



LONDON CHURCH MUSIC FORUM NEWSLETTER

2009-1

Compiled by Mervyn Hogg

3rd February 2009

Review of 2008

October 2007 marked the beginnings of the London Church Music Forum with a conference in the Wren Suite at St Paul's Cathedral. During 2008 the focus has been on two key areas covering:

1. Development of a communications infrastructure comprising additional records on the Diocesan database identifying musicians and contacts for each parish and the setting-up of mailing lists.
2. Production of an occasional newsletter giving news and information about events of interest to church musicians.
3. Securing agreement from the Diocesan Synod for volunteer Music Worship Co-ordinators
4. Identifying suitably candidates, consulting the area bishops and inviting volunteers to participate.

The infrastructure work has taken longer than expected and has required several iterations to secure coverage of most churches in the diocese. Things are now coming together with the music worship co-ordinators and a first meeting is planned for March 2009.

The RSCM London Area Committee has restructured and produced a good programme that included training for Dean's & Bishop's awards, a workshop day for organists and music leaders and an evening on new repertoire featured in the Season by season resource book.

The St Paul's Diocesan Choir provided the choir for the Ordination of Deacons and Evensong for the last Sunday in July. Both of these events were supported by workshops and rehearsal in the Cathedral's Music Department.

Other notable events in London included:

- London Festival of Contemporary Church Music, May 2008
- St Giles International Organ School and Royal College of Organists Course for Organists August, 2008.
- Deep unto Deep; a Worship Music Conference at the London School of Theology, September 2008.

2009 gets off to cracking start over the next six months with something for almost everybody. Do look through the list below, tell you singers and musicians about the programme and give them every encouragement to take part.

Events in 2009

Notice of the following have been received:

February

6th Feb 2009 1830 Nehru Centre, 8 South Audley Street, London, W1K 1HF

Book Launch/Talk : The Bhajan - Christian Devotional Music in the Indian Diaspora H Joy Norman

This is the story about how South Asian and East Indian communities have attempted to retain the form of this Hindu religious song, moulded it and fused it into Christian hybrids. Although the historical focus is on the sub-continent of India, Trinidad & Tobago, and England, comparisons are inevitable with other areas in the world where South Asian migrants have settled. It explores how different cultures have influenced the music and poetry of the region, and indeed how music has affected the culture and religion of the South Asian continent. It is authoritative and wide reaching, well researched and supported by many sources. H Joy Norman studied at the Royal College of Music in London and is a peripatetic tutor with Essex Music Services. Discussants : Ram Giddomal of South Asia Concern and Geoff Weaver from The Royal School of Church Music. In association with Melrose Books

11th February 1900-2045 St Paul's Cathedral

St Paul's Cathedral School Foundation: Choristers Past and Present in Concert

Directed by Andrew Carwood and Jeremy Jackman with organists, Christopher Herrick and Simon Johnson

the programme of music will include:

- Handel: Excerpts from Messiah
- Tallis: Lamentations of Jeremiah
- Fauré: Messe Basse
- Poulenc: Quatre Petites Prières de Saint François d'Assise

plus items of light and popular music

Tickets £7.50 – £25 are available from 08700 600100 or 08444 771000 or www.ticketweb.co.uk

March

14th March 2009 1400-1745

Chapel of Thomas Guy next Guy's Hospital

RSCM Southwark Area

Singing Workshop: IMPROVE YOUR VOCAL TECHNIQUE

In response to your many requests for training in vocal technique here is an opportunity for you to enjoy an afternoon improving your vocal abilities with **Hilary Llystyn Jones**. Hilary is one of this country's foremost vocal technicians. She works with choristers and lay-clerks in many of the leading choral establishments. This workshop will be an opportunity for you to discover your voice and to improve your vocal technique by singing with Hilary and learning, in a practical way, from her vast expertise in this subject.

The workshop will take place in the wonderful surroundings of the **Chapel of Thomas Guy** next to Guy's Hospital, St Thomas Street, London SE1 9RT. This is just a short walk from London Bridge National Rail Station.

The workshop is open to anyone, from chorister to clergy, to congregation, interested in singing. The cost for the afternoon is £10 per head or £8 if you are under 16 years of age.

Please register with your fee to:

Adrian Adams, RSCM Southwark and East Surrey Area Secretary

18 Sylvan Road, London SE19 2RX

☎ 020 8653 3305

✉ aradams.45@btinternet.com

Cheques should be made payable to: RSCM Southwark and East Surrey

The closing date for applications is Friday 27th February.

