



News from the Royal School of Church Music

13TH JUNE 2010: RSCM ANNOUNCES MUSIC SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has launched *Music Sunday 2010*, bringing together a celebration of music with fundraising. Participating churches will be able to celebrate and affirm the work of their musicians, and combine it with a fundraising campaign to be split on a 50:50 basis, between the church itself and RSCM, an international charity that promotes and supports music in all styles of Christian worship. The date has been set as 13th June 2010.

Music Sunday is an opportunity to give thanks for the dedication and work of church musicians, whether choristers, instrumentalists, cantors, organists, or choir directors. “Church musicians play an important part in church worship, and along with clergy they are often the ‘first-in and last-out’ on a Sunday, with a lot more preparation going on behind the scenes at other times,” says Lindsay Gray, the Director of the RSCM. “*Music Sunday* is an excellent opportunity to give thanks for the ‘craftsman’s art and music’s measure.’” Suggested prayers, readings and music for the occasion can be found on the RSCM website www.rscm.com/musicsunday.

Music Sunday is also a fundraising event: the *50:50 Campaign* shares proceeds between the participating church, choir, or school and the Royal School of Church Music. The overall target for 2010 is to raise £100,000. The RSCM website includes fund-raising ideas, ranging from a coffee morning or barbecue to a music marathon or sponsored sing. There is also guidance on how to promote an event and deal with issues such as Gift Aid. “Some ‘fun’ but vital fundraising is possible even during these difficult financial times,” says Catherine Clark, the RSCM’s Head of Development. “During a pilot run of new ideas for *Music Sunday* last year, the funds raised helped participating churches to pay for robes, music and training – in one case even paying a church’s heating bill!”

Although the idea of a *Music Sunday* is not new, this is the first time that the RSCM has specified a date, namely Sunday 13th June 2010. However, participants can hold their *Music Sunday* on a different date if this suits their calendar. “We hope churches will make *Music Sunday* an annual event,” says Lindsay Gray. “Above all, it provides churches with an opportunity to focus on the extraordinary effort, creativity, and discipline that go into providing music for worship.”

Music Sunday will be marked by the broadcast on 13th June 2010 of a special edition of *Sunday Half Hour* on BBC Radio Two from Beckenham Parish Church in Kent. Local choirs will join together for a special festival service celebrating the work of church musicians in the area.

ENDS

10 November 2009

Notes for Editors

Music Sunday: 13th 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 will also be 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

For further media enquiries contact:

Stuart Robinson: RSCM Media Relations Organiser srobinson@rscm.com 01492 556378 / 07831 827701

Heather Bamber: RSCM Marketing & Communications Administrator hbamber@rscm.com 01722 424847