

RSCM VOICES: MIDLANDS & SOUTH WEST

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30th July, 2010

Dear All,

This year has been one of great change for the choir, and firstly I would like to thank you all for your patience and forbearance as these changes have come into place. Thank you, most of all, for welcoming me to the post of Director, and for making me feel so at home with the choir. There have been some wonderful services and performances since January (and I'm sure before too!), and you deserve congratulations for your hard work and commitment. Particular highlights for me have been Marenzio in Bristol, Blair in Hereford, and the joint service with North and South in Coventry (an experience to be repeated in York Minster in 2012). Thank you to Neil for his superlative organ playing in so many services – also to Sean Tucker and Tom Primrose who have also played this year, and to David Ogden and Colin Davey who have directed in my stead.

I'm not the only new face this year – we have been joined by some fabulous young (and not so young!) singers – who I'm sure will continue to make a healthy contribution to the choir. And bravo, too, to those of you who braved the audition process. It's never fun, I know, but I'm sure we will be a stronger group for it. On a related note – we do have some work to do in terms of recruitment. Some ideas and methods are in the pipeline from Sarum College, but it is a particular ambition of the RSCM (which I fully share) to greatly increase the numbers of young people of all voice types in the choir. Do spread the word to anyone in your own choirs who might be interested – John and I are always delighted to hear from potential applicants.

Looking forward to next year, a few new ideas are in place. The change of name from Cathedral Singers to Voices is not merely cosmetic, and I'm delighted that we've got two very exciting days which, whilst not being traditional cathedral singing days, are very much linked with what the RSCM is all about. On December 4th we will host a Come and Sing Brahms Requiem (to be sung auf Deutsch, *natürlicherweise!*) I will be leading the day, and we will be joined by professional accompanists and soloists. For those of you who don't know it, the German Requiem is a supremely beautiful cornerstone of the sacred repertory, and we will have a whole day to explore all it has to offer, before a performance in the evening.

On Sunday March 27th we will be joined by Alex Douglas, one of the UK's foremost gospel educators, who will take us slightly out of our comfort zone and lead a gospel workshop day. Alex's original gospel arrangements are stylish, singable and uplifting, even for those who think that gospel music isn't their thing. The day will end with an act of worship (Alex and I are currently wondering what a 'gospel evensong' might look like!). Both of these events are open to non-members, so please encourage friends and fellow-singers who might be interested. It may even encourage a few new people to join the group!

Despite the name change, Cathedral services remain the bedrock of what the group does, and we have some wonderful venues for the coming season. Of course, this is the first year that I have chosen the music, so I hope it meets with approval. I suspect there are a few things in there that most of

you do not get to sing too often in your own choirs – as well as singing IN cathedrals, I really believe we should be singing as broad a range of real cathedral repertoire as possible. I'm particularly looking forward to the weekend at St David's – the first time I will have directed Choral Matins! The season begins with a training day at St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol. The music for that afternoon's service is none too onerous, as I would like to spend the greater part of the day working on aspects of the repertoire for the year ahead, as well as workshopping some technical bits and bobs. Can I encourage you all to come to this first event, as a strong attendance here would set us up well for the rest of the year. In addition to that days' service music, we will be looking at the Mag and Nunc settings for subsequent events, so please order these in good time.

Before I sign off, I would like to publicly thank John Henderson for all he does for the choir. Those of you who replied to the email about forming a committee to help run the group will soon find out exactly how many hours each week John and Janet devote to Voices! John has certainly enabled me to find my feet with the group, and, by doing so much of the work, enables the rest of us just to get on with the music. Please don't take this for granted, and please regard your own contribution to the choir to be to spend as much time learning the music as John does organising it!

I wish you all a wonderful summer, and look forward to an exciting season with you all next year.

Yours,



Administrative Matters

We are trying a slightly different format for the choir literature this year and we hope you will find this helpful. Instead of printing the literature on numerous loose sheets, which may go astray, we are printing the papers that you need to keep as a booklet. The three other coloured sheets are the ones that need to be returned, that is :-

a) *Application Form* and *Availability form* to Janet (with subscription cheque for existing members).

