

RSCM VOICES: MIDLANDS & SOUTH WEST

Director: **Matthew Hamilton**
e-mail: matt.hamilton@hotmail.co.uk

Administrator and Secretary: John and Janet Henderson
30 Goddard Avenue, Swindon, Wilts SN1 4HR
Tel: 07766221426 e-mail: jhender@rscm.u-net.com

Deputy Administrators:
Chris Rogers, Tel: 01672 861374, e-mail: candstrogers@btinternet.com
Jan Stevenson, Tel: 01885 482538, e-mail: skatitchj@yahoo.co.uk

Child Protection: **Christopher Joseph**
Tel: 01672 513364 e-mail: cjoseph@matale.demon.co.uk

Treasurer: **Nancy McGiveron**
32c Bluebell Court, West Road, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2TR
Tel: 01761 410442 e-mail: nancymcgiveron@googlemail.com

27th July, 2011

Dear All,

Another year goes by – the end of my first full season as Voices director. Firstly, thank you all for a very enjoyable season, with some fine performances throughout the year. Greene and Howells in Tewkesbury and Philips in Malvern were particularly memorable, and I'm pleased to say that the Philips will be getting a future outing! Thank you to this year's bench of organists – Neil Fortin, Sean Tucker and David Thomas, and to Laurence Blyth, Andrew Kirk and Colin Davey for conducting.

Without doubt, the quality of sound in the choir has improved over the course of the year, and we are getting to a stage where we can all pay really close attention to small details in rehearsal. It is these details – vowel sounds, phrase shapes, voice placement etc, that make massive differences in the quality of performance, and mean that we can tackle a wide variety of music with conviction and panache. In order to ensure we can rehearse in such a manner, it is crucial that notes are learned well in advance of rehearsals. Many of you are very diligent in doing this, but still it seems that the quality of our performance only really hits the mark half way through the season, when all the sets of canticles and responses have been covered. So in order to enable us to hit the ground running this year, we are having a training day in Salisbury on 1st October. During this day we will work on the four sets of canticles, and two sets of responses for the year, as well as setting aside time for a vocal workshop to improve sound quality and flexibility. This day should really set us up well for the year, and full attendance is crucial if we are to make the most of it. Please let us know on the response form that you will be attending.

It is crucial to our work as an educational choir that we embrace a wide repertoire, and learn to perform it appropriately. Our anthems this year are diverse – early music by such composers as Lodovico Viadana and Samuel Scheidt, and music by living composers including Eric Whitacre and Jonathan Dove – as well as a few stalwarts of the Cathedral tradition. I hope you will want to come particularly to those events where there is music that you not already know – all these pieces are works that I have a particular passion for, and I can't wait to share it with you.

I'm particularly looking forward to the event on 28th January. We are inviting all those who have passed Voice for Life Awards in recent years to sing with us at a celebratory service in Bristol Cathedral. The event will recognise the achievements of the many young people who sing in parish churches in the region, and give us all a wonderful opportunity to rejoice in our musical gifts. It may even encourage a few new people to join the group.

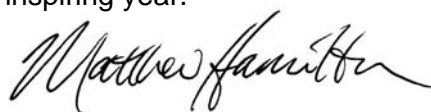
Speaking of which, we have welcomed a few new members this year, which is great news, but we are still the smallest of the Voices groups by quite some way and we have a way to go before we can be confident of fielding a well-balanced choir at each event. Do spread the word in your parishes and beyond!

The area covered by Voices MSW is a large one, and I recognise that many of you travel great distances to attend events that aren't really in your part of the region – thanks especially to the parents of younger members who go to great lengths to get them there. Do let us know if transport becomes a problem – there may be other people in the choir who can offer lifts etc.

Before I sign off, I must, as last year, give a huge vote of thanks to John and Janet Henderson for their tireless work in support of the choir. It quite literally would not happen without them. A small committee has emerged this year, which should enable the load to be spread. Thank you to those involved, and to those who write to John and I with ideas and feedback. The more people who spend time thinking about Voices activities and getting involved, the more we will be able to achieve, and the quicker we will be able to grow.

I look forward to an inspiring year.

Yours,



Administrative Matters

Existing members should return the signed *Application Form* and *Availability form* to Janet with subscription cheque by **26th Sept.**

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.

As last year we will be using two different sets of Evensong Responses. For each event we do show on the repertoire list which set of Responses is to be used, but there were several occasions last year when singers arrived with the wrong ones and it may be easier to bring both sets to every singing day.

