

**Details of modules for the new**  
**Certificate of Higher Education in Sacred Music Studies**  
**and RSCM Preliminary Certificate, CertRSCM and DipRSCM**

This is a modular course – a series of separate but interlocking units of study. It consists of eleven modules. Ten of these modules are of 10 credits, and one is of 20 credits. Ten credits of study represent about 120 hours of learning, including study, reflection and assessment.

The course is divided into three sections:

Stage I: Initial studies

Stage II: Core studies

Stage III: Project work

Within this framework, there are three strands of study:

1. Worship and ministry
2. Music in worship (contexts and repertoires)
3. Skills of the church musician

**Stage I: Initial studies**  
**(3 x 10 credit modules)**

Module 1: Introduction to Worship and Ministry

Module 2: Introduction to Music in Worship

Module 3: Basic Skills of the Church Musician

**Module 1: Introduction to Worship and Ministry**

This is one of three modules that form the preliminary stage in the programme of Sacred Music Studies. (The others are Introduction to Music in Worship and Basic Skills of the Church Musician.)

*Aims*

The aims of this module are to

1. introduce you to the nature and patterns of Christian worship and prayer
2. consider the model and characteristics of ministry
3. relate worship, ministry and music, especially in relation to the musician

For those who have not undertaken distance learning, there will be additional guidance and support in independent study skills.

*Teaching and Learning (for this and other 10-credit modules)*

This is a distance-learning module, with textbook and workbook, supported by tutorial guidance by e-mail and/or post and/or telephone.

The workbook will be phased in ten units, each equivalent to the input of a lecture and a seminar. In each unit issues, concepts, or information will be laid out, case study examples provided, questions raised, and guidance offered for the student to relate what has been considered to their own regular engagement in church and church music, and to reflect on their observations and consequent learning outcomes.

Support will take the form of written or oral reports giving feedback and guidance, and two written reports on summative assessments. Additionally, up to 15 minutes of individual tutorial (or equivalent through written contact).

For those who have not undertaken distance learning, there will be initial guidance and support in independent study skills.

Aspects of this module will form part of an optional short residential course.

### *Module description*

This module considers worship, ministry, and their relationship to music. It provides a foundation for two later modules (Worship and Ministry 1 and 2). There are three parts to the module. Part One (Worship) is a summary overview of the nature of worship, the ways in which Christian life relates to worship, prayer, and contemporary patterns of worship. Part Two (Ministry) begins with the model of Jesus Christ, and – from the concept of ‘the priesthood of all believers’ – goes on to consider contemporary ordained and lay ministries, aspects of leadership, inspiration and service in Christian ministry, and the musician as minister. Part Three brings together worship, ministry and music, their relationship, the role of the musician in worship, and the tasks of ministering as a musician both within and outside worship.

### *Assessment*

1. Reflection on reading and study (notes and written response to directed questions)
2. Outline for submissions
3. Submission on an aspect of Christian worship (choice offered): an essay of 1200-1500 words or equivalent
4. Submission reflecting on the musician as minister (choice of topics offered): an essay of 1000-1200 words

## **Module 2: Introduction to Music in Worship**

This is one of three modules that form the preliminary stage in the programme of Sacred Music Studies. (The others are Introduction to Worship and Ministry and Basic Skills of the Church Musician.)

### *Aims*

The aims of this module are to

1. review the nature of music, its use in daily life and in worship, and its contribution to worship
2. survey the shape of the repertory of music for congregation, singers, and players
3. undertake a case study of the use of music in a principal service in your own church

For those who have not undertaken distance learning, there will be additional guidance and support in independent study skills.

### *Module description*

A module in three parts. In the first you will revisit some of the qualities of music (as a technical and human phenomenon), consider how we use music in daily life and in worship, and then review some of the ways in which music contributes to worship. In the second part, there is a brief overview of the shape of the repertory of music for worship, both inherited and current: congregational song, (chants, hymns, songs) music for singers (including choirs), music for players (organs, orchestras and modern ensembles), music for singers and players (grand and informal). Finally, there is a case study of music in a principal weekly service in your own church (normally the Eucharist).