Please return these by Sept. 30th.

b) *Music Order Form* to the RSCM if you wish to order music by post.

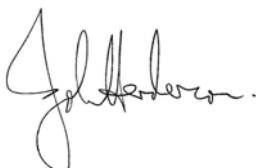
New members hoping to join MSWV should **ONLY** send the application form (without cheque) to Janet. After successful audition we can complete the paperwork. Applications from new members can be received at any time through the year.

Please note that this year we will be using two different sets of Evensong Responses. For each event we show on the repertoire list which set of Responses is to be used but it may be easier to bring both sets to every singing day.

With our change in name we will now generally use the abbreviation MSWV to replace MSWCS.

The Gospel workshop will be held on a Sunday. This is because the Adventist denomination do not work on Saturdays. Hopefully many of you can fulfil your morning commitment in your own church and then travel to participate in this. The workshop is in the afternoon followed by a Gospel Service (5.00pm tbc) This day and the "Bring and Sing" Brahms day will be open to any choir and any singer plus some schools will also be invited. Hopefully they will raise awareness of MSWV, encourage new members and also earn some income to support our choir. Visitors to these days will have to pay a fee but MSWV members will not. Incidentally, our expenses this year exceeded our income, we need to do some fund-raising so any suggestions would be welcome.

Best wishes



GENERAL INFORMATION 2010 - 2011 SEASON

Timetable

- **Rehearsals** usually follow the pattern of **11.00am start** for all singers, lunch from 1pm, rehearsal from 2.15 or 2.30 in the music room followed by a break and cathedral rehearsal an hour or so before the service. This year the first event on **Oct 9th** will incorporate re-auditions for those who did not complete this last year. This applies only to those over 25 years in age and to auditions for new applicants. Auditions will start at 9.30am before the 11.00am rehearsal. The 'Gospel' and 'Brahms' days will have their own timetables.
- Please do all you can to be **punctual** at the start of each day by allowing sufficient time for parking, getting to the building and finding the rehearsal room (usually the cathedral Chapter House or choir song school). Very few cathedrals now have on-site parking.

Music

- All singers are asked to obtain their own music.
- RSCM Music Direct can supply all the music but requires payment with your order unless you can order against your choir account.
- We will provide **psalms and hymns** on the day.
- Please note any references to **particular editions** mentioned as the text and sometimes even the notes vary from edition to edition.
- Singers are reminded of the need for **thorough preparation** of all items in advance of each event; this is especially so for the younger members of the choir who may need someone to help them learn the notes.
- Please **obtain your music in good time** (this still seems to be a problem for some of you!) and prepare it thoroughly; the enjoyment which comes from knowing the music well more than repays the effort. It is uncomfortable to have to *share* copies so please ensure that you come with your own music; an absence of copies means that you cannot have prepared properly. Photocopies of copyright material are not permitted. Examination of complaints that "the music has not yet arrived from the RSCM" shows that nearly always the music has been ordered too late – non RSCM publications normally take **at least three weeks** to be obtained from the publishers and forwarded to the customer.

Dress Code

- **Black shoes** are required for the service; trainers etc are not acceptable.
- **Choir robes** with surplices should be worn. Academic hoods may be worn at non-Eucharistic services.
- **RSCM Medallions** worn are restricted to **national** or **diocesan awards** only – RSCM Gold, Silver, Bronze, St Cecilia, St Nicolas or Bishops'/Provosts'/Deans' awards. Only **one** medal should be worn at any time.
- Please use an RSCM Black or Dark Blue **folder** to hold your music for the service and always have at least one pencil and rubber.
- Long hair should be tied back - so that the conductor can see you!

Recruitment

- The enclosed application form may be copied for you to use to encourage other singers to apply. Auditions will be arranged individually as required. Boys, girls and adults are welcome to audition so please do all you can to spread the word about MSWV as many singers in RSCM affiliated choirs still do not know about us.
- Please pass the form on to anyone who would enjoy working with MSWV. The first of this year's events in **Bristol on Oct 9th** is a training/audition day. Please consider **bringing a friend** (who will need to complete and send an application form in advance) to try the experience. Junior members, of all voices, are especially needed.

