



## News from the Royal School of Church Music

### **RSCM MILLENNIUM YOUTH CHOIR TO MAKE EASTER ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI WITH BBC.**

**The RSCM Millennium Youth Choir (MYC) will be flying to Assisi in central Italy at Easter to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of *Friars Minor* - the original Franciscans. Their week-long pilgrimage to the birthplace of St Francis includes a busy round of recordings and daily transmissions for BBC Radio. Places are also available in a supporters' group accompanying the choir.**

The Millennium Youth Choir has been invited by the BBC to take part in broadcast services reflecting on the life of St Francis through readings, music and prayers. As well as broadcasts of the *Daily Service* and *Sunday Worship* on BBC Radio 4, their schedule also includes recordings of *Choral Vespers* for BBC Radio 3 and *Sunday Half Hour* on Radio 2. The MYC – which is made up of forty auditioned singers aged 16 to 24 from church and cathedral choirs all over the UK – will also be giving a concert in the Upper Basilica in Assisi. Accompanying the choir will be the organist Daniel Moulton and vocal-coach Hilary Llystyn Jones.

Alongside the MYC's trip, there is a Supporters' Group organised by Pax Travel, which specialises in Christian pilgrimages. The trip which takes place from 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April coincides with the arrival of thousands of pilgrims at Easter who come to see the Basilica in Assisi, and savour the atmosphere of this beautiful town. *"This is a wonderful and exciting opportunity for the MYC and for those accompanying us,"* says David Ogden, the choir's director. *"We'll be absorbing the beauty of the mountains and wooded hillsides around Assisi – the very landscape which inspired St Francis."*

The Supporters' Group itinerary includes participation in the choir's broadcasts which will take place in several of the historic churches in Assisi. *"This is a unique collaboration between the RSCM and the BBC to promote sacred music,"* says Lindsay Gray, the Director of the RSCM. *"In addition I am looking forward to hearing these services reflecting the life and legacy of St Francis, as well as reading the impressions of Assisi in the internet blog from choir members during their pilgrimage week, some of whom will be singing with this group of friendly like-minded young musicians for the first time."*

Those interested in joining the supporters' group on this trip should contact Pax Travel; telephone 020 7485 3003 or visit [www.paxtravel.co.uk](http://www.paxtravel.co.uk).

Ends

9 February 2009

## Notes for Editors

**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. More at [www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com)

**The RSCM Millennium Youth Choir** consists of about 40 singers aged from 16 to 24 years, drawn from school, university, church and cathedral choirs all over the UK and overseas. Formed in 1999 at the suggestion of the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, the MYC meets three times each year. The choir sings at cathedral residencies, and has also sung in a range of contrasting venues from the Millennium Dome to Birmingham Prison. The choir has recorded *Out of the Stillness* – a CD of modern church music which was produced by the composer John Rutter. As well as regular broadcasts for BBC Radio, the choir has also appeared on BBC TV's *Songs of Praise*.

For more information go to [www.millenniumyouthchoir.com](http://www.millenniumyouthchoir.com)

The internet blog specially set up for this trip is at <http://millenniumyouthchoir.wordpress.com>

### RSCM MYC broadcasts from Assisi:

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April

9.45am, BBC Radio 4 Longwave

DAILY SERVICE (from Manchester Airport Chapel with music already recorded by MYC)

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

9.45am, BBC Radio 4 Longwave

DAILY SERVICE from various churches in Assisi

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April

8.10am, BBC Radio 4

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September (repeat Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October)

4.00pm, BBC Radio 3

CHORAL VESPERS from Assisi on St Francis's Feast Day

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