### *Assessment*

1. Reflection on reading and study (notes and written response to directed questions)
2. Outline for submissions
3. Two related submissions: a review or report on the case study of 1300-1500 words, or equivalent [summative – 60%, in relation to Learning outcome 4 and 5], and a complementary essay linking this to aspects of the other studies in the module

## **Module 3: Basic Skills of the Church Musician**

This is one of three modules that form the preliminary stage in the programme of Sacred Music Studies. (The others are Introduction to Worship and Ministry and Introduction to Music in Worship.)

### *Aims*

The aims of the module are

1. to acquire a broad foundation in the basic skills of a church music director or leader
2. to enable you to develop the application of your musical skills to musical leadership in one of the following areas: playing, singing, conducting, arranging
3. to become aware of issues in dealing with clergy, church officers, and members of the church, including communication and negotiating skills
4. to enable you to set about making appropriate musical decisions
5. to know how to set about the organisation, administration and management of a music section in a church
6. to acquire basic knowledge of music reproduction, copyright issues, performing rights etc.
7. to become aware of legal issues affecting church musicians, including child protection, and health and safety

The module does not include technical training in the selected musical skill, but rather its application to the specific context of church music.

### *Module description*

This module provides a broad foundation in the basic skills needed by a church music director or leader. You will be able to develop the application of your musical skills as a music leader in one of the following areas: playing, singing, conducting, arranging. You will enhance your awareness of working with others in church in planning and leading worship, and your confidence in making musical decisions. You will consider the basic organisation, administration and management of a music section in a church, acquire basic knowledge of music reproduction, copyright issues, performing rights etc., and become aware of legal issues affecting church musicians, including child protection, and health and safety. All these studies will be related to your own experience and work in the church.

#### *Assessment*

1. Reflection on reading and study (notes and written response to directed questions)
2. Knowledge-based test
3. Skills-based practical test (with negotiated options of audio or audio-visual submission where appropriate)
4. Outline for personal review
5. Personal review of relationship of working situation to topics studied, in report form (about 1000 words or equivalent)

### **Stage II: Core studies (6 x 10 credit modules)**

Module 4: Worship and ministry 1

Module 5: Worship and ministry 2

Module 6: Music in worship 1

Module 7: Music in worship 2

Module 8: Skills of the Church Musician 1

Module 9: Skills of the Church Musician 2

#### **Module 4: Worship and ministry 1**

This is one of six modules that form the core section of the programme of Sacred Music Studies.

#### *Aims*

The aims of this module are to

1. gain an understanding of the Church as a worshipping community
2. develop your understanding of the role of church musicians within the Christian community
3. reflect on your own gifts and calling to a musical ministry

#### *Module description*

This module addresses the role of church musicians – and of music itself – within a theological understanding of the Church and of Christian worship. Personal reflection on your past and present experience is an essential component of this module.

There are two strands of study:

Church and ministry (Church and ministry in the NT; discipleship, ministry and worship); and

Musical giftedness and calling (vocation to music ministry and natural giftedness, expertise, leadership and participation, collaboration and communication).

#### *Assessment*

1. Reflection on reading and study (notes and written response to directed questions)
2. Outline for submission and report
3. Submission on a prescribed aspect of the module (choice offered); essay of 1200-1500 words, or agreed equivalent
4. Written review of learning in relation to own working experience; report of 800-1000 words, or agreed equivalent

### **Module 5: Worship and ministry 2**

This is one of six modules that form the core section of the programme of Sacred Music Studies.

#### *Aims*

The aims of this module are to

1. Gain a solid theological foundation for planning regular and occasional worship services
2. Develop your understanding of the diversity of roles played by music in worship
3. Strengthen your commitment to the provision of musicians for worship

#### *Module description*

Following on from Worship and ministry I, this module assumes an increasing responsibility and initiative in worship and music, and a greater appreciation of diversity and continuity in worship. Building on your reflection on your own ministry, it introduces you to wider contexts of Christian worship (civic worship, ecumenical worship), and to long-term responsibilities: encouraging and developing musical talent, team-building and providing successors.

