

What's on in Scotland

Still thinking about the **Triennial Festival** on **4 November** at St Michael's Church, Linlithgow, we plan to have rehearsals in:

- Glasgow
- Linlithgow
- Edinburgh
- Inverness

Please try to attend one if you can – you will enjoy the Triennial so much more if you know the music. Let us know if you plan to rehearse with us triennial@rscmscotland.com or phone Pat.

Sheila writes: Would you like to host a RSCM Scotland workshop in your church? It could be an organ workshop for those with little or no experience, or one to help musicians transfer keyboard skills more effectively and use the organ to its full potential. The *Voice for Life* programme, choir training, and ways to facilitate your use of music in worship are all possibilities - the list is endless...

The RSCM exists for the benefit of its members and we are here to help and support your important work in the ministry of music. We cannot do this without your help, so please let us know what your needs are! For help, advice or information, contact Sheila Robertson, ETO RSCM Scotland, sheila@rscmscotland.com, or any committee member.

Contact details

Our website is www.rscmscotland.org – please do keep checking for updated information. You can email any of the committee members - Matthew Beetschen (Chair), Mary Birch (Awards), Nicola Corbishley, Pat Lynch (Secretary), Sheila Robertson (ETO), Alistair Warwick (RSCM Coordinator), Kathleen Whitton (Treasurer) - firstname@rscmscotland.org – e.g. mary@rscmscotland.org
Any telephone enquiries should be to Pat in the first instance on 01620 892228. Newsletter contributions or suggestions should be sent to Pat.

This newsletter may be copied and shared. Why not pin yours on a church notice board so that members of the congregation (who are also church musicians) can read about our work in Scotland?



RSCM Scotland Newsletter

Issue 2 – June 2006

Welcome to the second RSCM Scotland newsletter. It was good to receive your feedback from the first edition. We shall be using many of your suggestions in the future. Watch this space! If this copy has been passed on to you and you would like to receive your own by email, please contact Pat.

News The big news for this issue is that the Headquarters of the RSCM has moved to Salisbury. By the time you read this newsletter, HQ staff will be settled in the new premises in Sarum College in Salisbury Cathedral Close. The main switchboard telephone number is 01722 42 48 48 and the email address is enquiries@rscm.com. RSCM Music Direct may be contacted on 0845 021 77 26 and emailed at musicdirect@rscm.com.

Other news The RSCM Scotland committee is delighted to announce that the new Education and Training Officer (ETO) for Scotland is Sheila Robertson. Sheila, who some members have already met at training days, is an organ and piano teacher (amongst many other things – read about her in the next edition). Her wide experience makes her the ideal person to lead our participation in the new RSCM skills training programme which will be introduced next year.

Planning for the RSCM Scotland Triennial Festival continues. If you haven't already noted **Saturday November**

4th in your diary, please do so now and keep it free. Admission for singers is by music booklet and these should be ready to be posted out by 1 September. Useful information and a full music list are posted on our website: www.rscmscotland.org **Congregation members** are welcome – just come along to St Michael's Church in Linlithgow for 5pm.

St Andrew's Awards Congratulations to the following people who have had success in the St Andrew's Awards scheme: **Bronze** Emma Carragher (distinction), Emerald Evans (dist), Jenny House (merit) - *St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen, Girls' Choir, Rebecca Marshall* (merit) - *Craigiebank Church, Dundee* and **Silver** Kate Reynolds (dist), Connor Wilson (merit), Katrina Wilson (merit) - *Dunblane Cathedral,* Kirsten Murray (merit) - *Craigiebank Church, Dundee.*

Mary McNicol attended VFL Training on February 26th. She reports: This course, held in the magnificent setting of St. Mary's, Haddington, was for children, adults and choir trainers. Warm ups and vocal coaching sessions were conducted by Edward Caswell of St. Margaret's, Glasgow, whose explanation of singing techniques were valuable to all.

Sheila, Alistair and Pat spoke about the St Andrew's Awards and gave guidance about what the examiners would be looking for at the different levels. They pointed out that they truly want people to gain the awards and do make some allowances for the dreaded nerves. Discussion with other adults proved that their anxieties concerning exams reflected my own. Most of this apprehension was dispersed by this very valuable day which ended with a short Service, singing the works we had looked at during the day.

I look forward to the next session in May on Sight Singing which, like many self taught musicians, is my perceived weakness. As members of the RSCM it is our responsibility to support any ventures which the committee plan and suggest any other event which we would find valuable. Life is a journey and we are never too young or old to learn or achieve something.

Sheila was invited by South Queensferry Parish Church to lead a one-day organ workshop on May 6th. **Huw Thomas**, who organised the day says: Around 12 people (mostly young people with a few

adults) took part in this very successful and enjoyable event. Its purpose was to introduce the organ to those with little or no experience of the 'King of Instruments', and hopefully encourage a few to take up the learning of the organ.

In the morning at South Queensferry, Sheila introduced the various stops on the 2 manual Allen electronic organ and encouraged everyone to listen to the different sounds they made. Participants then had a go at playing themselves, many trying out the pedals for the first time.

After a hearty lunch of home made soup, strawberries and ice cream!, the group moved up to the historic Dalmeny Parish Church and a Baroque styled one manual mechanical action pipe organ made by Lammermuir Organ Builders from Oldhamstocks. This is a beautiful sounding instrument with a straight pedal board, unlike the radiating concave one at Queensferry. The keyboard has a completely different look and feel to the electronic instrument, and an interesting feature was that it sounded much louder at the console than in the main church because of the close proximity of the pipes. The organ has large shutters typical of late 17th and early 18th century North German organs which would have been closed during penitential seasons.

Again, participants all had a go and played pieces they had brought along. Sheila explained various differences in playing technique between the piano and the organ, demonstrated how pieces could be made to sound interesting, and that often the same piece of music could be played in lots of different ways. A very handy tip for regular organists short of music!

All in all a fun day, and one that is almost certainly to be repeated some time in the future. Thanks to Sheila for leading such a great day.

St. Bride's Episcopal Church, Hyndland Road, Glasgow has an Organist/Choirmaster vacancy. St. Bride's is Anglo-Catholic tradition with a history of high quality music-making. Assistant organist, small committed choir with a repertoire that runs from Byrd to MacMillan. Successful candidate will be expected to play for Sunday morning services, rehearse and conduct the choir and develop the musical life of the congregation and could start as soon as possible. This is a salaried position! Please call Rev. Russell Jones on 0141 334 1401.