



News Release from the Royal School of Church Music

CALL TO COMPOSERS FOR RSCM COMPETITION

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has announced details of its annual composition contest, in memory of Dr Harold Smart. Composers are invited to submit a simple anthem which would be suitable for children's choirs at primary school level.

The Harold Smart Competition is now in its 21st year, and was founded in memory of Dr Harold Smart, an enthusiastic amateur church musician. It has been won by several well-known and established choral composers, including Robert Ashfield, Alan Bullard and John Madden. Last year's winner was Jon Simsic from Ohio, USA – his *Harvest Hymn* will be performed in Salisbury Cathedral in November 2009.

This year composers are invited to write a piece of no more than five minutes, with accompaniment (where required) that is not technically demanding. It should be written for a choral group to sing in worship, and may be in unison, two or three upper vocal parts. The work as a whole should reflect contemporary musical styles, and must be composed in 2009.

Further details can be found on the RSCM website at <http://www.rscm.com/publications>, or can be obtained from Leah Smith on +44 (0)1722 424845.

Ends
13 July 2009

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 8,500 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

For more information about competition and an application form, go to
<http://www.rscm.com/publications/haroldsmart.php>

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