



News from the Royal School of Church Music

**“IMMEDIATELY SINGABLE AND ATTRACTIVE”  
A NEW CHRISTMAS CAROL SEQUENCE FROM MALCOLM ARCHER**

**A delightful new sequence of Christmas Carols for upper voices and piano by the popular church music composer Malcolm Archer, has just been published by the Royal School of Church Music. *Nowell! Nowell!* is a collection of ten carols drawing mostly on mediaeval texts, and is well suited for school and church youth choirs, for concert or even liturgical performance.**

**Copies are available for review – see Notes for Editors below.**

*Nowell! Nowell!* was commissioned by Badminton School, Bristol, to commemorate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and has also just been recorded by the Quiristers of Winchester College, where Malcolm Archer is the Director of Chapel Music. Speaking about the sequence in a podcast on the RSCM website ([http://www.rscm.com/info\\_resources/media/Archer\\_podcast.php](http://www.rscm.com/info_resources/media/Archer_podcast.php)), he says the idea was to create a work that was “immediately singable and attractive” which would be a valuable addition to the Christmas repertoire, and an ideal companion piece to Britten’s *Ceremony of Carols*.

Like Britten’s work, Malcolm Archer’s sequence begins and ends with processional plainsong, in this instance *Puer natus est nobis*, but Malcolm Archer argues that any similarity between the two works ends there. “The procession is a way of getting people onto and off the stage – and expands its usefulness as a work, for use in a quasi-liturgical setting as well.”

The carols are scored both for unison singing (such as *Sion’s Daughter* which can be sung by a soloist) and for divided sopranos and altos (such as *Joseph was an old man*). Malcolm Archer says that good strong altos are necessary for this piece, but that shouldn’t put choirs off learning it; he says that it can be picked up very quickly.

*Nowell! Nowell!* copies are £6.95 each (RSCM affiliates can claim a 25% discount) and can be ordered from RSCM Music Direct, via the RSCM website [www.rscm.com/shop](http://www.rscm.com/shop) or by telephone 0845 021 7726 or by email: [musicdirect@rscm.com](mailto:musicdirect@rscm.com)

**Ends:**

**4 October 2010**

## Notes for Editors

**Nowell! Nowell! is available for review in bona-fide publications on request. To arrange for a copy to be sent to you, please contact either Stuart Robinson or Heather Bamber (see below).**

**Malcolm Archer is also available for interview, by arrangement.**

**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 600 volunteers in area committees and a small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at [www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com)

**For further media enquiries contact:**

**Stuart Robinson:** RSCM Media Relations Organiser [srobinson@rscm.com](mailto:srobinson@rscm.com) 01492 556378 / 07831 827701

**Heather Bamber:** RSCM Marketing & Communications Administrator [hbamber@rscm.com](mailto:hbamber@rscm.com) 01722 424847

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The Royal School of Church Music  
19 The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2EB  
Tel: 01722 424848  
Fax: 01722 424849

Registered charity no: 312828