



THE BRONZE COLLECTION

ANTHEMS AND SONGS FOR
THE RSCM BRONZE AND DEAN'S AWARDS

COMPILED BY JOHN WARDLE
RSCM AWARDS CO-ORDINATOR

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PREFACE

Bronze standard singing awards are available to singers of all ages in RSCM Areas. This is the initial level for external assessment of the skills of singers who have progressed through the early stages of RSCM *Voice for Life* training. Singers who have received the Dark Blue ribbon or badge should be ready to prepare for this award. In many Areas, this assessment is called the *Dean's award*. Successful candidates often receive their award personally from the Dean at an RSCM Festival in the Cathedral.

Bronze standard singing means achieving a personal competence in basic vocal technique, including secure breathing control, reliable intonation, and clarity of diction with pure vowel sounds. Singers will begin to experience more confidence in tackling new music, and a greater awareness of technical matters such as tonality and expressive markings. In your Bronze award examination, as well as an anthem and a portion of psalmody, you will be expected to sing one or two hymns and to perform at least one verse unaccompanied, to show that you are personally able to maintain reliable pitch and tonality, unsupported, for a short time. A 'model' Bronze syllabus, with the assessment criteria, appears at the end of this book. Your local validated syllabus will be based on this model. Enquire for details from your local RSCM committee.

The pieces in this book will give you many opportunities to develop your confidence and musical understanding. Do be aware, though, however large or small your group, of the need for every singer to listen out for the overall blend and balance of voices. Maybe your group has a good balance already of SATB voices, but if not, you will find that many of the SATB pieces printed here can be adapted effectively to be sung as unison or two-part anthems, or as small group songs for upper or mixed voices. Ideas on this are given in the Training Notes.

The *Voice for Life* Choir Trainer's Book provides extensive material to help prepare singers for all aspects of the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

As a Bronze standard singer, you may not have much experience of harmony and part-singing, depending on the size and expertise of your group. In your Bronze award examination you will, therefore, be given the choice of performing either your 'part' or the melody line (transposed, maybe, if you are an alto or bass).

I hope that singing the anthems in this book will encourage and help you, and your fellow-singers, to develop your skills and technique at, or even beyond, Bronze standard, and give you great enjoyment as you offer your ministry of music together.

John Wardle
West Tarring
Trinity Sunday 2003

INDEX OF THEMES, FEASTS AND SEASONS

<i>Title</i>	<i>Composer</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>Advent</i>			
How beautiful upon the mountaina	Stainer	13	48
<i>Christmas</i>			
Child in the manger	Sanger	7	23
<i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)</i>			
Fairest Lord Jesus	How	9	29
From the rising of the sun	Ouseley	10	32
<i>Lent</i>			
Hide not thou thy face	Farrant	12	45
O for a closer walk with God	Stanford	22	84
Turn thy face from my sins	Attwood	33	129
<i>Mothering Sunday</i>			
Loving God	Aston	20	78
<i>Annunciation</i>			
Ave Maria	Lindley	4	11
<i>Holy Week</i>			
And didst thou travel light	Shephard	3	8
I give you a new commandment	Aston	15	58
In the heart where love is abiding	Barnard	16	62
<i>Eastertide</i>			
Away with gloom, away with doubt	Ferguson	6	20
The Easter Song of Praise (Exultet)	Shephard	28	104
This is the day (Haec dies)	Morley	31	116
<i>Ascensiontide</i>			
From the rising of the sun	Ouseley	10	32
Let all the world in every corner sing	Halsey	17	67
<i>Pentecost</i>			
Listen	Nazareth	18	72
O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace	Tye	24	90
<i>Corpus Christi</i>			
Ave verum corpus	Elgar	5	15

Harvest

Glory, love, and praise and honour	Harris	11	38
Praise, O praise our God and King	How	25	93
The fruits of the land	Ogden	29	108
Thou visitest the earth	Greene	32	123

Christ the King

From the rising of the sun	Ouseley	10	32
Let all the world in every corner sing	Halsey	17	67

Dedication festivals

A Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	White	2	4
Day by day	How	8	26

Blessings

A Gaelic Blessing	Rutter	1	1
May the peace of God the Father	Harper	21	81

Holy Communion

Ave verum corpus	Elgar	5	15
I am the bread of life	Lole	14	54
I give you a new commandment	Aston	15	58
Loving God	Aston	20	78
O mysterium ineffabile	Lallouette	23	88
The Lord's my shepherd	Archer	30	111

Prayer & healing

And didst thou travel light	Shephard	3	8
O for a closer walk with God	Stanford	22	84
The Lord's my shepherd	Archer	30	111
We cannot measure how you heal	Archer	34	132

Weddings

A Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	White	2	4
Day by day	How	8	26
Fairest Lord Jesus	How	9	29
I give you a new commandment	Aston	15	58
Love one another	Wesley	19	74

World, justice & peace

Sent by the Lord am I	Weaver	26	98
Steal away	Weaver	27	102
The fruits of the land	Ogden	29	108

CONTENTS

No.	Composer	Title	Page
1	John Rutter	A Gaelic Blessing	1
2	L. J. White	A Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	4
3	Richard Shephard	And didst thou travel light	8
4	Simon Lindley	Ave Maria	11
5	Edward Elgar	Ave verum corpus	15
6	Barry Ferguson	Away with gloom, away with doubt	20
7	David Sanger	Child in the manger	23
8	Martin How	Day by day	26
9	Martin How	Fairest Lord Jesus	29
10	F. A. Gore Ouseley	From the rising of the sun	32
11	J. G. Eberlin arr. W. H. Harris	Glory, love, and praise and honour	38
12	Richard Farrant	Hide not thou thy face	45
13	John Stainer	How beautiful upon the mountains	48
14	Simon Lole	I am the bread of life	54
15	Peter Aston	I give you a new commandment	58
16	Plainsong arr. John Barnard	In the heart where love is abiding	62
17	Louis Halsey	Let all the world in every corner sing	67
18	Aniceto Nazareth	Listen	72
19	S. S. Wesley	Love one another	74
20	Peter Aston	Loving God	78
21	Jewish melody arr. John Harper	May the peace of God the Father	81
22	C. V. Stanford	O for a closer walk with God	84
23	J. F. Lallouette	O mysterium ineffabile	88
24	Christopher Tye	O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace	90
25	Martin How	Praise, O praise our God and King	93
26	Trad. arr. Geoff Weaver	Sent by the Lord am I	98
27	Trad. arr. Geoff Weaver	Steal away	102
28	Richard Shephard	The Easter Song of Praise (Exultet)	104
29	David Ogden	The fruits of the land	108
30	Trad. arr. Malcolm Archer	The Lord's my shepherd	111
31	Morley arr. Anthony Greening	This is the day (Haec dies)	116
32	Maurice Greene	Thou visitest the earth	123
33	Thomas Attwood	Turn thy face from my sins	129
34	Scottish Trad. arr. Malcolm Archer	We cannot measure how you heal	132
	Sample Hymns and Psalms		138
	Training notes by John Wardle		143
	The RSCM Bronze Award model syllabus		160