

Address given by Mr Lindsay Gray, Director, at RSCM Celebration Day in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral on 17 May 2008, including presentation of Honorary Awards

Those receiving awards were introduced by Mr Lindsay Gray, and the awards were made by Mr Mark Williams, Chairman of Council.

All around the world as well as throughout Britain there are people whose lives and faith have been transformed by their encounter with music; and today we have come together to celebrate that remarkable, God-given creative gift here in Liverpool. Our celebration is placed in the year-long programme of festivities in Liverpool which is European Capital of Culture 2008. The church and its music are only one part of human spirituality, culture, and social coherence but a decisive one, and nowhere better exemplified than in the two cathedral communities at each end of Hope Street. It's a great privilege that the two cathedral choirs are able to join with singers from choirs in Liverpool and from throughout the North-West, North Midlands and North Wales, affirming the work of the Royal School of Church Music. I do thank you all for the time you have given to be part of this festival service today. It's also an honour for us to be able to welcome the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Dame Lorna Muirhead, and her husband, who have set aside time in their busy schedule to be with us.

The sounds of a hymn tune and an anthem written by my predecessor are a reminder that this Celebration Day falls within my first weeks as Director. It's with real excitement and anticipation that I set out to serve this remarkable organisation, as we take forward the mission of church music, extending the outreach of the RSCM nationally and internationally, engaging with new constituencies in church and in education, and rekindling our established relationships.

Many of those established relationships are signalled by the honorary awards which we make today to musicians, to liturgists, and to those who have worked loyally for the RSCM as staff or as volunteers. And it seems appropriate to start with two established figures of church music here in Liverpool.

Ian Tracey has just completed a most distinguished and long period as director of music of this cathedral, and – as we have heard in his brilliant playing today – he continues to serve the cathedral as organist titulaire. His service extends to the wider community of the city through his work as an outstanding choral conductor and in John Moores University, as well as internationally as a recitalist. The council is delighted to mark his achievements and service by appointing Professor Ian Tracey to be a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music.

Peter Miller represents a far larger body of volunteers who loyally sustain the work of the RSCM in the Liverpool Area, and indeed further afield throughout Britain and much of the English-speaking world. It is with great pleasure that the Council is able to mark the contribution of Mr Peter Miller to church music through his work for the RSCM by the award of a Certificate of Special Service.

The remainder of those we honour today have travelled here from different parts of England, from Scotland, from Wales, and from South Africa. All of you have made time in busy lives to be with us today: we are privileged that you are here with us in person, and you are most welcome.

We begin with three senior church musicians, Dr David Hill, Mr Grayston Ives and Canon James Lancelot.

David Hill is one of the most inspirational choral directors of our time, and he made his mark on three leading choral foundations: Westminster Cathedral, Winchester Cathedral and St John's College, Cambridge. He is musical director of the Bach Choir and chief conductor of the BBC Singers, along with a number of other prestigious conducting appointments. In a busy schedule he has always made time to support the work of the RSCM, leading courses in Australia, Canada and America as well as in the UK, bringing vitality as well as the highest standards of musicianship, inspiring singers of very varied abilities to achieve musical results far beyond their expectation.

Grayston Ives is now in his eighteenth and final year at Magdalen College, Oxford, where as Informator Choristarum he has raised the international profile of the choir, including their nomination for a Grammy Award. He is also a composer of distinction, who has been writing since his teens. One of his early close-harmony songs, written when still at school, was adopted into the early repertory of King's Singers, a group of which he himself became a member in the late 1970s. As a choral composer he is sensitive to both text and the abilities of the singers; his music therefore ranges from the technically challenging to the straightforward, and his style is engaging and often lyrical. A significant quantity of that music has been written for the RSCM.

James Lancelot is one of the few musicians in Britain, and the only cathedral organist to have been honoured with the title of Canon by his own cathedral. That is a measure of the integrity, musicianship and Christian faith and witness which he exemplifies. He has now been organist and master of choristers of Durham Cathedral for twenty-three years. An accomplished organist, he directs the cathedral choir and the mixed consort of voices, both of which were heard broadcasting in impressive liturgical broadcasts 12 days ago. He nurtures the music of the cathedral, contributes much to the spiritual life of the cathedral and the diocese, and is a great supporter of the work of the RSCM.

