



News Release from the Royal School of Church Music

HOW TO SAVE A MUSIC BUDGET: BUY ONE SONG, GET 39 FREE!!!

At a time when financial stringency means music budgets in schools and churches are being cut, the Royal School of Church Music has just published another photocopiable volume of forty sacred and inspirational songs in *VOICE FOR LIFE SONGBOOK 2*.

Like its predecessor published in 2006, *Voice for Life Songbook 2* supports the RSCM's popular *Voice for Life* programme which is used all over the world to train singers of all standards and ages. It includes lots of warm-up songs and rounds, and a wide range of pieces varying in musical style from plainsong and early music to gospel, folk and jazz. Many arrangements are flexible allowing for performance by upper or mixed voice choirs. Because the pieces are photocopiable, each choir only needs to purchase one copy of the book.

Aimed at schools and community choirs as well as churches, there is a splendid range of pieces from well-known composers such as Christopher Norton, Ken Burton, Mike Brewer, Basil Meade, Geoff Weaver and David Ogden. Traditional works by Byrd, Mozart and Victoria have been included, as well as Pergolesi's two-part "*Stabat Mater*" with its searing suspensions. There's also music from around the world, such as the freedom song '*Siyahamba*' from South Africa. And familiar favourites haven't been forgotten either, with an attractive arrangement by Martin How of "*Be still for the presence of the Lord*". The publication includes photocopiable vocal parts, piano accompaniments and demonstration recordings.

"It's amazingly good value, especially for schools and churches where money is tight," says Leah Perona-Wright, the Director of the *Voice for Life* programme. "You can photocopy the appropriate pages as you need them for each member of the choir – a whole new library of repertoire for just £45."

And, for the non-specialist choir trainer or leader, *Voice for Life Songbook 2* offers guidance on running a choir as well as training notes on each piece, and a substantial section of advice on warm-ups. This resource offers inspiration and ideas for any choir trainer looking to get the very best from their singers.

Ends

30 September 2008

Notes for Editors:

Voice for Life Songbook 2, published by RSCM Press, is priced £45 (with a discount of 25% for RSCM members) and is available from RSCM Music Direct - go to www.rscm.com/shop.

For more information about *Voice for Life Songbook 2* including a sample booklet go to <http://www.rscm.com/publications/new.php#VFL2>.

A podcast about the first *Voice for Life Songbook* can be heard at http://www.rscm.com/info_resources/media/vflSongbookPodcast.php

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

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