



News from the Royal School of Church Music

RSCM PUBLISHES FRESH EDITION OF STANFORD COMMUNION SETTING.

A brand new performing edition of a major piece of church music repertoire has just been published by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). The Communion Service in C composed by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford in 1909, has been edited for use in modern-day church services by Professor Jeremy Dibble of Durham University. It includes Professor Dibble's own setting of the Kyrie using well-known melodies from the original.

Stanford: Communion Service in C, available for review – see Notes for Editors below.

The communion service was first published by Stainer & Bell in 1909 for use in the 1662 rite of the Anglican Communion Service. In realising a performing edition for use in today's communion services, Professor Dibble (an expert on the music of the early 20th Century composers Stanford, Stainer and Parry), has had to realise a setting of the Kyrie eleison movement, which Professor Dibble has constructed using melodies from Stanford's other service settings, such as his well-known Evening Canticles in the same key.

Speaking about the new performing edition and his Kyrie in an RSCM podcast (available to download at www.rscm.com/media), Professor Dibble says, "You can call it pastiche if you like, but there was something creative and fun about the whole thing. There is something quite luxuriant about [Stanford's] harmony and some of the tonal elements."

The new edition was realised from a manuscript dating from 1909 in the possession of the Royal School of Church Music. Professor Dibble says the manuscript was very legible, and incredibly fluent. "I wouldn't be at all surprised if there are very few sketches; he had this extraordinary ability for writing straight into score. His church music is so durable and original." As well as the podcast, a recording of the Kyrie sung by Sarum Voices can be heard on the RSCM website at www.rscm.com/publications

Communion Service in C can be purchased from RSCM Music Direct:

Price: £3.50 (£2.63 to RSCM affiliates)

Order number: C0802

Tel: 0845 021 7726

Email: musicdirect@rscm.com

Online: www.rscm.com/shop

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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

Communion Service in C by Charles Villiers Stanford edited by Jeremy Dibble, is available for review in bona-fide publications on request. To arrange for a copy to be sent to you, please contact either Stuart Robinson or Heather Bamber (see below).

A podcast in which Professor Jeremy Dibble discusses his new performing edition is available to download at www.rscm.com/media as well as a recording of the Kyrie at www.rscm.com/publications

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