There are two strands of study:

Worship and the mission of the Church (the Church and the churches – theological foundations for ecumenical worship; the Church and society – theological foundations for civic worship); and

Musical giftedness and ministry (discerning and encouraging musical giftedness in others; building a team of liturgical musicians, worship leaders and planners; providing successors)

#### *Assessment*

1. Reflection on reading and study (notes and written response to directed questions)
2. Outline for submissions
3. Two submissions, one on each aspect of the module (choice offered); two essays of 1100-1300 words, or agreed equivalent

## **Module 6: Music in worship 1**

This module is one of six in the core section of Sacred Music Studies.

### *Aims*

The aims of the module are to help you to

1. recognise music as an enabler of worship
2. understand its location in your own church community and its worship
3. recognise how musicians can contribute to the shaping and impact of worship
4. understand the nature and structure of regular forms of worship in your own church
5. understand the nature and pattern of the Christian year, and recognise the ways in which your church responds to it
6. recognise the repertoires of music you already use for regular services, and the opportunities for exploration and development
7. recognise the repertoires of music you already use to mark the Christian year, and the opportunities for exploration and development
8. grasp and know how to apply criteria by which to plan, review and renew music in worship

### *Module description*

Following on from the Introduction to Music in Worship, this module explores four areas in relation to the nature of music in worship, and its impact on your own church: the church community, its worship and its use of music in worship; the contexts of regular services and the cycle of the Christian year; the musical repertoires that you use, and the opportunities for exploration and development; the ways in which to set about making musical choices, and the criteria required to do so effectively.

### *Assessment*

1. Reflection on reading and study (notes and written response to directed questions)
2. Written report on forms and structures of services and the Christian year, 600-800 words
3. Plan for service outlines, with reasoning
4. Two outlines for services with music, one for a regular Sunday service, one for a particular season or feast, with commentary of 800-1000 words in all on reasons for location and choice of music
5. Short evaluation report of impact of the module on your understanding of music in worship and its use, 500-600 words

## **Module 7: Music in worship 2**

This module is one of six in the core section of Sacred Music Studies.

### *Aims*

The aims of the module are to help you to

1. recognise the diversity of languages of prayer, and of musical styles and cultures
2. be aware of other kinds of Christian community and worship, and their styles and uses of music
3. be aware of other uses and styles of music outside the Church
4. understand the nature and patterns of special and occasional worship within your own church (including initiation services, weddings and funerals, civic and other services for the wider community)
5. recognise the repertoires of music you already use for special and occasional worship, and the opportunities for exploration and development
6. grasp and know how to apply criteria by which to plan, review and renew music in special and occasional worship, with an awareness of constraints and opportunities

### *Module description*

Following on from Music in Worship I, this module explores a comparable group of four areas in relation to the nature of music in worship, and its impact on your own church: the wider worlds of Christian prayer, worship and music, and of the use of music in secular society; the contexts of special and occasional worship (including initiation services, weddings and funerals, civic and other services for the wider community); the musical repertoires that you use, and the opportunities for exploration and development; the ways in which to set about making musical choices, and the criteria required to do so effectively.

### *Assessment*

1. Reflection on reading and study (notes and written response to directed questions)
2. Written report on special and occasional worship, 600-800 words
3. Plan for service outlines, with reasoning
4. Two outlines for special or occasional services with music, one of which should be for the wider community, with commentary of 800-1000 words in all on reasons for location and choice of music
5. Short evaluation report of impact of module on the development of your understanding of music in worship and its use, 500-600 words

## **Module 8: Skills of the Church Musician 1**

This is one of six modules in the core section of Sacred Music Studies.

### *Aims*

The module is in two parts, and with two broad aims to enable you to

1. develop effective personal skills required in leading or directing music in church

2. develop the application of your musical skills in one area relevant to musical leadership

#### *Module description*

This module builds on the foundation of the module, Basic Skills of the Church Musician. It also complements Skills of the Church Musician 2. It is in two parts.

In the first part you will aim to develop your personal skills and strategies to be an effective church music leader or director, by examining, becoming more aware of, and enhancing your skills as leader, team-worker, communicator, manager, and administrator.

In the second part you will be able to concentrate on the application of your musical skills in an area relevant to music leadership (playing, singing, conducting, or composing/arranging). You may continue to develop the application of a musical skill undertaken in a previous module, or work in a different area.

