



RSCM Scotland Newsletter – February 2009

Welcome to our February Newsletter. There is going to be a great deal of RSCM activity in the next few months with the June Triennial Festival fast approaching. Remember to keep an eye on our website (www.rscmscotland.org) for the latest information. If you no longer wish to receive our Newsletters, or if you change your email address, please remember to let Pat know (01620 892228 pat@rscmscotland.org).

2009 RSCM Scotland Triennial Festival Our big event for 2009 is of course the Triennial Festival at **St Columba's Cathedral, Oban** on **Saturday June 6th**. The Service will be a celebration of St Columba, directed by Timothy Noon, Director of Music at Liverpool RC Cathedral and the preacher will be the Right Reverend Martin Shaw, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles.

We hope that the stunning setting and the time of year will encourage you to come to Oban. It would be great to fill the Cathedral! There will be a rehearsal at **1.00** with the Festival itself at **4.00**: timings on the day hopefully enabling people to make a day-trip.

The music will be a varied selection with something to suit singers (and choirs) of all abilities. Simple anthems by George Bayley, Kenneth Leighton and Tim Noon will be sung alongside a work by local composer Norman Nicholson (the last movement of his cantata "St Columba of Iona") and to celebrate the Haydn anniversary this year we will also perform his incomparable "Insanae et Vanae Curae". All this is almost certainly music most choirs will not already have -and will hopefully make buying a set of music books value for money (even if not all of your members are able to come to Oban.)

Music books – will be available for purchase at all Sing Columba! events (see below) and can be ordered by email from triennial@rscmscotland.org. If you have any difficulty, please contact pat@rscmscotland.org or 01620892228.

"Sing Columba!" events Rather than having Regional Rehearsals as in the past we are instead organizing a number of "Sing Columba" events around the country in the run up to the Festival, designed both as an opportunity to learn the music for Oban, but also as events in their own right: a chance for you to enjoy music-making and fellowship with other singers in your area.

As already advertised the launch of "Sing Columba" we will be in **Dunblane Cathedral Halls on Saturday March 7th at 2.30pm**. It's not too late to register for this! Please contact Pat on **01620 892228** pat@rscmscotland.org On this day we will sing through the music and end with an informal act of worship. Refreshments provided! There will be plenty of music books available for purchase on that day.

Nearer to the Festival itself "Sing Columba" events have been arranged as follows. We hope you will make every effort to attend the one nearest to you as rehearsal time at Oban will be limited. We will also be holding events in Aberdeen and Dumfries but have not confirmed the dates as yet. Please check the website for updates.

Glasgow (St Mary's Cathedral) **Monday 11 May** at 7.20pm

Please contact Frikki Walker 07948 371997

Oban (Primary Campus) **Wednesday 20 May** at 7.20pm

Please contact Norman Nicholson 01631 710335

Edinburgh (St Peters, Lutton Place) **Saturday 23 May** at 2.30pm

Please contact Sheila Robertson Sheila@rscmscotland.org

Inverness (Nessbank Church) **Saturday 23 May** at 2.30pm

Please contact Bridget Black 01463 230588

It would help us greatly if you would register for these by **April 30th**. Many thanks!

We have a new committee member. Ann Treloar, known to members who attend the Dunblane Singing Break, joined us for our January meeting. Ann has had a wealth of experience with RSCM committees and is an examiner for Bronze and Silver Awards.

The Dunblane Singing Break will be held in Dunblane Cathedral and Scottish Churches House as in previous years. Many participants have already booked their places on next year's course which will run from 13 – 16 July 2009.

Young Voices Festival We are planning to run our event for young people on 19 September. We would like to have more junior choirs attending so if you have young people in your (church or school) choir who might be interested in attending, please contact **Matthew@rscmscotland.org**. We would welcome parties of singers from state schools, so if you have children or grandchildren in primary school or early secondary, why not let their school know about our Young Voices Festival.

The Dunblane Singing Day returns to Dunblane Cathedral this year and will be held on 31 October. We are delighted to have Gordon Appleton to direct the singing, accompanied by Matthew. Arrival please at 1.30 for a 2.00 rehearsal, 4.00 tea break and 5.00 Service. Everyone welcome – admission free, although a donation to RSCM Scotland would be greatly appreciated. It would be lovely to have a good turnout.

