

RSCM Northern Cathedral Singers & RSCM Cathedral Courses

Information and Application Forms for 2009 - 2010

What is the NCS?

The RSCM Northern Cathedral Singers is a training choir which sings services to a high musical standard in Cathedrals, Abbeys, Minsters and Priors. Services take place on Saturdays and Bank Holidays. In January/February, members of the choir meet on two Saturdays to rehearse music for the year ahead.

We have around 200 singers in the NCS but they do not all sing together! Instead, a balanced choir is formed from our membership lists and members are invited to sing at various venues - usually between 3 and 6 events each year. Services are normally evensongs or vespers and we meet to rehearse about 4 hours before the start of the service. The choir's repertoire is firmly based on the cathedral choral tradition. Visit our website for information on the current NCS season: www.rscm.com/ukireland/cathedral_singers/ncs.php

There are two groups within the NCS: Boys/ Men and Girls/Adults. The girls group includes women contraltos, the boys' group includes counter-tenors. Tenors and basses sing with both groups. Gordon Appleton directs both groups.

Singers provide their own music and are responsible for learning it themselves.

Who Can Apply?

- Members of RSCM affiliated churches, choirs and schools with the signed support of the choir trainer.
- Subscribing Individual or Student Members or Friends of the RSCM.

Trebles (Boys):	Minimum age is normally 9 at the time of audition. The upper limit depends on the likelihood of the boy's treble voice lasting the season.
Sopranos (Girls):	Minimum age is normally 10 at the time of audition and the maximum age is 18.
Contraltos (Girls/Women)	Minimum age is normally 15 at the time of audition.
Altos / Counter-tenors (Men):	Minimum age is normally 15 at the time of audition.
Tenors and Basses (Men):	Minimum age is normally 16 at the time of audition.

Admission to the choir is by audition. Re-auditions are normally held every year for boys and girls. CATB members of the choir must also be prepared for an annual audition.

All adult singers i.e. those who are over the age of 18 years will have to complete a declaration form to comply with RSCM Child Protection requirements before they are allowed to sing at NCS events. This form will be despatched from the RSCM Administrative Centre in Salisbury to all singers who are successful at their auditions.

Annual Subscriptions

Adult £36
Singers 18 years old and younger: £20

Concessions

- We do not want any young people to be prevented from becoming members of NCS through financial reasons, and some bursaries are available. An application form is available on the RSCM web site.

- Individual/junior/student RSCM member 25% discount, i.e. £27 for adults and £15 for children

- If more than one family member is joining the choir 50% discount (on full price) for second person, ie. £18 for additional adult and £10 for each additional child.

Please remember that you must apply every year to remain in NCS
Applications close on 30 August 2009

What Happens at the Audition?

You need to bring along some music that you can sing well so that we can hear the quality of your voice. This would usually be an anthem, hymn or song. We also ask you to sing part of a prepared Psalm to Anglican chant so that we can listen for good flow, sensible expression and clear diction. You will then be asked to sing an unknown psalm to a chant that you know. This is to test your understanding of pointing and reading. You will be asked to sing an anthem that you do not know at sight. For boys and girls we are not necessarily looking for perfection first time but the ability to learn quickly. For CATB singers we do expect fluent sight-singing ability and the experience of singing different styles of music. You may be given some aural tests or vocal exercises. In all applicants we expect the ability to work together as a team and represent the highest standards of the RSCM. A sense of humour helps too!

Results of auditions are posted to your choir director as soon as possible after the audition.

What are Cathedral Courses and how do I Apply?

Each year the very best singers are invited to take part in residential RSCM Cathedral Courses. These last for one week and the choir sings daily cathedral services. Generally most of the singers are members of RSCM Cathedral Singers from all parts of the country - but others may also apply. Auditions are held at the same time as NCS auditions.

Details of Cathedral Courses for boys, girls and adults in Summer 2010 will be available on the RSCM web site when finalised.

Please tick the appropriate box on your application form if you wish to be considered. For further details about Cathedral Courses, contact Gordon Appleton.

Where and when are the Auditions 2009 (for the 2010 season) ?

Saturday 19 September (from 9.30 am) St Luke's Church, Lowton, near Warrington.

Saturday 3 October (from 10 am) Christ Church on the Stray, High Harrogate.

If you have a preferred time for auditions (morning or afternoon) please indicate this on your application form.

If it is impossible for you to attend the above dates, we can sometimes arrange other days. Please speak to the Honorary Secretary.

How do I Apply?

Complete and return the accompanying form and send it to arrive by **30 August 2009** to the Honorary Secretary: Colin Hicks 1 Willow Crescent, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 5AT (Telephone 01748-821464 email: colinhicks@btinternet.com)

Please enclose a large correctly stamped and self-addressed envelopes with your application – used to send full details of your 2010 allocations. Results of auditions will normally be sent by email.

Remember - you must re-apply every year to remain in NCS

Applications close on 30 August 2009.