



News Release from the Royal School of Church Music

**“How can I keep from singing?”
New CD-ROM resource for schools is published.**

A new photocopiable resource providing schools with valuable musical and speech material celebrating the joy of song, has just been published by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) to mark the 80th anniversary of its foundation.

“*How can I keep from singing?*” is the title of RSCM Young Voices Festival 2007, a free event for boys and girls to be held in eight beautiful locations throughout the UK in June and October. The new CD-ROM provides much of the resources for this service, including hymns, prayers, readings, and also materials to make the learning process fun, such as quiz sheets and crosswords. All these documents can be photocopied as many times as necessary.

All schools need is a single copy of another photocopiable resource; the RSCM’s ***Voice for Life Songbook***, from which five songs will be included in the Festival services. The Songbook contains a further thirty-five songs, a demonstration CD, and extensive notes for teachers, and provides a valuable resource for school and church choirs year-round.

The new CD-ROM does away with the festival service books published in previous years. “In the past, schools and choirs had to buy copies for each individual singer, which could prove costly for some schools,” says Esther Jones, Co-Director of the Young Voices Festival. “Now, for a total outlay of about £55 (or less if schools and churches are affiliated to the RSCM), schools and choirs can buy two invaluable and attractively-produced resources which can be photocopied as many times as necessary.”

How can I keep from singing? also includes some popular hymns: “Angel Voices”, “To God be the Glory” and “For the music of creation” set to Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy”. The festival, which takes its title from a hymn by the American 19th century Baptist minister Robert Lowry, is part of the RSCM’s ***Voice for Life*** programme. This scheme, which is used by schools and churches to encourage and promote singing in their respective establishments, is proving popular not just in the UK but around the world.

“There’s the framework here for any school or church to get children and adults singing.” says the other co-director Leah Perona-Wright. “The Young Voices Festival events will be directed by conductors experienced in working with young people, and will give kids plenty of stimulus to carry on singing back home – and at school or in church.”

Both photocopiable resources, the CD-ROM *How can I keep from singing?* (PRICE £10.00, or £7.50 for RSCM affiliates and members) and the *Voice for Life Songbook* (PRICE £45.00, or £33.75 for RSCM affiliates and members) are published by the RSCM and can be purchased from:

RSCM Music Direct (Cheques made payable to SCM Canterbury Press)
 St Mary’s Works, St Mary’s Plain, Norwich, NR3 3BH
 By phone: +44 (0)845 021 7726 then dial 206
 By fax: +44 (0)845 021 8826
 Email: musicdirect@rscm.com
 Online shop: <http://www.rscm.com/shop/index.php>

Further enquiries about content and the Young Voices Festival can be sent to education@rscm.com, or telephone Anna Burson on 01722 424848.

ENDS.

19 February 2007

Notes for Editors.

Review copies of the CD-ROM “How can I keep from singing” and the Voice for Life Songbook are available on request (contact details below).

The Festival events when they occur will provide good feature and picture material. Editors are invited to send a photographer and/or reporter. The dates & locations are as follows

Dunblane Cathedral, Scotland	Saturday	9 June
Eton College	Tuesday	12 June
Winchester Cathedral	Wednesday	13 June
Ely Cathedral	Wednesday	13 June
King’s College School, Wimbledon	Friday	12 October
St Sepulchre-without-Newgate, London	Saturday	13 October
Ripon Cathedral	Wednesday	17 October
St Alphege, Solihull	Wednesday	17 October

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 small team of staff based throughout the UK. For further information about the RSCM, go to the website www.rscm.com

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