



News Release from the Royal School of Church Music

NEW FROM RSCM; SEASON BY SEASON FOR CHURCH CHOIRS

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has just published *Season by Season* – a photocopyable volume of anthems for much of the church year. This sequel follows the huge success of *The Carol Book*, also published by the RSCM.

“We realised from reaction to *The Carol Book* that we were meeting a very real need,” says John Barnard, the Co-Editor. While *The Carol Book* contains music for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, *Season by Season* covers the remainder of the church year including Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Remembrance. Other occasions such as weddings, funerals and confirmations are also catered for. All items can be photocopied, so a choir will need to purchase only one copy.

John Barnard, who is a well-known composer and arranger of hymn tunes including the tune *Guiting Power*, has co-edited the book with David Iloff, Director of Music at Malvern Priory. “Many churches don’t necessarily have a four-part choir every week,” says David Iloff. “We wanted to make a flexible product usable by a choir of any size and competence, so we have unison, two and three-part as well as standard four-part harmony.”

There are 100 items including new pieces and popular works from composers such as JS Bach, Stanford, Haydn and Handel, with some works such as the *Hallelujah Chorus* presented in both their original and alternative keys. “By putting it down a tone you get rid of top A’s in the soprano and tenor parts, which for many choirs just don’t work,” says John Barnard. “They either haven’t got enough people to get there or haven’t got the confidence; we’ve just tried to be realistic.”

The accompanying CD ROM includes audio recordings of 11 pieces, and other helpful features such as texts of all items for copying into orders of service. In addition, to keep printing costs down, longer items have separate vocal and accompaniment editions. “It’s far easier for an organist to put two pages rather than six on the music stand,” says David Iloff. “In this way we hope to make the book environmentally friendly as well.”

And John Barnard thinks that other choirs might be interested in this publication. “Much of the material would be useful for school choirs – especially those with just upper voices who want to sing in unison only; there is plenty of material that would be relevant to them, and attractive for them to sing.”

ENDS.
30 September 2008

Notes for Editors

Season by Season (published by RSCM Press is priced £80 with a discount of 25% for RSCM members) is available from RSCM Music Direct - go to www.rscm.com/shop

For more information about *Season by Season* including a sample booklet go to <http://www.rscm.com/publications/new.php#SeasonByS>. You can also listen to an interview with John Barnard and David Iliff interspersed with recordings of some of the music at http://www.rscm.com/info_resources/media/SeasonBS_Podcast.php

Copies are available for review. Please contact Heather Bamber (see below) to arrange this.

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. More at www.rscm.com

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 424848