



News from the Royal School of Church Music

TOP UK YOUTH CHOIR CELEBRATES ITS FIRST DECADE

DIARY MARKER: 16th – 17th OCTOBER 2010

One of the UK's leading youth choirs celebrates its tenth anniversary this autumn, with a weekend of celebrations in London. The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) MILLENNIUM YOUTH CHOIR was founded at the instigation of Lord Carey (then Archbishop of Canterbury), and gave its first performance at the Millennium Dome in London on New Year's Eve, 1999.

Former members of the choir will converge on London for the anniversary celebrations, which begin with a service of thanksgiving at 5.00pm on 16th October at St Peter's Church, Eaton Square. The service will be led by Canon Wendy Wilby, who is a member of RSCM Council, and the preacher will be Lord Carey.

On Sunday 17th October, the singers will give a free hour-long concert, also at St Peter's Church, which will include highlights of the choir's repertoire over the past 10 years, including music by the choir's founder conductor, Martin Neary. Also taking part will be the up-and-coming vocal ensemble VOCES8, whose members met when they sang with the Millennium Youth Choir.

The Millennium Youth Choir (MYC) consists of forty singers aged between 16 and 23, who are drawn from parish, cathedral and college choirs all over the UK. It enjoys a high-media profile, and last year made its debut at the BBC Proms in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*. It broadcasts services of *Choral Evensong* on BBC Radio 3, and also records regularly for BBC TV's *Songs of Praise*.

Speaking about his work as Director of the choir on a *Songs of Praise* programme broadcast recently, David Ogden said, "They have lots of energy, lots of enthusiasm, and keenness to learn more about different aspects of music. They are energised by church and the music, which is a really fulfilling task."

All are welcome to attend the service and the concert. Entrance is free, and there will be a retiring collection.

ENDS

4 October 2010

Notes for Editors

This is a timely opportunity for a feature about the success of the Millennium Youth Choir. Please contact Heather Bamber or Stuart Robinson (contact details below) for further assistance.

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an international ecumenical charity that educates, supports and enables musicians, composers and clergy in promoting sacred music in churches, schools and the wider community. The RSCM publishes music and training resources (such as its popular *Voice for Life* training scheme for singers of all ages), and organises a wide range of courses, short workshops and activities. With over 8,000 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is supported by over 600 volunteers in area committees and a small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at www.rscm.com

The RSCM Millennium Youth Choir was founded in 1999 at the suggestion of the Archbishop of Canterbury, offering young singers from the ages of 16 to 23 years the opportunity to sing in some of the UK's most beautiful sacred buildings. Residential courses are held during school and university holidays, and include individual musical and vocal tuition, as well as participation in services and performance in public concerts.

Last year, the choir travelled to Assisi in a choral pilgrimage with the BBC, and made its debut at the BBC Proms in a performance with other leading youth choirs in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*. They regularly broadcast services for BBC Radio, and take part in recording sessions for BBC TV's *Songs of Praise*.

In recent years the choir has sung in a variety of venues from prisons to some of the UK's most beautiful sacred buildings including St Paul's Cathedral in London, the Cathedrals of St Mary and St Giles in Edinburgh, St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, Salisbury Cathedral and many others. The choir has recorded two CDs, the most recent in 2007 which was recorded and produced by the composer and conductor, John Rutter.

The RSCM Millennium Youth Choir is conducted by David Ogden, assisted by the organist Daniel Moulton and the vocal coach Hilary Llystyn Jones.

For more information go to www.rscm.com/myc

Photographs of the choir for publication may be downloaded from the RSCM website:
http://www.rscm.com/about_us/pictureGallery.php

VOCES8

<http://www.voces8.moonfruit.com/>

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