



**News Release from the Royal School of Church Music**

## **Thinking of taking up Sacred Music Studies? Podcast explains all.**

**Anyone thinking about taking up a part-time course this autumn might like to consider a course in church music. The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) runs such a course called Sacred Music Studies (SMS) in partnership with Bangor University in North Wales. Now the RSCM has published a podcast on its website ([www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com)) in which students talk about their experiences of the course.**

Those considering enrolling on the course are able to hear comments from a variety of students, ranging from a Methodist organist and a director of a children's church choir, to a lay reader and a choir director at a church in Vienna.

Listeners to the podcast hear students speak about their personal experience of the course, and how it has enhanced their understanding of the role of music in worship, interspersed with material recorded at their own churches and at the course's annual residential study week in Wales.

We learn that eleven different denominations have been represented by the students since the course's inception four years ago. Students use their own churches as a "laboratory" for their studies, where they make video and CD recordings as part of their assignments, and there are various specialists options such cantor, choir direction and composition. One student was delighted to find that there was "quite a lot of theology". One lay reader suggests the course is useful for his counterparts elsewhere as the course brings music and liturgy together.

"One of the joys of the course is that members come from many different walks of ecclesiastical life," says Alistair Warwick, the course director. "It isn't just for specialist church musicians: as you'll hear, we have one mature student who describes herself as 'a total amateur' who 'plays three chords on a guitar'. Even though this is a distance-learning course, we really are a family!"

Students may register to begin the course in September, January or June. There are still a few places available for those wishing to join in time for the new term which begins on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

To listen to the podcast go to <http://www.rscm.com/education/sms/sms.php>

For more information about the Sacred Music Studies course and how to enrol in October go to <http://www.rscm.com/education/sms/sms.php>

Ends

16 September 2008

### Notes for Editors

The Sacred Music Studies programme is run by the RSCM in partnership with Bangor University, North Wales. The course (which is modular) is intended for those who either lead, or are training to lead, music or worship, and those who wish to study music in worship. Awards are made as students make progress through the course; the RSCM Preliminary Certificate is awarded after satisfactory completion of three modules, followed by CertRSCM, culminating in DipRSCM for completion of the whole course of 12 modules.

**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. More at [www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com)

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