

RSCM VOICES

(Southern Cathedral Singers)

Application for the 2008/2009 Season

Please use a separate form for each person

Name	Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy)
Name of Parent/Guardian (if applicant is Under 18)	
Postal Address (including Postcode)	Home/Evening Telephone
	Work/Daytime Telephone
	Mobile Telephone

Email address (to keep our administration costs down we try to use email communication where possible)
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Name of RSCM Affiliated Choir of which you are a member (or Individual Membership Number)

<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Voice</th> <th>Attainment</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Treble</td> <td>Bronze Award</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Soprano</td> <td>Silver Award</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alto</td> <td>Gold Award</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tenor</td> <td>AB Grade</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bass</td> <td>Trinity Grade</td> </tr> </table>	Voice	Attainment	Treble	Bronze Award	Soprano	Silver Award	Alto	Gold Award	Tenor	AB Grade	Bass	Trinity Grade	Please briefly outline your singing experience
Voice	Attainment												
Treble	Bronze Award												
Soprano	Silver Award												
Alto	Gold Award												
Tenor	AB Grade												
Bass	Trinity Grade												

We keep our contact records in a computer database which is only used for *RSCM Voices*.
If you **do not** want your records kept on computer, please tick this box:

Signature	Date (dd/mm/yy)
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If applicant is Under 18 on 1 September 2008: I give permission for my son/daughter to enrol with RSCM Voices for the season 2008/2009	
Signature	Date (dd/mm/yy)

Please return this form ASAP to:
Peter Futchter, The Junior King's School, Milner Court, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 0AY

RSCM Voices is a choir which sings services, concerts and undertakes training and learning opportunities to a very high musical standard in Cathedrals, major churches and other venues across the southern half of England. RSCM Voices has evolved from the earlier Southern Cathedral Singers and will continue and develop this work.

Peter Futcher is the Director of RSCM Voices and is very happy to answer questions and queries at any time: futcher@yahoo.com

Rather than being one fixed group, RSCM Voices draws from a pool of auditioned members for each of its musical commitments. The Choir may sing as a full mixed choir, boys and men, upper voices or as a Chamber Choir. Configuration of the Choir for each of its performance opportunities may be dictated by availability, venue and so forth.

Female sopranos of any age are particularly encouraged to apply and also those singers in the transitional age group, boys and girls, from 14 to 21.

Events generally take place on Saturdays and bank holidays.

Application details

Who can apply?

We welcome applications from previous members of Southern Cathedral Singers and during the season from new, interested singers who have already some experience in their choirs and promising vocal quality to offer. They should be either members of RSCM affiliated churches or schools or subscribing Friends and Members (Individual, or Junior/Student) of the RSCM.

Young singers should be at least nine years old, if the voice is promising and they are able to cope physically with a full day's music-making. Those beginning to prepare seriously for RSCM Bronze standard assessment are likely to be at the right level to begin singing with RSCM Voices.

All singers over the age of 18 will be required to complete an RSCM self declaration with regard to Child Protection and in line with the RSCM Child Protection Policy. Full details and the self declaration form will be sent out to successful applicants. Those members who are keen and willing to act as Pastoral Assistants to RSCM Voices will be asked to complete an enhanced CRB disclosure.

How do we apply?

Please fill in the application form above and return it to Peter Futcher, as soon as possible.

Following the Training Day on 27th September 2008 (or by arrangement in the case of those unable to attend this day) successful applicants will receive an availability form, asking for availability details to be returned. These data will be important as we plan the music for the year. An invoice for membership fees will accompany the invitations along with the Music Diary and timings for each event. All singers are expected to have their own copies of the music at the events they attend and this is obtainable from the RSCM.

Is there a membership fee?

There is in place a strategy to make the RSCM Voices/Cathedral singers groups self-funding by 2010. John Wardle is the Treasurer of RSCM Voices. The subscription rates for 2008/2009 are as follows. 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. Bursary details are available from Peter Futchter.

Subscriptions 2008/2009

Adult	£36
Children (under 18)	£20

Concessions

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, i.e. £18 for additional adult and £10 for each additional child.

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 ($£20+£10=£30$)

Auditions?

