



News from the Royal School of Church Music

RSCM MARKS 400 YEARS OF THE KING JAMES BIBLE WITH NEW FESTIVAL SERVICE BOOK: *THE WORD REVEALED*

A new festival service book to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the 1611 King James Bible has just been published by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). The influence of the King James Bible (also known as the “Authorised Version”) has been felt both within church worship, and outside the church on literature and the English language itself. *The Word Revealed* is a complete service of readings, reflections and prayers and also contains a selection of hymns, songs and anthems. It is intended for special church services or at choral festivals during 2011.

The Word Revealed is available for review – see Notes for Editors below.

The publication of the King James Bible in 1611 was a landmark event that has reverberated down the centuries. The festival service book aims to set it within a historical and liturgical context, and traces the story of the Bible in the English language, as well as its place in Christian life and worship. Writing in the Introduction, the joint compilers, Peter Moger (Precentor of York Minster) and Charles Taylor (Dean of Peterborough Cathedral) comment that the influence of the King James Bible has been felt in ways too numerous to list. They write; “It is still read regularly in Christian worship and, even where it is not, many of its cadences remain through those translations which have sought to maintain its resonances.”

The Word Revealed was commissioned by the King James Bible Trust, and contains a varied range of music including hymns, worship songs and anthems of varying difficulty, some specially written for the festival. It includes works by Philip Wilby and David Ogden, Adrian Batten, and Thomas Hewitt Jones as well as Stuart Townend and a chant from the Taizé community. Two popular oratorio choruses have also been included; ‘And the Glory of the Lord’ from Handel’s *Messiah*, and ‘How lovely are the messengers’ from Mendelssohn’s *St Paul*.

The festival service is in five parts, each reflecting a particular stage in the story of the Bible’s translation and use, from the Early Church and the publication of the King James Bible itself and the ruling that it should be “appointed to be read in churches”, to more recent translations such as the New Revised Standard Version and The Message. Performance notes are available on the RSCM website www.rscm.com where the text can be downloaded for inclusion in an order of service.

The RSCM is also marking the 400th anniversary by co-sponsoring a composition competition with the Royal College of Music and Westminster Abbey, as one of a number of celebrations during

next year organised by the King James Bible Trust. The closing date for the competition is 31st January 2011.

***The Word Revealed* may be purchased from RSCM Music Direct:**

Price: £7.95 (£5.96 to RSCM affiliates)

ISBN: 978-0-85402-184-0

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

The King James Bible Trust has been established to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible which was completed in 1611. Throughout 2011, many events and projects will be taking place across the UK and around the world to mark the anniversary. The Trust is an independent charity. More at www.kingjamesbibletrust.org

***The Word Revealed* compiled by Charles Taylor and Peter Moger, 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).**

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