



News from the Royal School of Church Music

SALISBURY CHURCH ORGANISTS COURSE, 11-14th April 2011

An opportunity for church organists to get away from the organ bench and instead spend a few days refreshing their playing skills is just weeks away. The popular Salisbury course for church organists organised by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) takes place shortly before Easter this year from 11th – 14th April. A similar course is to be held in York in June, and places are still available for both courses.

The residential course, which is based at Sarum College in Salisbury Cathedral Close, features a wide range of tutorials, given in small groups. These are for organists who have just begun playing, as well as for those with more experience. Tuition includes the use of stops and pedals, playing for services, new repertoire and improvisation. Participants will have the opportunity to play a variety of organs including the Willis in Salisbury Cathedral, and the programme will include seminars and recitals.

The course is directed Gerard Brooks, Director of Music at Westminster Central Hall, and a concert organist, recording artist and teacher. This is the second time Gerard has directed the course. “There’s always a wide range of players – from beginner to those who play in a parish church. I remember we had a jazz pianist last year. Whatever the ability or musical background, there’s always something new to learn, and in an enjoyable setting.”

For the duration of the course Gerard Brooks is joined by a team of experienced tutors. All participants will have the opportunity to play a wide variety of organs in the churches and chapels in Salisbury. Everyone has a chance to ‘have a go’.

And previous participants have been enthusiastic about the Salisbury organ course. One clearly benefited from meeting others who are like-minded: “The best thing was to feel part of the community of organists”. Another said, “I did not feel pressured, but was encouraged, which does wonders for self-esteem”.

Further information can be found at www.rscm.com/courses. To book a place on this course (or a similar one to be held in York in mid-June), telephone the RSCM on 01722 424843 or email education@rscm.com. The course is also available to non-residents.

ENDS

17 February 2011

Notes for Editors

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an international ecumenical charity that educates, supports and enables musicians, composers and clergy in promoting sacred music in churches, schools and the wider community. The RSCM publishes music and training resources (such as its popular *Voice for Life* training scheme for singers of all ages), and organises a wide range of courses, short workshops and activities. With over 8,000 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is supported by over 600 volunteers in area committees and a small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at www.rscm.com

Photographs taken at previous courses are available for publication. Go to the Picture Gallery on the RSCM's website http://www.rscm.com/info_resources/media/index.php. Please contact us if you would like alternative images. There is no charge but please credit the Royal School of Church Music.

You are welcome to send a photographer / reporter during the course; please contact us in advance.

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