



News from the Royal School of Church Music

ONLINE HELP FOR COUPLES WANTING A MUSICAL CHURCH WEDDING.

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), a charity promoting and supporting church music, has launched a page on its website offering assistance for couples wanting a good musical church wedding. The page at www.rscm.com/wedding contains a wide-ranging advice on topics such as choosing hymns and processional music, hiring musicians and dealing with copyright issues. Help is also at hand for church organists, especially those for whom playing at a wedding is an infrequent experience.

The website includes a step-by-step checklist for all the planning, from the initial meeting with church authorities to the preparation of an order of service, as well as knottier issues such as video recording and musicians' fees. "Whatever the scale of the event, planning a wedding is a daunting experience," says Lindsay Gray, Director of the RSCM. "The business of tackling the musical elements can also seem to be something of a minefield, so that's where our webpage can offer a wide range of help."

Lindsay Gray appears in a video-interview on the webpage, giving an overview of some of the musical considerations both for couples and musicians. The RSCM's team of experts responsible for the very successful *Sunday by Sunday* music planner has compiled a downloadable list of hymn and song suggestions from a wide range of hymn-books, as well as appropriate anthems and processional music. There is also detailed guidance on video recording, performing rights and copyright, as well as advice on issues about organist fees, including when a couple want a friend to play for the service. The webpage also includes a sample order of service.

Lindsay Gray says he very much enjoys playing the organ for weddings. "I hope that couples and organists will find the site useful: music is a wonderful way of uplifting a wedding service, and contributes so much to making it a joyful and inspiring occasion."

ENDS: 18th October 2010

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

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