



News from the Royal School of Church Music

“AMAZING START” TO DECADE FOR RSCM

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) begins 2010 with a major boost to its work: an annual grant of £100,000 is to be made by the Liz and Terry Bramall Charitable Trust for the next five years. The funding will be used to finance regional adviser posts throughout England and staff the work of the education department at the RSCM’s main office in Salisbury.

The RSCM supports and promotes church music in its affiliated churches, choirs and schools with a comprehensive range of training programmes, courses and inspirational events for singers of all ages, organists, music directors and instrumentalists. The new funding will secure an existing Regional Adviser post in the North of England, and enable the creation of three similar roles elsewhere in England; their work will include liaison with volunteer area committees and a programme of visits to affiliated churches to support musicians and clergy. In addition, the RSCM will make a new full-time and a part-time appointment in its expanding Education Department, which oversees training programmes such as *Voice for Life* and *Church Music Skills*.

“This gives us a truly amazing start to the new decade,” says Lindsay Gray, Director of the RSCM. “We are hugely grateful to Liz and Terry Bramall for their splendid support, which will have a significant impact on our work, not least in enabling closer direct contact with and support for our affiliates and members in their own churches.”

The Liz and Terry Bramall Charitable Trust already funds and sponsors a number of arts organisations and events including the Leeds International Piano Competition and Opera North. Terry Bramall, who has now retired following a long and successful career in the construction industry, is a director of Doncaster

Rovers Football Club. What is not so well known is that Terry Bramall himself is a lover of church music and an organist. “At the age of sixteen I was harangued by the local archdeacon into playing the organ at a nearby village church. I agreed so long as I could choose the hymns!” His wife Liz sings in a small church choir. “Together we are delighted to support the work of the RSCM, especially when it comes to bringing young people to church music and keeping them involved. We are pleased that our grant will be used to support and enable church musicians; we know at first hand how useful and invaluable that can be.”

Three Regional Music Adviser posts will be advertised in the press and on the RSCM website in early January.

Ends

5 January 2010

Notes for Editors

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 8,000 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 or from www.rscmamerica.org

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