



A Press Release from the Royal School of Church Music

## **“O When the Saints” hits CD-ROM.**

A new educational resource of songs and readings reflecting the story of the slave trade has been published by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) ahead of the two hundredth anniversary next year of the first Act of Parliament abolishing slavery. Called “Road to Freedom” the service book and CD-ROM will be of interest to RE and music teachers alike, looking for material for assemblies and concerts.

“Road to Freedom” – a festival service for upper or mixed voices – is a sequence of gospel songs, spirituals and readings. It includes brand new arrangements of traditional songs such as “Amazing Grace” and familiar spirituals such as “Go Down Moses” and “Oh when the Saints”. The readings include a contemporary account of life on a 19<sup>th</sup> century tobacco plantation from William Brown, himself an American slave, and an extract from the famous “I have a dream” speech delivered by Dr Martin Luther King in 1963.

The service booklet and CD ROM have been published by the RSCM, an international organisation promoting all aspects of music in worship. Each item can be used separately for school assemblies and concerts. The separately available CD ROM includes a demonstration recording of each piece along with pre-recorded backing tracks for use in rehearsals. Other educational materials on the CD ROM include an order of service which can be printed off for use in schools, educational quiz sheets on slavery and gospel music, along with tips on warming up singers and taking rehearsals.

“Road to Freedom” will be used in June and October, when hundreds of school pupils will sing songs and spirituals in a series of festival services organised by the RSCM to take place in cathedrals and college chapels around England. “Young people love singing gospel songs and spirituals,” said the RSCM’s Esther Jones. “We hope this book will give participants more than just an uplifting and inspirational musical experience: our aim is to challenge those taking part to think about the injustice of the slave trade and the struggle of the civil rights movement. Through singing the songs of the slaves the young people will be able to better understand

and identify with them and also appreciate the importance of hope for a suffering people.” she said.

“Road to Freedom” is published as part of the RSCM as part of the Voice for Life scheme; a structured training programme for churches and schools designed to encourage singing, and provide support and resources for teachers and choir leaders.

**Ends: 1.6.6**

## **Notes for Editors.**

**You are invited to send a reporter / photographer to cover any event. For further details and to arrange interviews, please contact Stuart Robinson RSCM Media Relations Organiser on 07831 827701.**

**The venues for the festival services are as follows.**

<b>Eton College</b>	<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>directed by Ralph Allwood</b>
<b>Winchester Cathedral</b>	<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>directed by David Ogden</b>
<b>Ely Cathedral</b>	<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>directed by Geoff Weaver</b>
<b>Rugby School</b>	<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>directed by Richard Dunster-</b>
<b>Sigtermans</b>		
<b>King’s College School ( Wimbledon)</b>	<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>directed by Daniel Phillips</b>
<b>Ripon Cathedral</b>	<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>directed by Gordon Appleton.</b>

For more information about the RSCM’s work, visit [www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com)

There is also some information for schools on this page: <http://www.rscm.com/education/schoolsFestival.php>

For more information on VOICE FOR LIFE : <http://www.rscm.com/education/vfl.php>

The RSCM is an international and ecumenical organisation promoting all aspects of music in worship. It publishes training materials and sheet music, and organises a wide variety of courses and events for all those involved in the performance of music in worship. The RSCM was established by Sir Sidney Nicholson in 1927 in response to the musical needs of Church of England churches. Since then, the RSCM has broadened its horizons; today the membership comprises a total of over 5000 affiliated churches schools and colleges around the world, and nearly 4000 individual members worldwide.

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 central office [move to Salisbury](#).

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The Royal School of Church Music: Registered charity no: 312828

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