RSCM Scottish Voices led by Frikki Walker and Richard Walmsley, has a programme of events for the year. The next meeting will be at Dunblane Cathedral on 25th March. The choir will be in attendance at Oban for the Triennial Festival. There are a few places still available – please contact the RSCM Scottish Voices Administrator for full details Mary McNicol **mary_soprano@fsmail.net**

Awards The committee is still looking for nominations for long service or outstanding service awards so that *RSCM Awards* may be presented at the Triennial Festival in

Oban. If you know of someone who might deserve an Award, please contact Pat or Matthew to discuss the matter.

Fundraising - Grateful thanks to Mary McNicol and Kirsten Mann who managed to raise £20 for our funds through selling home produce during last year's Dunblane Singing Break. Kathleen Whitton our Treasurer (Kathleen@rscmscotland.org) is always delighted to hear of gifts and donations to help our work. Perhaps you could raise a small sum for us?

From the Chairman: RSCM Voluntary Forum - RSCM Voluntary Forum is a new body which met for the first time last November. It is a small group of area chairs from around the UK and Europe together with members of RSCM staff including the new Director, Lindsay Gray. The idea behind the forum is that it is a way of feeding back the views of the membership to RSCM staff and of course sharing experiences of how RSCM is operating in different parts of the country.

The first meeting was extremely useful and covered a lot of ground. In particular we looked at recruitment of new members- whether choirs, Individual Members or Friends*.

Without going into great details in general we agreed that we perhaps need a clearer message about the RSCM as a cause that deserves support: emphasizing how we enable the churches' mission, encourage fellowship in music-making and how we are effectively the guardians of church music around the world. We acknowledged how we should be a supportive and flexible organization for both traditional and new kinds of music in church and that we should make our own enthusiasm contagious: with our limited resources, our supporters should be our best advocates.

This was very much a meeting where the new Director was able to listen to the various viewpoints of folk around the country and I know he found this very helpful as he looks towards how to take RSCM forward.

I will keep you informed as to how the Forum develops but in the meantime, if you know of any churches who you feel might benefit from the sort of support RSCM gives, or if you know of any folk who might be willing to become Friends, please let us know. If you have any views as to how RSCM operates or how we might improve our message I am happy to feed them back to the Forum!

* *It came up in the meeting that folk were often unsure about the categories of RSCM membership of which there are three:*

- *Affiliates (churches)*
- *Individual Members (who are active in church music but not necessarily attached to an affiliated church) - who receive the full benefits of all the RSCM educational programmes, courses and music discounts as well as getting the Church Music Quarterly (CMQ) magazine*
- *Friends - who receive CMQ and other information about RSCM but may not be actively involved in church music themselves –they simply support us in our work.*

What's on in Scotland

Saturday 7 March 2009 - Sing Columba!

The first Sing Columba! event will take place in Dunblane Cathedral 2.30 – 5.30.

Contact Pat 01620 892228 pat@rscmscotland.org

Monday 11 May 2009 - Sing Columba!

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Sheila@rscmscotland.org

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Inverness (Nessbank Church) at 2.30pm. **Contact** Bridget Black 01463 230588

Saturday 6 June 2009 - RSCM Scotland Triennial Festival

St Columba's Cathedral, Oban.

NB Cost of attendance will be the purchase of a music booklet.

Contact Pat 01620 892228 pat@rscmscotland.org

Monday –Thursday 13-16 July 2009 - Dunblane Singing Break

Four days of singing in Dunblane: Scottish Churches House and the Cathedral with Gordon Appleton, Matthew Beetschen and Chris Broughton.

Contact dunblanesingingbreak@rscmscotland.org

Saturday September 19 2009 - 3rd RSCM Scottish Young Voices Festival

Details to be confirmed in due course Please check the website www.rscmscotland.org or contact matthew@rscmscotland.org.

Saturday 31 October 2009 - Dunblane Singing Day

This year the Dunblane Singing Day will return to Dunblane Cathedral. Arrivals 1.30pm, rehearsal 2.00pm (prompt) followed by refreshments, service 5.00pm. No fee but donations to the work of RSCM Scotland gratefully received.

Contact Matthew 01786 445158 matthew@rscmscotland.org

website: rscmscotland.org