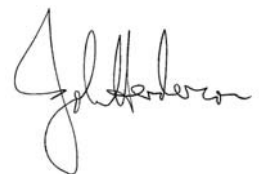
Please use the editions of music specified. If you decide to use an alternative or a free CPDL download then it is your responsibility to make any necessary alterations to the notes and word underlay to make it compatible with the "official" edition. We wasted a lot of valuable rehearsal time last year trying to sort out discrepancies – you could have a busy lunch hour making all the changes!

When checking to see if you already have the music, do remember to look in the various anthologies. We usually have several repertoire items each year taken from the *Oxford Book of Tudor Anthems*, the *New Church Anthem Book* and *European Sacred Music* – this year there are four items from the latter alone and none of these are available separately. I have indicated on the music order form which CPDL editions are the same or very close. Many singers have invested in these books and many churches have copies to borrow.

Matthew mentioned in his letter the special recruiting day on Jan 28th in Bristol Cathedral. We are personally inviting every RSCM Bronze, Silver and Gold winner in our region for the last 5 years to this day for an *Award Winners Festival*. Hopefully a few may enjoy the experience and want to join us.

Thanks to Chris and Jan for acting as Deputy Administrators this year, they will also active at some singing days this year. Any Child Protections issues should be raised with Christopher Joseph and money queries go to Nancy McGiveron and our thanks go to both of these.

Best wishes for a musical year.



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 !

RSCM VOICES: MIDLANDS AND SOUTH WEST (2011/2012)

Application Form for New Singers and Renewal of existing membership

Please use a separate form for each person (photocopy this form if necessary) and return it to Janet Henderson, **Existing members should return the renewal form by 26th Sept 2011.**

John & Janet Henderson (MSWV Administrator and Secretary) 30 Goddard Avenue, Swindon, SN1 4HR
tel: 07766221426 e-mail: jhender@rscm.u-net.com

New applicant Existing member

Name _____ (full name and title)

*Date of Birth: _____ (*if under 18)

*Parent/Guardian: _____

Postal Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Home/Evening Tel: _____

Work/Daytime Tel: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please note: we assume that if an email address is given, you are in the habit of checking the inbox regularly. To keep our administration costs down we try, wherever possible, to use e-mail to communicate with singers.

We keep our contact records in a computer database which is only used for the RSCM Voices: M&SW.

If you do not want your records kept on computer, please tick this box:

RSCM Affiliated Choir _____ RSCM Member/Friend

(Singers must either belong to an RSCM affiliated choir or be an Individual Member or Friend)

Juniors attainment level – Bishop’s (Silver) Award Other _____

Adults (new applicants only) please list your singing experience on the reverse of this form

Voice _____ Soprano / Treble / Alto / Tenor / Bass (please ring as appropriate)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Note. Parents/Guardians of singers under the age of 18 should sign on their behalf.

Name of Parent / Guardian in block capitals _____

Complete and **return this copy** by **Sept 26th** to Janet Henderson 30 Goddard Avenue, Swindon, SN1 4HR

RSCM VOICES: MIDLANDS AND SOUTH WEST

AVAILABILITY FORM 2011 – 2012 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.

Indicate your singing voice here **S / A / T / B**

Your Name _____ e-mail _____

Date	Venue	Availability
2011		
Oct 1st	Salisbury	
Oct 29th	St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol	
Nov 26th	Tewkesbury Abbey	
2012		
Jan 28th	Bristol Cathedral (10.00am start)	
Feb 11th	Hereford Cathedral	
Feb 25/26th	Salisbury Cathedral (weekend)	
Mar 24th	Sherborne Abbey	
Apr 14th	Llandaff Cathedral	
May 7th	Joint event for RSCM Voices/Cathedral Singers in York (Limited places, invitations will be sent to selected singers in January)	
May 19th	Gloucester Cathedral	
June 16th	RSCM Celebration Day in Exeter Cathedral	
June 23rd	Worcester Cathedral	
July 14th	Malvern Priory	

Remember to keep a copy of this commitment

I am over 18, have full CRB clearance and could act as **Youth Pastoral Assistant** once or twice a year **Y / N**

To be signed by a parent/guardian for those under 18

I give my consent to _____ being a member of the MSWV for the 2011-2012 season and understand that, whilst the RSCM will take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of its members, it will not accept any responsibility for travelling arrangements or for the supervision of choristers during the lunch break. These must be the responsibility of the parents, choir trainers or their representatives.

I give my consent for my child to be included in any photographs of the MSWV choir which may be taken by an approved RSCM photographer for use only by the RSCM.