It is with the greatest pleasure that the Council of the Royal School of Church Music appoints Dr David Hill, Mr Bill Ives, and Canon James Lancelot to be Fellows of the Royal School of Church Music.

For many years **Llywela Harris** directed one of the most outstanding girls' choirs in the country at the School of St Mary and St Anne in Abbots Bromley. And most of their singing was liturgical. It was a natural progression from her work at Abbots Bromley to become the last Warden of the Royal School of Church Music at Addington Palace, overseeing the educational work there. She then retired to St David's, her home diocese in Wales, where she has been a great supporter of the music and especially active in the annual festival.

There would have been a time when the RSCM would have paid little attention to the work of a song writer in the evangelical tradition. However, over the past twenty years the RSCM has recognised the importance of the diversity of music for worship, and the diversity of worship across and within the denominations. **Graham Kendrick** has written and performed Christian songs for over 35 years. Many of his songs have proved their theological and musical worth over the decades and are not just sung but owned in churches, cathedrals and chapels throughout the world. His work bridges the range of Western Christian culture, and the high standards he sets provide an important model in this important sphere of sacred music.

The Council of the RSCM is delighted to appoint Miss Llywela Harris and Dr Graham Kendrick to be Fellows of the Royal School of Church Music.

We turn now to two priests whose contribution to the life and work of the church is principally liturgical.

Professor Paul Bradshaw is one of the most outstanding and international scholars of liturgy, and a particular expert in the liturgy of the early Christian centuries. He has also been one of the senior members of the Liturgical Commission of the Church of England, guiding the preparation of the new liturgical resources and texts of Common Worship. His wisdom and his clarity of thought have had a major impact through his writings, his teaching and his engagement with the church. His influence on liturgically-minded musicians has been considerable.

Peter Moger is both musician and liturgist. An able pastor and an able composer, he now spearheads the Church of England's programme of liturgical formation and training. Over the past ten years or so he has contributed much to the RSCM as an Area Chairman, member of Council and Advisory Board, but especially as a key figure in the *Sunday by Sunday* planning team, and as the driving force behind the new *Sunday by Sunday* volume for the second service lectionary.

The Council of the RSCM acknowledges the important work undertaken by liturgists, and is very pleased to appoint the Reverend Professor Paul Bradshaw to be a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music, and the Reverend Peter Moger to be an Associate of the Royal School of Church Music.

Ronald Gill has made the pilgrimage from South Africa to be with us today. Until last year he was Chairman of the most active branch of the RSCM in South Africa, based in Johannesburg, where he has overseen a comprehensive programme of training and specific outreach to the remote parts of the Northern Territories. He himself has composed and has fostered the introduction of new local music into churches, resulting in a very popular anthology, *Songs of Gold*. For ten years he directed the choir of St Mary's Anglican Cathedral in Johannesburg, and he continues to be a much respected Director of Music and Deputy Headmaster at St Martin's School. On the recommendation of the National Council

of RSCM South Africa, the Council is delighted to appoint Mr Ronald Gill to be an Associate of the Royal School of Church Music.

Fridrik Walker has been director of music at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow since 1995. With an able mixed choir he has developed one of the most eclectic and wide-ranging programmes of liturgical music that is rooted in contemporary pastoral theology and in its Scottish identity. The very high standards he continues to achieve with a voluntary choir mean that they regularly broadcast on national radio and television. He himself has a broad portfolio of skills as conductor, composer, singer, organist and teacher.

Michael Turvey is also established as an organist and director of music in Pinner, Middlesex. However, it is his work for the RSCM that is acknowledged here today. After a number of years as a successful chairman of a very active district committee in North-West London, he has taken on the task of leading the whole RSCM London Area, bringing both new life and coherence to the most densely populated but often unconnected region of the RSCM. This has been a challenging task for which he deserves great thanks.

The Council is delighted, therefore, to appoint Mr Fridrik Walker to be an Associate of the Royal School of Church Music, and to appoint Mr Michael Turvey to be an Honorary Member of the Royal School of Church Music.

The RSCM can never honour everyone deserving of an award, and those to whom honours have been given today are therefore representative of all the work that enables and inspires the worship and music of the church through the enormous efforts of volunteers in RSCM committees and the great range of musicians, clergy and well-wishers who engage in the liturgical and musical life of their local church affiliated to the RSCM. To them the Council and the RSCM staff offer great thanks.