



News from the Royal School of Church Music

RSCM MILLENNIUM YOUTH CHOIR TO SING AT THE PROMS

The Royal School of Church Music Millennium Youth Choir has been invited to take part in a performance of Handel's *Messiah* at the 2009 BBC Proms. The performance, to be given by leading youth choirs from all over the UK, will take place in the Royal Albert Hall in London on Sunday September 6th at 6.30pm, and will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3.

The RSCM Millennium Youth Choir (MYC) is one of seven leading groups of young singers in the UK who will form the massed choir of 250-300 voices. Described by the BBC as "a Royal Albert Hall-sized performance", this large-scale rendition of *Messiah* marks the climax of their celebrations to mark the 250th anniversary of Handel's death. The RSCM Millennium Youth Choir, which comprises over 40 singers aged between 16 and 24, draws its membership from church, collegiate and cathedral choirs from all over the UK. The choir returned just a few weeks ago from a trip to Assisi in Italy, to record and broadcast a number of services for BBC Radio.

"It's an exciting and wonderful opportunity," says David Ogden, the MYC's Director. "Many of our number are well-used to singing for services, concerts and TV recordings, but not everyone gets asked to appear in a BBC Prom. For some, this will be the first time that they've taken part in a complete performance of *Messiah*. I wish I was singing myself!"

All the singers taking part, including members of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain and Wales, the CBSO Youth Chorus and the Hallé Youth Choir, will spend four days in intensive rehearsals with the choral specialist Simon Halsey in Newcastle, before travelling to London for a run-through in the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday morning. The orchestra will be the Northern Sinfonia and the concert is conducted by the Handel specialist Nicholas McGegan. Tickets may be purchased through the usual BBC outlets.

Ends

2 May 2009

Notes for Editors

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an educational charity which 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 more than 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 Millennium Youth Choir was formed in 1999 at the suggestion of Lord Carey, the then Archbishop of Canterbury. Since then the choir has sung in churches large and small, cathedrals, and a prison chapel. The MYC has also taken part in many radio and television broadcasts including *Choral Evensong* on BBC Radio 3, and BBC TV's *Songs of Praise*. In April they travelled to Assisi in Italy for a week-long series of church service broadcasts for BBC Radio. Their appearance at the Royal Albert Hall in September, comes soon after their own summer course, which this year takes place in Chester. For more information about the choir, including details of how to join, go to www.rscm.com/myc

Photographs of the Millennium Youth Choir taken during their recent visit to Assisi can be downloaded for publication from the picture gallery in the Media section of the RSCM website. Go to www.rscm.com/media

More details about the BBC Proms and booking information can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/proms

For further media enquiries contact:

Stuart Robinson: RSCM Media Relations Organiser srobinson@rscm.com 01492 556378 / 07831 827701

Heather Bamber: RSCM Marketing & Communications Administrator hbamber@rscm.com 01722 424847