



News Release from the Royal School of Church Music

**DIARY MARKER: “How can I keep from singing?”
Launch of RSCM Young Voices Festival 2007.**

Hard on the heels of the government announcement to invest £10m in singing in schools, the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is launching a new festival to encourage young people to sing. The RSCM Young Voices Festival 2007 will take place in locations throughout the UK from Dunblane to Winchester and marks the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the world-wide organisation.

Trebles and sopranos from school and church choirs are being invited to sing at festival events called “*How can I keep from singing?*” at one of eight beautiful settings in June and October.

Dates and locations are as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| SCOTLAND | Dunblane Cathedral | Saturday 9 June |
| BERKSHIRE | Eton College | Tuesday 12 June |
| HAMPSHIRE | Winchester Cathedral | Wednesday 13 June |
| CAMBRIDGESHIRE | Ely Cathedral | Wednesday 13 June |
| SURREY | King’s College School, Wimbledon | Friday 12 October |
| LONDON | St Sepulchre-without-Newgate | Saturday 13 October |
| NORTH | Ripon Cathedral | Wednesday 17 October |
| MIDLANDS | St Alphege, Solihull | Wednesday 17 October |

Editors are invited to send a representative. Please mark this in your forward planning diaries. Other smaller-scale events may be announced in due course.

The events are free of charge but to take part, participating schools and choirs need to buy two photocopiable resources, a CD ROM and the RSCM’s newly published *Voice for Life Songbook*. “We’re keen to attract hundreds to each setting and fill it with the sound of young refreshing voices,” says Esther Jones, Co-Director of the Voice for Life* programme. “For an outlay of about £55, you can bring as many kids as you like, and with the songbook have a valuable resource for use all the year round; there’s even a demonstration CD with it.”

The young voices festival *How can I keep from singing?* takes its title from a hymn by the American 19th century Baptist minister Robert Lowry. The service includes some popular hymns: “Angel Voices”, “To God be the Glory” and “For the music of creation” set to Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy”.

“There’s the framework here for any school or church to get children singing.” says fellow co-director Leah Perona-Wright. “The Young Voices Festival events will be directed by experienced conductors, and will give kids plenty of stimulus to carry on singing back home – and at school or in church.”

TO BUY THE MATERIALS

The CD-ROM *How can I keep from singing?* (PRICE £10.00, or £7.50 for RSCM affiliates and members) and the *Voice for Life Songbook* (PRICE £45.00, or £33.75 for RSCM affiliates and members) are published by the RSCM and can be purchased from:

RSCM Music Direct (Cheques made payable to SCM Canterbury Press)
 St Mary’s Works, St Mary’s Plain, Norwich, NR3 3BH
 By phone: +44 (0)845 021 7726 then dial 206
 By fax: +44 (0)845 021 8826
 Email: musicdirect@rscm.com
 Online shop: <http://www.rscm.com/shop/index.php>

TO TAKE PART IN THE FESTIVAL: Contact education@rscm.com, or telephone Anna Burson on 01722 424848.

ENDS.

19 February 2007

Notes for Editors.

Review copies of the CD-ROM “How can I keep from singing” and the Voice for Life Songbook are available on request (contact details below). A podcast about the Voice for Life Songbook is on the RSCM website: http://www.rscm.com/info_resources/media/vfISongbookPodcast.php

* The RSCM Young Voices Festival 2007 is part of the RSCM VOICE FOR LIFE training programme to encourage singing in churches, schools and the community. The programme for singers can be delivered by choir trainer or teacher, and offers a structured guide to vocal training through a series of graded targets with informal assessment. As well as musical and vocal training, the scheme fosters commitment and discipline; essential elements for being part of a choir team. Singers can progress through a series of stages, each represented with the presentation of a coloured ribbon or medal. There are thousands of participants in the RSCM VOICE FOR LIFE scheme all over the world. The scheme is particularly popular in the USA.

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 www.rscm.com

For further media enquiries contact:

Stuart Robinson: RSCM Media Relations Organiser
srobinson@rscm.com 0871 288 1262 / 07831 827701

OR

Heather Bamber: RSCM Marketing & Communications Administrator
hbamber@rscm.com 01722 424847 or 07786 331364