



## News from the Royal School of Church Music

### **13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2010: RSCM INVITES CHURCHES TO CELEBRATE MUSIC SUNDAY.**

Churches throughout the world are being invited to mark **MUSIC SUNDAY**; a celebration of music in worship, by organising an event or incorporating appropriate readings, music and prayers into their regular or a special service. The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has designated **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June** as *Music Sunday*, which also provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the work and commitment of church musicians, combined with a fund-raising initiative on a **50:50** basis split between the participating church and the RSCM.

Speaking in a podcast on the RSCM website (available at [www.rscm.com/media](http://www.rscm.com/media)), Lindsay Gray, the Director of the RSCM says *Music Sunday* is a scheme to raise the profile of church music, and an opportunity for churches to raise funds too. "We felt for some time that it would be valuable for churches to focus on music on one particular Sunday in the church's year." Suggested prayers, readings and music for the occasion can be downloaded from the same website [www.rscm.com/musicsunday](http://www.rscm.com/musicsunday), where there are also a range of ideas for holding fundraising events.

Part of the initiative is **The 50:50 Campaign** which shares proceeds from a *Music Sunday* event between the participating church and the RSCM. For its part, the RSCM's share will be used to develop its education programmes and work in supporting church musicians around the world. On 13<sup>th</sup> June, *Music Sunday* will also be reflected in national broadcasts including BBC Radio 2's *Sunday Half Hour* and BBC Radio 4's *Sunday Worship*. RSCM affiliated choirs also took part in a recording of BBC TV's *Songs of Praise* from Winchester Cathedral to be broadcast on the same day. Already, churches are planning a wide range of events ranging from *Music and Light Entertainment for a Summer's Evening* at All Saints' Church, Rudby in Cleveland, to a *Young Voices Festival* event using the RSCM's latest publication "*All God's People*" at St Thomas's Church in Stourbridge. By contrast, a survey of music used in all church worship on 13<sup>th</sup> June is being carried out in the RSCM's Herefordshire Area. One church in Johannesburg, South Africa is holding a special service, followed by an organ crawl around the city.

Lindsay Gray, the RSCM Director, hopes that churches of all denominations will want to take part, not just those affiliated to the RSCM. Speaking in the RSCM podcast he said, "Music enriches

worship so much; it can take us closer to God and touches our emotions in ways which words cannot.”

Information, ideas, and downloadable resources, and templates can be found on the website at [www.rscm.com/musicsunday](http://www.rscm.com/musicsunday), along with suggestions for music, special readings, and prayers.

ENDS

10<sup>th</sup> May 2010

### Notes for Editors

**Music Sunday: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2010. A perfect peg** - for your publication to include a feature or profile of the work of the RSCM. We will be pleased to help you with more information, and put you in touch with RSCM staff and affiliated organisations in your region.

Further information and downloads about RSCM Music Sunday can be found at <http://www.rscm.com/musicsunday>. Names of participating choirs, churches and schools are also included. Pictures are available on request.

**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 8,000 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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