RSCM Responsibility

- You will see from the availability form that the RSCM has set out the extent of its responsibilities for the welfare of the young people who are members of MSWV and, if you are a parent or guardian of a chorister who is under the age of 18, you are asked to read this carefully and sign to give your consent to your son or daughter being a member of the organisation.
- The RSCM has asked that we should appoint a team of Pastoral Assistants to be on duty at each event. Junior members are urged to speak to these should any help be needed or should any problem arise. We should also like to know of any medical problem which your child may have - e.g. asthma - so that we may be prepared in the event of an emergency arising. Please note this on the availability form. If there is confidential medical information that you would prefer not to commit to paper please telephone John or Janet Henderson on 07766221426.

Your Responsibility

- Remember that your availability form sets out your intended commitment to the programme. For many of us it can be difficult to commit in September to be free on a weekend in the following June or July. Young singers approaching GCSE /A Level examinations should think carefully about the dates for next summer. Please don't just drop out unless there is illness or another very good reason for doing so. If any clash of allegiance arises then notify us as soon as possible - don't wait until a few days beforehand as this can make it difficult to recruit extra singers if needed. If you have not committed to an event but then find you are free, please do ring as there is often room for extra singers.
- If you cannot attend an event for any reason please email or text Janet Henderson on 07766221426. If there is a problem on the actual day of a singing event due to illness, broken down car or whatever, then **text** us on **07766221426** to say you are indisposed - yes we do worry if people don't turn up !



MSWV SUBSCRIPTIONS

Treasurer: Nancy McGiveron

32c Bluebell Court, West Road, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2TR
tel 01761 410442 e-mail nancymcgiveron@googlemail.com

The subscription rate for 2010/2011 again remain unchanged. Note that there are concessionary rates for family members and that some Bursaries are available for up to 50% of the subscription cost for young people (under 18s) and those in full-time education. Application forms for Bursaries are available on the website or from the treasurer. Last year there were no applications for bursaries. The RSCM continues to have this money available from past bequests and which cannot be used for any other purpose except supporting young singers.

Subscriptions

- Adult £36
- Children (under 18s) £20

Concessions

- Individual/junior/student RSCM member **25%** discount, i.e. £27 for adults and £15 for children under 18.
- If more than one family member is joining the choir **50%** discount (on full price) for second person, i.e. £18 for additional adult and £10 for each additional child.
- Students in full time education. It may work out cheaper to have the family member discount, but don't forget that bursaries to cover up to 50% of the subscription cost are available.

Note: The first full price subscription should be the adult's unless it is only children from one family applying, e.g.

- one adult and one child (£36+£10 = £46, **not** £18+£20=£38)

- two adults and one child (£36+£18+£10)

- two children (£20+£10=£30)

If confused ring Nancy !

Repertoire List 2010 / 2011

2010

- Oct 9th** *St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol* *GBAS* 4.00 pm (11.00am start with Auditions from 9.30am)
Responses Ayleward
Setting Gibbons Short Service
Anthem Gibbons: Almighty, and everlasting God
- Oct 30th** *Bristol Cathedral* *GBA* 3.30 pm (N.B. 10.00am start)
Introit Victoria: O quam gloriosum
Responses Leighton
Setting Stanford in C
Anthem Parry: My soul there is a country
- Nov 13th** *Sherborne Abbey* *GBA* 5.30pm
Introit Wood: Never weather-beaten sail
Responses Leighton
Setting Howells Collegium Regale
Anthem Bainton: And I saw a new heaven
- Dec 4th** *Venue and timetable tbc* *Open*
 "Bring and Sing" Brahms Requiem

