



News from the Royal School of Church Music

RSCM APPOINTS NEW CONDUCTOR OF VOICES

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has appointed a new choral conductor, currently based in Manchester, to take over direction of its training choir for singers in the Midlands and South-West of England. Matthew Hamilton will direct RSCM Voices (Midlands and South West) from 2010.

Matthew read Music at Worcester College Oxford where he held instrumental and choral scholarships before taking a Masters degree in Composition at the University of Manchester. Last year he began postgraduate studies in Choral Conducting at the Welsh College of Music and Drama, with Adrian Partington and Simon Halsey. While in Manchester, he was Director of *Ad Solem*, the university's chamber choir, and he has just completed a year as a chorus-master for *Eternal Light*, a choral/orchestral/dance-work produced by the Rambert Dance Company. He has also been involved in the government's *Sing Up!* initiative, by directing singing workshops in schools in the Greater Manchester area. Alongside his appointment from 2010 as a Musical Director of RSCM Voices, Matthew has also been appointed as Musical Director of the Reading Bach Choir.

RSCM Voices is the new name for the Royal School of Church Music's training choirs of singers drawn from affiliated churches all over England; last year the Southern Cathedral Singers were similarly renamed. Under its new incarnation, the former *Midland and South West Cathedral Singers* will not restrict itself to singing in cathedrals. "We want to build on the success of the Cathedral Singers by offering excellent choral training which explores new and challenging repertory and in all kinds of great venues" says Sue Snell, the RSCM's Head of Education. "The remit of the group is to explore ways of recruiting young people, to give a more rounded experience of different kinds of church music, and all the while inspiring them to keep singing at the highest possible standard."

Matthew Hamilton succeeds David Ogden, who has directed the choir since 2003. While he continues to direct the *RSCM Millennium Youth Choir*, David is stepping down to explore new opportunities. Like its counterpart in the south, *RSCM Voices (M&SW)* has a busy programme of singing engagements arranged throughout the region from Warwick to Exeter, and Tewkesbury to Salisbury. Entry is by audition and further details about the next 'taster day' for those who might be interested can be found at the RSCM website, www.rscm.com.

Ends

9 December 2009

Notes for Editors

RSCM Voices is the new name for the charity's two training choirs for young people in the southern half of England. They sing at services and other events to a high musical standard in cathedrals, churches and other venues in their respective areas, either the Midlands and South West, or the South of England. Each choir has a pool of members which are drawn from RSCM affiliated churches and schools. Entry is by audition.

A photograph of Matthew Hamilton is available for publication in the picture gallery on the RSCM website. Go to www.rscm.com/media

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an educational charity that 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 8,000 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is an international network, supported by over 750 volunteers and a small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at www.rscm.com

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