Rigatti, to the performance of more contemporary works by Roxanna Panufnik, Philip Wilby and James Macmillan. "It's important to give listener and performer alike, a good range of music," says David Ogden, the MYC's Director. "A choir of young people of this calibre should be getting their teeth into contemporary music, but just as much attention goes to more traditional fare, so we'll be performing music by key suspects such as JS Bach, Stanford and Howells as well."

Membership of the choir is by audition; singers are drawn from RSCM-affiliated church and college choirs throughout the country. "We would welcome anyone interested in joining, to come along and hear us sing," says Ogden. "It's a very friendly choir which sings to impressively high standards."

Later in the summer, the MYC makes its BBC Proms debut in a performance of Handel's *Messiah* with other leading youth choirs on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September at London's Royal Albert Hall. A recording of Choral Vespers from the San Rufino Cathedral in Assisi, during the choir's Easter course, will be broadcast on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Ends

1<sup>st</sup> July 2009

## Notes for Editors

The RSCM Millennium Youth Choir was founded in 1999 at the suggestion of the Archbishop of Canterbury, offering young singers from the ages of 16 to 23 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.

Recent courses have taken the choir to Assisi in a choral pilgrimage with the BBC, singing in Daily Service broadcasts and giving a live broadcast of Radio 4 Sunday Worship from the Upper Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi, and recording Choral Vespers for BBC Radio 3 in the San Rufino Cattedrale.

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.

The choir has appeared several times on BBC television singing on BBC One's *Songs of Praise*, and broadcast on BBC Radios 2, 3 and 4, and is making its BBC Proms debut in September 2009. The RSCM Millennium Youth Choir is conducted by David Ogden, assisted by the organist Daniel Moulton and the vocal coach Hilary Llystyn Jones.

For more information go to [www.millenniumyouthchoir.com](http://www.millenniumyouthchoir.com).

An internet blog can be found at <http://millenniumyouthchoir.wordpress.com>

**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 over 8,500 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries, it is an international network, supported by over 750 volunteers and small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at [www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com)

FULL SCHEDULE:

### **Monday 27th July, 5.30pm**

*Choral Evensong - Chester Cathedral*

Responses: Leighton

Canticles: 3rd service - Moore

Anthem: Hear my Prayer - Purcell

### **Tuesday 28th July, 5.30pm**

*Choral Evensong - Chester Cathedral*

Responses: Leighton

Canticles: Magnificat – Sweelinck, Nunc dimittis - Des Prez

Anthem: Sing joyfully - Byrd

### **Wednesday 29th July, 5.30pm**

*Choral Evensong - Chester Cathedral*

Responses: Leighton

Canticles: Magnificat – Rigatti, Nunc dimittis - Holst

Anthem: Laudans exultet gaudio - Croce

### **Thursday 30th July, 1.00pm**

*Concert - Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral*

Includes works by Byrd, Purcell, Vaughan Williams, Holst, Croce and a piece written especially for the choir by Philip Wilby.

**Friday 31st July, 5.30pm***Choral Evensong - Chester Cathedral*

Responses: Leighton

Canticles: 2nd service - Gibbons

Anthem: Valiant-For-Truth - Vaughan Williams

**Saturday 1st August, 4.15pm***Choral Evensong - Chester Cathedral*

Responses: Leighton

Canticles: Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in A - Stanford

Anthem: Lobet den Herrn - JS Bach

**Sunday 2nd August, 10.00am***Choral Eucharist - Chester Cathedral*

Westminster Mass - Panufnik

Communion motet: Deus, Deus meus – Panufnik

**Sunday 2nd August, 11.30am***Choral Matins - Chester Cathedral*

Winchester Te Deum - Rutter

Anthem: Tremunt videntes angeli - MacMillan

**Sunday 2nd August, 3.30pm***Choral Evensong - Chester Cathedral*

Responses: Leighton

Canticles: Gloucester Service - Howells

Anthem: i thank You God for most this amazing day - Whitacre

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