



Press Release from the Royal School of Church Music

RSCM publishes new songbook for church and school choirs.

A new book of songs for assemblies, services and concerts has just been published, along with a demonstration CD. The VOICE FOR LIFE SONGBOOK is a compilation of inspirational and sacred pieces, for young and adult singers whether beginner or slightly more advanced.

Over forty catchy warm-up songs, rounds and canons, as well as traditional and new pieces for single melody and two-parts can be found in the new songbook. There are also gospel and jazz pieces and songs from all over the world. Titles range from O when the saints and the Hebrew folksong, Shalom chaverim to He's got the whole world in his hands and Sizohamba naye from Swaziland.

The collection features works and arrangements by a wide range of well-known choir directors and experts in the field of choral work, including Bob Chilcott, Mike Brewer, Bazil Meade, Colin Mawby and Ronald Corp, as well as new pieces from up-and-coming composers.

“When I first started working with young singers, there wasn’t an anthology of fun songs which one could dip into,” says Esther Jones, Co-Editor of THE VOICE FOR LIFE SONGBOOK. “I am sure fellow choir-trainers will be glad to have a resource such as this, to use in rehearsals, services and school assemblies.”

Esther Jones has collaborated on the compilation of the VOICE FOR LIFE SONGBOOK with Leah Perona-Wright, both of whom are Directors of the RSCM’s Voice for Life Training Programme (see notes for Editors*). “We care about young people and inspiring people of any age to enjoy using their voices. Singing should be fun!” says Leah, “I can see all kinds of choirs using this repertoire book in schools, churches, and communities.”

Like previous collections from the RSCM, the VOICE FOR LIFE SONGBOOK includes photocopiable parts for each piece and a demonstration CD. For trainers there are hints and tips on running a choir and training notes for each piece. “This resource offers inspiration and ideas

for any choir leader looking to get the very best from their singers, and represents excellent value for money,” says Esther Jones.

The book has the backing of well-known choral conductors such as former Kings’ singer Brian Kay, who is now a Vice-President of the RSCM. ”I would happily recommend any music which encourages people to develop that God-given gift, the joy of singing. And the VOICE FOR LIFE SONGBOOK is an ideal place to start.”

THE VOICE FOR LIFE SONGBOOK is £45 (Affiliated churches and organisations and members of the RSCM are entitled to a 25 per cent discount) and is available from RSCM Music Direct.

Buy online: www.rscm.com/shop
By email: musicdirect@rscm.com
By phone: 0845 021 7726
By fax: 0845 021 8826

Notes to Editors

Review copies are available on request from Heather Bamber (see below)

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an educational charity promoting the best use of music in worship, church life, and the wider community. It is an open, life-long learning organization, offering training programmes, published resources, courses, and activities. With over 8,500 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is an international network, encouraged by over 750 volunteers, and supported by a small staff based in the UK.

*The RSCM VOICE FOR LIFE programme is one of our training programmes to encourage singing in churches, schools and the community. The programme for singers can be delivered by choir trainer or teacher, and offers a structured guide to vocal training through a series of graded targets with informal assessment. As well as musical and vocal training, the scheme fosters commitment and discipline; essential elements for being part of a choir team. Singers can progress through a series of stages, each represented with the presentation of a coloured ribbon or medal. There are thousands of participants in the RSCM VOICE FOR LIFE scheme all over the world. The scheme is particularly popular in the USA.

For more information go to the website www.rscm.com or contact:

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