My child has **medical conditions** (listed overleaf) of which staff should be aware. (delete if not applicable)

Signed (Parent/Gaurdian) _____

To be completed by all singers aged 18 and over

I have signed an RSCM Child Protection Self-Declaration form during the last 2 years. **Y / N**

(If the answer is no, please print out and complete the **TWO** pages included in this document and send them to HQ **not** to Janet or John)

Signed _____

Please ensure you send a subscription cheque with this form.

Mar 24th	<i>Sherborne Abbey</i>	5.30pm
<i>Introit</i>	Gesualdo: O vos omnes	
<i>Responses</i>	Rose	
<i>Setting</i>	Jackson in G	
<i>Anthem</i>	Wesley: Wash me thoroughly	
Apr 14th	<i>Llandaff Cathedral</i>	6.00pm
<i>[Introit]</i>	Viadana: Exsultate justi	
<i>Responses</i>	Tomkins	
<i>Setting</i>	Byrd 2nd Service	
<i>Anthem</i>	Scheidt: Surrexit Christus hodie	
May 7th (Mon)	<i>York Cathedral (1.15pm start)</i>	5.15pm
	(limited places 14S/6A/6T/6B will be invited)	
May 19th	<i>Gloucester Cathedral</i>	4.30pm
<i>Introit</i>	Philips: Ascendit Deus	
<i>Responses</i>	Rose	
<i>Setting</i>	Stanford in B flat	
<i>Anthem</i>	Finzi: God is gone up	
June 16th	<i>RSCM Celebration Day Exeter Cathedral</i>	Special Timetable
	Music tba	
June 23th	<i>Worcester Cathedral</i>	5.30pm
<i>Introit</i>	Philips: Tibi laus, tibi Gloria	
<i>Responses</i>	Tomkins	
<i>Setting</i>	Daniel Purcell in E minor	
<i>Anthem</i>	Rheinberger: Abendlied	
July 14th	<i>Malvern Priory</i>	4.00pm
<i>Introit</i>	Harris Holy is the true light	
<i>Responses</i>	Rose	
<i>Setting</i>	Jackson in G	
<i>Anthem</i>	Wood: O thou the central orb	

RSCM VOICES: MIDLANDS & SOUTH WEST

MUSIC ORDER FORM 2011 – 2012 SEASON

If you are the choir trainer of an RSCM Affiliated Choir ordering multiple copies for your singers, then you do not need to pay in advance (unless you wish to) and an invoice will be sent with the music. All other purchasers, including RSCM personal and student members, must supply credit card details (see reverse side of this form). If you want to stagger the cost by sending in more than one order, then please photocopy this form before completion.

You can order online at <http://www.rscmshop.com/index.php/rscm-voices-repertoire/rscm-voices-msw.html>

RSCM own publications attract a **25% discount** to affiliated churches and a 12.5% discount to individual members.

Remember to order in good time (i.e. one month beforehand) !

Composer	Title	Publisher	RSCM Order No.	No of copies needed
Bairstow	Let all mortal flesh keep silence^^	Stainer & Bell	A0141	
Byrd	2nd Evening Service	RSCM	C0635	
Byrd	Civitas sancti tui^^^ &	CMS/OUP	A0838	
Byrd	Mass in 5-parts (ed Washington)	Chester	E0049	
Byrd	Rorate caeli desuper	OUP	A1191	
Dove	Ecce beatam lucem	Faber	A0602	
Durufié	Tantum ergo	Durand	A0223	
Finzi	God is gone up	Boosey & Hawkes	A0124	
Gesualdo	O vos omnes**	OUP (or CPDL 00144)	B0019	
Harris	Holy is the true light^	Novello	A0188	
Jackson	Evening Service in G	OUP	C0074	
Parry	There is an old belief***	YBP	A2244	
Philips	Ascendit Deus*	OUP	A0202	
Philips	Tibi laus, tibi gloria	Chester	A2490	
Purcell (Daniel)	Evening Service in E-minor	Novello	C0199	
Rheinberger	Abendlied**	OUP or (CPDL 00380)	B0019	
Rose	Preces & Responses	Novello	C0141	
Scheidt	Surrexit Christus hodie^^^	OUP	A2647	
Stainer	I saw the Lord	RSCM	A1765	
Stanford	Evening Service in B-flat	RSCM	C0148	
Tomkins	Preces & Responses (<i>in Tudor Preces & Responses</i>)	CMSR48A	C0140	
Viadana	Exsultate justi**	OUP or (CPDL 3307)	B0019	
Victoria	O quam gloriosam**	OUP or (CPDL 7914)	B0019	
Weelkes	O Lord, arise*	OUP	A2491	
Wesley	Wash me thoroughly^ &&	RSCM	A0125	
Whitacre	Lux Aurumque	Walton	A2070	
Wilby	Ave Maria	RSCM	A2272	
Wood	O thou the central orb^ && ~	RSCM	A0618	