A major Training Day has been arranged for Saturday 27th September 2008 in the Chapel of Royal Holloway, University of London. It is hoped that previous members of SCS will attend along with any new singers and applicants. The day will focus on John Rutter's *Requiem*, with an informal performance at the end. This Training Day will serve as an audition for all who are able to attend. Any unable to attend should contact Peter Futchter as soon as possible. During the season, an informal audition can be arranged at another RSCM Voices event. You should obtain and bring along the full music programme for the day, as advertised, and be prepared to join in all rehearsals and the final service or performance, so bring your choir robes as usually worn. Your short audition will usually happen at the lunchtime break.

We also ask you to sing part of a psalm to Anglican chant, as a quick study, so that we can listen for a good flow, sensible expression and clear diction. You will also sight-sing part of an anthem that you see for the first time 'on the day'.

For boys and girls we are not looking for perfection first time, but the ability to learn quickly. You may also be given some aural tests and vocal exercises. In all applicants, of all ages, we expect to see the ability to work together as a team and represent the highest standards of the RSCM. A sense of humour helps too!

How do we obtain the music we need?

You can order all the pieces you need now from RSCM Music Direct.
T: 0845 021 7726 (our qualified sales advisor is Matthew Wright on extn 206)
E: musicdirect@rscm.com
W: www.rscm.com/shop

Dates of events 2008/2009

The dates listed below are confirmed, though there are several others in the pipeline. A definitive list will be published in October. For now, please add these dates to your diary and consider availability.

Saturday 27 September 2008	Royal Holloway Singing Day
Saturday 29 November 2008	Advent Carol Service at Rothwell
Monday 22 December 2008	Carol Singing at Gatwick Airport
Saturday 27 December 2008	Guildford Cathedral, Evensong
Monday 29 December 2008	Westminster Abbey, Evensong
Saturday 3 January 2009	St Alban's Abbey, Evensong
Saturday 31 January 2009	Bury St Edmund's, Evensong
Saturday 21 February 2009	Westminster Cathedral, Sung Mass
Saturday 14 March 2009	Portsmouth Cathedral, Evensong
Monday 4 May 2009	Rochester Cathedral, Evensong
Saturday 9 May 2009	Guildford Cathedral, Evensong
Saturday 13 June 2009	Peterborough Cathedral, Evensong
Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 August 2009	Norwich Cathedral Services
Monday 31 August 2009	Salisbury Cathedral, Evensong

Still awaiting confirmation from Ely Cathedral, with two concert dates to add and various other local church/community events possible.

Programme dates can be found in The Network, and full details will be sent to all applicants.



GENERAL INFORMATION 2008 - 2009 SEASON

Timetable

- Rehearsals for service days generally follow the pattern of 11.00am start for all singers, lunch from 1.00pm, rehearsal from 2.15 or 2.30pm in the music room followed by a break and cathedral rehearsal an hour or so before the service.
- Please do all you can to be punctual at the start of the 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 venues 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 online or by post in advance and some other repertoire.
- 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 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 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. Boys, girls and adults are welcome to audition so please do all you can to spread the word about RSCM Voices, as many singers in RSCM affiliated choirs still do not know of us.
- Please pass the form on to anyone who would enjoy working with RSCM Voices. The first of this year's events at Royal Holloway on Saturday 27th September 2008 is a recruiting/taster/audition day. Please consider bringing a friend (who will need to complete an application form) to try the experience. Junior members, of all voices, are especially encouraged, as are students.

RSCM Responsibility

- The RSCM has set out the extent of its responsibilities for the welfare of the young people who are members of RSCM Voices and, if you are a parent or guardian of one of the singers who is under the age of 18, you are asked to sign to give your consent to your son or daughter being a member of the group.
- A team of Pastoral Assistants will be on duty at each event where Juniors are involved. The Pastoral Team, in addition to the Director and other staff, are all subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure. 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 Peter Futchter on 07748 663332.

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 may be room for extra singers.



Training and Audition Day
Saturday 27 September 2008

The Chapel
Royal Holloway, University of London
Egham, Surrey

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| 10.30am | Registration |
| 11.00am | Rehearsals and Auditions |
| 1.00pm | Lunch (bring packed lunch or use local facilities) |
| 2.00pm | Rehearsals and Auditions |
| 4.15pm | Informal Performance |
| 5.00pm | Finish |