



Press Release from the Royal School of Church Music

Archbishop encourages clergy to learn music in the bath.

The Archbishop of Wales, the Most Reverend Dr Barry Morgan, is encouraging his clerical colleagues to learn music in the bath. He was speaking in an interview in a podcast on the website of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) about The Welsh Eucharist / Cymun y Cymry, a communion service setting in modern English and Welsh, written especially for the Church in Wales.

The podcast is intended for clergy and lay people responsible for church worship, and in particular, is aimed at churches where there is no choir, and even no organ. It offers hints and tips on how to learn the setting; hence Dr Morgan's remarks. "It's just a matter of getting the tune in your head, practising it in the bath or something, then getting on with it." He said. "I was taught to sing it in ten minutes, so if I can do it, anybody can do it."

The Welsh Eucharist was composed by Professor John Harper, the Director General of the RSCM, who also heads the RSCM's Sacred Music Studies course, run in association with the University of Wales, Bangor. In the same podcast, he explains that the setting is flexible, and can be sung either by a congregation or a four part choir. "I really wanted to try and set about the problem of providing music that could be sung in either language," he said, "and recognising that some people will be in churches with small congregations, and sometimes they come together in big numbers for a diocesan event; that really was the starting point."

The setting is published by the RSCM, along with a CD recording of the work. Stuart Robinson, the RSCM's Co-ordinator in Wales, who produced both the CD and the podcast, says The Welsh Eucharist is already sung in a number of churches in Wales. "We think the setting will work well in churches and chapels with little music, and not just in Wales. I hope that what comes across in the podcast is a flavour of its simplicity and sing-ability which will lift the worship in even the smallest church," he said. "The English text largely matches Common Worship Rite A, and its use need not be confined to Wales."

To hear the podcast, listeners should log onto the RSCM website www.rscm.com; the programme can be found in the Information and Resources section. There is also a transcript of

the podcast. The setting can also be ordered through the website's online shop RSCM Music Direct; price £3.50 for the full music or £25 for a pack of 25 melody-only leaflets. For those affiliated to the RSCM there is a 25% discount. A CD recording of the whole setting in Welsh and English is also available; price £5.

Notes to Editors.

To listen to the podcast go to

http://www.rscm.com/info_resources/media/welshEucharistPodcast.php

A photograph of Professor John Harper can be downloaded from the RSCM website.

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an educational charity promoting the best use of music in worship, church life, and the wider community. It is an open, life-long learning organization, offering training programmes, published resources, courses, and activities. With over 8,500 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is an international network, encouraged by over 750 volunteers, and supported by a small staff based in the UK.

Founded by Sir Sydney Nicholson in 1927, its original emphases were English and choral. Now, in a diverse international context, the RSCM's work is far broader and more diverse. It offers models of good practice, provides programmes and resources that can be adapted to local circumstances, and supports the work of local churches through its voluntary committees. Today the RSCM core programmes in singing, church music skills and music in worship are ecumenical in purpose, nature and content.

For more information go to the website www.rscm.com or contact.

Stuart Robinson: RSCM Media Relations Organiser

srobinson@rscm.com or by telephone 07831 827701 or 01492 621101 OR
the RSCM offices in Sarum College. 01722 424848