

## GENERAL INFORMATION 2011 - 2012 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. The only exceptions to this pattern are Bristol (28th Jan) and Exeter (16th June)
- 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. In 2010-11 this was a particular problem and we hope we have resolved this problem for this year.
- 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. The ATB sections should arrive virtually note-perfect.
- 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** medallion 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. Junior members should have passed the RSCM Bronze award. Senior singers should be of high RSCM Silver standard.
- Please pass the form on to anyone who would enjoy working with MSWV. The first of this year's events 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 !