2011

- Jan 15th** *Bath Abbey* *GBA* 4.00 pm
Introit Es ist ein Ros entsprungen (version tbc)
Responses Ayleward
Setting Gibbons Short Service
Anthem Joubert, There is no rose
- Feb 19th** *Hereford Cathedral* *GBAS* 5.30pm
Introit Weelkes: O Lord, arise
Responses Ayleward
Setting Noble in B-minor
Anthem Joubert: O Lorde, the maker of al thing
- Feb 26th** *Wells Cathedral* *GBA* 5.15pm
Introit Hamilton: Locus iste
Responses Leighton
Setting Howells Collegium Regale
Anthem Brahms: Requiem: Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen
- Mar 27th** *Wroughton Parish Church SN4 9JS* *Open* **(NB Sunday afternoon)**
 Gospel Workshop with Alex Douglas (music provided)

Apr 16th	<i>Salisbury Cathedral</i>	<i>GBA</i>	5.30pm
<i>Responses</i>	Ayleward		
<i>Setting</i>	Weelkes: Evening Service for 5vv		
<i>Anthem</i>	Purcell: Remember not, O Lord, our offences		
May 2nd (Mon)	<i>Exeter Cathedral</i>	<i>GBA</i>	5.30pm
<i>Responses</i>	Ayleward		
<i>Setting</i>	Stanford in C		
<i>Anthem</i>	Purcell: I was glad		
May 28th	<i>Tewkesbury Abbey</i>	<i>GBA</i>	5.00pm
<i>Introit</i>	Greene: Thou visiteth the earth		
<i>Responses</i>	Leighton		
<i>Setting</i>	Howells Collegium Regale		
<i>Anthem</i>	Berkeley: The Lord is my shepherd		
June 11th	<i>St.David's Cathedral (weekend)</i>	<i>GBAS</i>	6.00pm
<i>Responses</i>	Ayleward		
<i>Setting</i>	Weelkes: Evening Service for 5vv		
<i>Anthem</i>	Philips: Ascendit Deus		
June 12th	<i>St.David's Cathedral (Mattins)</i>	<i>GBAS</i>	11.15am
<i>Responses</i>	Ayleward		
<i>Setting</i>	Gibbons Short Service		
<i>Anthem</i>	Gibbons: O clap your hands/God is gone up		
June 12th	<i>St.David's Cathedral</i>	<i>GBAS</i>	6.00pm
<i>Introit</i>	Byrd: Non vos relinquam		
<i>Responses</i>	Ayleward		
<i>Setting</i>	Stanford in C		
<i>Anthem</i>	Finzi: God is gone up		
July 2nd	<i>Malvern Priory</i>	<i>GBA</i>	4.00pm
<i>Introit</i>	Philips: Tibi laus, tibi gloria		
<i>Responses</i>	Leighton		
<i>Setting</i>	Howells Collegium Regale		
<i>Anthem</i>	Haydn: Achieved is the glorious work		

Legend

GBA	Girls, boys and adult ATB
GBAS	Girls, boys and adult ATB with adult sopranos.
Open	MSWV singers plus visitors

Complete and **keep this copy**

**RSCM VOICES: MIDLANDS & SOUTH WEST
AVAILABILITY FORM 2010 – 2011 SEASON**

Use a separate form for each singer. Please use this form to make extra copies if they are required

This is your commitment to the MSWV programme, Please tick at least 5 events for which you are available, leaving the others blank. A weekend counts as 3 services.

Date	Venue	Choir	Availability
2010			
Oct 9th	St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol	GBAS	
Oct 30th	Bristol Cathedral (10.00am start)	GBA	
Nov 13th	Sherborne Abbey	GBA	
Dec 4th	Bring & Sing Brahms venue tbc	Open	
2011			
Jan 15th	Bath Abbey	GBA	
Feb 19th	Hereford Cathedral	GBAS	
Feb 26th	Wells Cathedral	GBA	
Mar 27th	Gospel Workshop in Wroughton, Swindon	Open	
Apr 16th	Salisbury Cathedral	GBA	
May 2nd (Mon)	Exeter Cathedral	GBA	
May 28th	Tewkesbury Abbey	GBA	
June 11th/12th	St. Davids Cathedral (weekend)	GBAS	
July 2nd	Malvern Priory	GBAS	

- GBA** Girls, boys and adult ATB
GBAS Girls, boys and adult ATB with adult sopranos.
Open All MSWV singers plus visitors

**This copy is for you to keep as a reminder of
which days you have signed up for.**