* Also in the *Oxford Book of Tudor Anthems* ** In *European Sacred Music* *** Also in *Songs of Farewell*

^ Also in the *New Church Anthem Book* ^^Also in *Anthems for Choirs Vol.4*

^^^Also in *Ash Wednesday to Easter for Choirs* ~ Also in *Advent for Choirs*

& Also in *A Byrd Anthology* && Also in *RSCM Silver Collection*

Name _____ Tel. No. (in case of queries or problems) _____

e-mail address _____

Postal Address (to which the music will be sent) _____

Payment

1) I am the choir trainer of an RSCM Affiliated Choir please invoice me.

Affiliated Church _____ Signed _____

Or

2) Please charge my **VISA / MasterCard / Switch / other (please name)** _____
account

Card Number ____ / ____ / ____ / ____ / ____

Valid From Date (Switch only) __ / __ __ Issue Number (Switch only) __ __

Expiry Date __ __ / __ __ Security Number (last 3 digits on signature strip) __ __ __

Signed _____

If the Card Holder's address is not the same as the delivery address for the music, please supply the Card Holder's address here. _____

Please fax (**both sides**) to **0845 021 8826** or send this order to RSCM Music Direct. If the order is folded equally in three, the address printed below will be visible in a standard DL window envelope. Online order and payment is easy at <http://www.rscmshop.com/index.php/rscm-voices-repertoire/rscm-voices-msw.html>

**RSCM Music Direct
c/o Norwich Books & Music,
13a Hellesdon Park Road,
Norwich, NR6 5DR**

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 2011/2012 remains unchanged again. 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
- Junior (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 !

Self-Declaration Form

for staff and volunteers working with children and young people under 18

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS

All information on this form, and on any attached sheets, is handled and held securely in accordance with the terms of the RSCM Policy on Working with Children and Young People and the Data Protection Act 1998

- 1. Have you previously completed an RSCM self-declaration?** Yes No
Please tick

If so, when? _____

- 2. Have you previously undergone checks through the Criminal Records Bureau?** Please tick

If so, when and through which organisation? _____

3. PERSONAL DETAILS

Title & Full Name: _____

Details of any previous names you have ever been known by since the age of eighteen other than the name given above: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

Tel. No. (Home): _____ (Mobile): _____

Email: _____ Date of birth: ____ / ____ / ____

How long have you lived at the above address? _____

If less than 12 months please give your previous address: _____

How long did you live there? _____

4. REFERENCES

Please provide the names and addresses of two people who have known you for at least three years and who would be able to provide a character reference. Please do not use the course director or members of your family, as we need two independent references.

A _____ **B** _____

Post Code: _____ Tel.no: _____ Post Code: _____ Tel.no: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

5. RSCM EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

Which event(s) have you been invited to take part in? _____

If this is for ongoing work, please tick here

CONFIDENTIAL

6. DECLARATION

The RSCM Safeguarding Policy on Working with Children and Young People clearly demonstrates the organisation’s commitment to safeguarding children who are entrusted to its care during the course of its activities. It is also obliged under the provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 to ensure that those invited to work as staff or volunteers are appropriately vetted, and you are therefore requested to make the following declaration:

Have you ever been charged with, cautioned or convicted in relation to any criminal offence (including any ‘spent convictions’ under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974)?

Yes No
 Please tick

Have you ever been the subject of a police investigation which didn’t lead to a criminal conviction?

Yes No
 Please tick

Have you ever been involved in court proceedings concerning a child or young person under the age of 18?

Yes No
 Please tick

Has a child in your care or for whom you have or have had parental responsibility ever been removed from your care, been placed on the Child Protection Register, or been the subject of any order under the child protection provisions of the Children Act?

Yes No
 Please tick

Have you ever been the subject of complaints or concern regarding your conduct with children? This includes any disciplinary action taken by an employer or voluntary organisation in relation to your behaviour with children, and any investigations carried out by Children’s Social Services?

Yes No
 Please tick

If you have answered ‘yes’ to any of the above questions please give full details and date(s) on a separate sheet, and supply in a sealed envelope marked ‘private and confidential’.

Declaration Statement: *I declare that the above information (and that on the attached sheets*) is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. * Delete if no sheets have been attached.*

Signed: _____ Name (please print): _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to the address below

RSCM CHILD PROTECTION ADMINISTRATOR, 19 THE CLOSE, SALISBURY, WILTS SP1 2EB
 tel +44(0)1722 424856 fax +44(0)1722 424849 email childprotection@rscm.com