#### *Assessment*

1. Reflection on reading and study (notes and written response to directed questions)
2. Plans for review and practical test
3. Review of personal skills development, in report form (about 1250 words or equivalent)
4. Skills-based practical test (with negotiated options of audio or audio-visual submission where appropriate)

### **Module 9: Skills of the Church Musician 2**

This is one of six modules in the core section of Sacred Music Studies.

#### *Aims*

The module is in two parts, and with two broad aims to enable you to

1. increase knowledge and awareness of applied skills relevant in leading or directing music in church
2. develop (or further develop) the application of your musical skills in one area relevant to musical leadership

#### *Module description*

This module complements Skills of the Church Musician 1. It is in two parts.

In the first part you will aim to increase your knowledge and use of applied skills relevant to your work as a church music leader or director. These include presentation of musical scores, producing music and service sheets with music, copyright, licensing and performing rights, working with young people, health and safety.

In the second part you will be able to concentrate on the application of your musical skills in an area relevant to music leadership (playing, singing, conducting, or

composing/arranging). You may continue to develop the application of a musical skill undertaken in a previous module, or work in a different area.

#### *Assessment*

1. Reflection on reading and study (notes and written response to directed questions)
2. Written test on applied skills and knowledge
3. Plans for review and practical test
4. Review of applied skills development, in report form (700-800 words or equivalent)
5. Skills-based practical test (with negotiated options of audio or audio-visual submission where appropriate)

### **Stage III: Project work (1 x 10 credit module, and 1 x 20 credit module)**

Module 10: Sacred Music Studies Project 1

Module 11: Sacred Music Studies Project 2

#### **Module 10: Sacred Music Studies Project 1**

This is one of two modules in the final stage of Sacred Music Studies.

#### *Aims*

The aims of the module are to

1. enable an individual student to pursue a course of study that develops from earlier elements of the course in which he/she has a special interest
2. develop skills of working independently
3. develop a substantial single piece from planning to completion
4. contribute to personal development as an effective leader or director of church music

#### *Teaching and Learning strategy for both projects*

This is a distance-learning module, with written study guide supported by tutorial guidance by e-mail and/or post and/or telephone.

The study guide will provide written support on undertaking an individual project, on study methods, choosing an area, topic and approach, planning, undertaking the project work, analysis of the outcomes, planning for presentation, presentational issues, reflecting on a draft or near-complete project. This will represent the equivalent of about 8 hours of lectures.

There are three clear phases to this study, with subdivisions. Asterisks indicate stages where individual tutorial contact and support will be appropriate.

1. Initial Planning
  - 1.1 Identification of area, and of project within area\*

- 1.2 Planning of project (including issue(s), methods and likely mode of presentation/submission)\*
2. Main Project Work
  - 2.1. Undertaking of project work
  - 2.2. Analysis of outcomes of project work (including approach to articulation/presentation of outcomes)\*
3. Completion
  - 3.1. Planning of presentation/submission\*
  - 3.2. Undertaking of presentation/submission
  - 3.3. Reflection on near-complete presentation / drafted submission\*
  - 3.4. Presentation/submission

Initiating contact will be the responsibility of the student. In all, tutorial support will represent up to 2 hours of individual contact, or its equivalent in written form.

Oral contact for guidance and feedback at each asterisked stage. Written report on the final project presentation or submission.

Aspects of this module will form part of an optional short residential course

#### *Module description*

This module offers you the opportunity to plan and undertake a single piece of work in an area of Sacred Music Studies where you have particular interest or enthusiasm. A written study guide will help you systematically to plan both the project work and the presentation/submission. Tutorial support and advice will also be available at key stages in the project.

This project needs to be considered in relation to Project 2 (20 credits). One of the projects must be practical or applied, and the other takes the form of a written submission. There are distinctions between this 10-credit project and a 20-credit project in relation to both the scope of the project work and the extent of presentation.

#### *Assessment*

1. Choice and planning of project
2. Analysis of project work outcomes
3. Evaluation of project presentation or submission before completion
4. Project presentation or submission (2500-3000 words or equivalent)

#### **Module 11: Sacred Music Studies Project 2**

N.B. This module is worth 20 credits

As above, except for assessment 4:

4. Project presentation or submission (4500-5000 words or equivalent)