



News from the Royal School of Church Music

YOUNG CHORISTERS IN BROADCAST FROM BATH ABBEY

For the first time, choristers taking part in the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) annual *Young People's Singing Course*, will broadcast a service "live" on BBC Radio Four from Bath. The week-long course (which is fully booked) takes place each year at Kingswood School in the city. 120 choristers are attending this year ranging in age from 10 to 24, and are drawn from RSCM affiliated churches all over the UK, with some from abroad as well.

**You are invited to send a reporter / photographer to cover the course.
See Notes for Editors.**

The broadcast on Sunday August 24th (SUNDAY WORSHIP BBC Radio Four 8.10am) will be sung by eighty of the older members of the course. The broadcast service takes "Faith, Hope and Love," as its theme and includes music from Russia, Aboriginal Australia, and New Zealand, all of which have been arranged by the course director, Geoff Weaver, himself a well-known expert in sacred music from all over the world. "I'm delighted that we're doing this broadcast, it will provide an additional frisson of excitement to what is always a very popular and enjoyable week."

Over the years this residential course, which is based at Kingswood School, has grown in popularity. Under Geoff Weaver's direction (brief biog below), an experienced team of tutors provide extensive musical training, including care and development of the voice. Many of those attending the course will be following the RSCM's *Voice for Life* scheme, and working towards its Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.

As well as the singers, two young organists have won scholarships for the duration of the course, to accompany some of the daily rehearsals and services in Kingswood School Chapel. Towards the end of the course, all members of the course will sing at services in Bath Abbey (see below). "There's always a happy atmosphere," says Sue Snell, the RSCM's Head of Education. "Course members always rise to the musical challenges. The services in Bath Abbey provide a moving and rousing ending to the course, and everyone goes back to their home churches refreshed and inspired."

MUSIC PROGRAMME (correct at the time of writing)

All services are open to the public

Thursday 20th August

Compline Service in St Stephen's Church at 8.15pm

Friday 21st August**Evensong in Bath Abbey at 5.15pm**

Introit: Thou knowest Lord - Henry Purcell

Responses: Reading

Canticles: Daniel Purcell in E minor

Anthem: Selig sind die Toten – Schütz

Saturday 22nd August**Evensong in Bath Abbey at 5.15pm**

Responses: Reading

Canticles: Kelly in C

Anthem: Zadok the Priest – Handel

Sunday 23rd August**Live broadcast of Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4 from Bath Abbey at 8.10am on the theme Faith, Hope and Love.**

He came singing love - Colin Gibson (New Zealand) arr Weaver

Psalm 121 - Juri Pasternak (Russia) arr Weaver

O Lord Jesus - Marrkapmirr (traditional Aboriginal) arr Weaver

Greater love - John Ireland

Give us the wings of faith - Bullock

Hymn: All my hope on God is founded - Howells

Choral Eucharist in St Stephen's Church at 11.00am (Juniors)

Music to be confirmed

Choral Mattins in Bath Abbey at 11.00am (Seniors)

Te Deum - Mathias

Psalm 42 - Mendelssohn

Now go in Peace - arr Jeffcoat

Evensong in Bath Abbey at 3.30pm

Responses: Reading

Canticles: Brewer in D

Anthem: Greater Love - Ireland

Ends

4th August 2009**Notes for Editors.**

The 2009 Young People's Singing Course takes place at Kingswood School, Bath from Monday 17th – Sunday 23rd August. You are welcome to send a reporter or photographer to any of the daily rehearsals. Please contact either Stuart Robinson or Heather Bamber (contact numbers below) to make the necessary arrangements.

Geoff Weaver is a well-known expert in World Music. He worked as a missionary for many years in Hong Kong, the Philippines and Nigeria. He has also been Director of Music at Bradford Cathedral, and from 1994-2002 was Director of Studies and of Outreach at the RSCM. Last year he directed the music for the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury.

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an educational charity that 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 a small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at www.rscm.com

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