



News Release from the Royal School of Church Music

NEW RSCM DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES PLANS TO ATTRACT CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS TO JOIN RSCM.

Lindsay Gray, the recently-appointed Director of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has announced plans to attract churches and schools to join the charity, which promotes music in Christian worship. Speaking at a conference in Canterbury, he particularly mentioned those places with little or no musical resources.

Addressing delegates from affiliated churches at the RSCM's International Summer School and Conference, Mr Gray said *"I have a great desire to help those members of the clergy who haven't experienced the immense value of a really good choir to appreciate what a huge difference it can make to the liturgy, the bringing in of new people, and the enabling of children to actually take part in something rather than be passive members."*

Referring specifically to churches without choirs, Mr Gray said, *"We mustn't underestimate the value of our "Sunday by Sunday" magazine, some of the courses we put on, the publications and much else, to the clergy in churches which don't have the strongest, or indeed any musical tradition."*

Over 120 delegates attended the conference from all over the world. In a wide-ranging speech referring to the difficulties and issues facing church musicians, Mr Gray told delegates that there is a need to build partnerships wherever possible – ranging from broadcasting organisations to educational programmes including the "Sing Up" campaign in England. He also announced plans for a number of new educational initiatives ranging from a "piano to organ" scheme for young people, forming links with church schools, and a particular need to ensure boys become involved in church music.

Ends

19 August 2008

Notes for Editors.

Full details of the International Summer School and Conference are available online at <http://www.rscm.com/iss>

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an educational charity and 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 small team of staff based throughout the UK.

For further information about the RSCM, go to the website
Photographs for media use are available from the Media & Picture Gallery

www.rscm.com
<http://www.rscm.com/media>

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