



Press Release from the Royal School of Church Music

May 2006

New musical office chairs in Salisbury.

The Royal School of Church Music is moving its central offices from the Surrey Downs, to within the shadow of Salisbury Cathedral spire in Wiltshire.

The educational charity, which trains and supports the work of church musicians all over the world, is to run its operation out of Sarum College in the Cathedral Close in Salisbury from the end of this month. It will be based alongside other Christian training organisations already located there.

For the past ten years the RSCM (which celebrates the 80th anniversary of its foundation in 2007) has run its international operation for over 8,500 affiliated churches and individuals from Cleveland Lodge, set in the Surrey Downs near Dorking. However, the RSCM trustees have concluded that the work of the RSCM in the field is more important than a substantial building. Commenting on the move in the forthcoming edition of the RSCM's *Church Music Quarterly* magazine, the organisation's Director General Professor John Harper writes, 'What Sarum College will provide for us is an economy of scale and an infrastructure of internal services and support allowing staff to concentrate on RSCM matters rather than running a building.'

The departure from Cleveland Lodge has meant the relocation of two organs. The RSCM's own 1931 instrument has been moved on a long-term loan to a Shrewsbury church where a new organ school is being established. The second instrument, was made for Lady Susi Jeans the previous owner of Cleveland Lodge; it is to be moved to the Birmingham Conservatoire, close to the home of her archive.

To coincide with the move, the RSCM has announced the appointment of Sue Snell as the new Head of Education and Training. Mrs Snell has worked in staff development and

management posts in Bath University and Wiltshire County Council, and happens to be married to the composer and musician, Adrian Snell.

At Sarum College, visitors to the college bookshop will be able to peruse and buy RSCM publications. Professor Harper makes clear that it is not the RSCM as a whole that is moving to Salisbury. 'Most of the RSCM - our members, our volunteers, our regional staff - remains undisturbed. Only the "administrative hub" moves to new accommodation,' he writes. But at Sarum College the charity will once again be able to run residential courses; something that was not possible at Cleveland Lodge, thus reviving a popular tradition at Addington Palace, the charity's previous headquarters until 1996.

ENDS
May 2006

Notes for Editors.

More information about the work of the RSCM both in the UK and abroad can be found on our website: www.rscm.com

Pictures can be downloaded for free from www.rscm.com/about_us/sarum.php
They include shots of Cleveland Lodge, Sarum College, the two RSCM organs and Professor John Harper. Please credit the RSCM.

The schedule for the move is as follows.

Wednesday, 24 May 2006	Office closes in Cleveland Lodge at 5 pm
Wednesday, 31 May 2006	Office re-opens in Sarum College at 9.30 am

This will enable three days of office services to be available to members in both of these weeks.

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an educational charity promoting the best use of music in worship, church life, and the wider community. It is an open, life-long learning organization, offering training programmes, published resources, courses, and activities. With over 8,500 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is an international network, encouraged by over 750 volunteers, and supported by a small staff based in the UK.

Founded by Sir Sydney Nicholson in 1927, its original emphases were English and choral. Now, in a diverse international context, the RSCM's work is far broader and more diverse. It offers models of good practice, provides programmes and resources that can be adapted to local circumstances, and supports the work of local churches through its voluntary committees. Today the RSCM core programmes in singing, church music skills and music in worship are ecumenical in purpose, nature and content.

Follow these internet links for more information about our [history](#), and the forthcoming [move to Salisbury](#).

For more information contact:

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OR

Until 24th May at RSCM Cleveland Lodge. 01306 872800 (until 24th May)
From 31st May at the RSCM offices in Sarum College. 01722 424848

The Royal School of Church Music: Registered charity no: 312828
www.rscm.com enquiries@rscm.com

Until 24th May 2006:
Cleveland Lodge, Westhumble, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6BW. Telephone 01306 872800

From 31st May 2006
19 The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2EB. Telephone 01722 424848 Fax: 01722 424849