



News from the Royal School of Church Music

## **ALED COMMENDS NEW CHORISTER'S COMPANION**

**The Royal School of Church Music has just launched a contemporary version of a popular reference book for those who sing in churches and cathedrals. The latest edition of *The Chorister's Companion*, commended by singer and broadcaster Aled Jones, is the latest in a long line of pocket-books dating back to 1934.**

***Copies are available for review – see Notes for Editors (below)***

The *RSCM Voice for Life Chorister's Companion* contains everything a new chorister needs to know in one handy pocket-sized book. Complete with colour photographs and illustrations, it includes chapters on basic music notation and theory, how the voice works and how to use it properly, some background on the history of church music, a helpful glossary of musical terms, and hints and tips about being part of a musical team, namely, a choir.

Written with candidates for the RSCM's *Bronze* and *Silver* singing awards also in mind, the pocket book includes explanations of church seasons and key dates of the church year. There are also chapters on various types of church service such as Holy Communion, an illustrated guide to church architecture, and even a section on robes and liturgical colours. There's also a chapter explaining the mechanics of a church and cathedral organ, and a comprehensive reference list (with a timeline) of key church musicians and composers.

The new publication is the latest version in a long line of revisions. The first such guide, called *The Choirboy's Pocket Book* was published in 1934, and sold a total of 140,000 copies until a major rewrite and re-naming as *The Chorister's Companion* in 1980. At the time, the then Director, Dr Lionel Dakers, wrote that "so much had changed in the life of the Church since the days before the Second World War when the book was first published".

In turn and thirty years on, Lindsay Gray, the present Director of the RSCM says, "the need for a total revision has never been greater. The church today is almost unrecognisable from the church served by my predecessor and founder of the RSCM, Sir Sydney Nicholson."

Tim Ruffer, the RSCM's Head of Publishing and editor of the book, claims this latest companion is comprehensive in giving choristers (of all ages) some easily readable background material.

“Whether you belong to a choir which sings in a cathedral, or in a small rural church, *The Chorister’s Companion* will be a valuable reference book for life! It’s been fascinating to work on this latest version for the modern-day church musician.”

Commending the new publication in a Foreword, broadcaster and singer Aled Jones writes, “**The Chorister’s Companion** will help you to serve your church or school community, and to use your voice to the best of your ability. Singing is enriching and rewarding in so many ways.”

The **Voice for Life Chorister’s Companion** (price £7.95\*) can be ordered thus:

online [www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com)  
 email [musicdirect@rscm.com](mailto:musicdirect@rscm.com).  
 phone 0845 021 7726 (option 2)  
 fax 0845 021 8826  
 post RSCM Music Direct, St Mary’s Works, St Mary’s Plain, NORWICH NR3 3BH.

\* 25% discount for RSCM Affiliates and Individual Members.

Ends  
 28 July 2009

## Notes for Editors

**REVIEW COPIES.** The *Chorister’s Companion* is available for review on request. Please contact **Stuart Robinson** or **Heather Bamber** (see below)

Check our website **Picture Gallery** for downloadable photographs for publication without charge. [http://www.rscm.com/about\\_us/pictureGallery.php](http://www.rscm.com/about_us/pictureGallery.php). We hope to have photographs of past front covers soon.

**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](http://www.rscm.com)

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