April

15th-17th April 2009, Sidney Sussex College Cambridge Royal College of Organists Cambridge Residential Course

This course offers comprehensive tuition for those preparing for, or considering, CertRCO, ARCO and FRCO. Highlights of the 2009 course include:

- tuition and recital from early Italian organ music specialist Christopher Stembridge, who is working on a new edition of Frescobaldi's organ works for Bärenreiter. (NB: FRCO History of Organ Music set topic for 2009–10 is Italy, 1550–1660.)
- the opportunity to attend recitals and concerts offered as part of the Cambridge Cantat 800 Festival which celebrates the 800th anniversary of the founding of the University.
- lecture for ARCO candidates by German Baroque music specialist Dr Geoffrey Webber on the Historical Studies set topic, Protestant Germany, 1620–1710.

Further details and an application form from <http://www.rco.org.uk/events.php?eventid=154>

May

6th May 2009 1930-2130 London School of Theology Northwood. Discovering the Heart of Music of the People: Multicultural Worship

A study session led by Ian Collinge who shares an exciting vision for a new language of worship heart music connecting different cultures within the same congregation.

See <http://www.lst.ac.uk/newsevent.php?newseventid=78>

Tickets are available by calling 01923 456220 or emailing music@lst.ac.uk

9th May St Paul's Cathedral
RSCM London Area Festival Evensong
Directed by Andrew Carwood

This Bi-ennial event is open to all church choirs, robed and unrobed in the London area. Local area rehearsals will be arranged between Easter and the Festival. On the day choirs will assemble for rehearsal at 1330 and the service will be at 1700. Parents and Parishioners will be most welcome to attend the service.

Music books for the service are available at £4.00 each and may be ordered, giving numbers by voice-part from Michael Turvey, 49, Albury Drive, Pinner, Middlesex. HA5 3RL. Email: mturvey@talktalk.net. Cheques should be made payable to RSCM Willesden Area.

Details and forms available from www.london.anglican.org/music

9th May 1400-1700 Chapel of Thomas Guy (next to Guy's Hospital)
RSCM Southwark event: The Role of Music in Liturgy Rev Dr J Thewlis

This event has been arranged in response to many requests for advice on the essential question on how the link between music and the liturgy plays a fundamental role in our regular worship.. We welcome anyone who is involved or interested in this aspect of worship. Whether you are a choir director or organist, clergy or chorister, or member of a congregation there will be something here for everyone.

The workshop will take place in the wonderful surroundings of the **Chapel of Thomas Guy** next to Guy's Hospital, St Thomas Street, London SE1 9RT. This is just a short walk from London Bridge National Rail Station.

We welcome anyone to our events whether members of the RSCM or not and regardless of denomination.

The cost for the afternoon is £5 per head. Please register with your fee to:

Adrian Adams, RSCM Southwark and East Surrey Area Secretary
18 Sylvan Road, London SE19 2RX
☎020 8653 3305
✉aradams.45@btinternet.com

Cheques should be made payable to: RSCM Southwark and East Surrey
The closing date for applications is Friday 17th April.

9th-17th May 2009 St Pancras Church, Euston Road, London, NW1 2BA
London Festival of Contemporary Church Music

The LFCCM showcases performances of recent and contemporary liturgical and organ music at the very highest levels.

Recent years have seen the Festival work closely with a number of the UK's leading choral foundations, including Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral and Southwark Cathedral, and we are delighted, in 2009 to welcome Westminster Cathedral also.

A number of the UK's pre-eminent composers will celebrate significant birthdays in 2009, namely Jonathan Dove, James MacMillan (both 50) as well as John McCabe and Jonathan Harvey (both 70). The works of Dove and McCabe (also performing) will feature in two lunchtime concerts at which the composers will give pre-concert talks. Jonathan Harvey will give a pre-concert talk on 9th prior to the Opening Concert by the Joyful Company of Singers and on the 16th, the Elysian Singers, giving the Closing Concert, will perform the London Premiere of James MacMillan's *Tenebrae Responsories* and the World Premiere of Paul Stanhope's *Exile Lamentations*.

The Festival has a very strong record of commissioning new works, and in 2009 the LFCCM has commissioned Francis Pott to write *I will always give thanks*, a major work for double choir & organ and Deirdre Gribbin a *Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis*. These works will be broadcast live on Choral Evensong from St Pancras Parish Church on 13th May. The 2009 Festival will also feature new works by Timothy Dickinson and Alastair Ross.

The Festival is delighted to be able to include a number of education and community events. Alongside the London premiere of Michael Finnissy's opera *Mankind*, performed by the Finchley Children's Music Group (15th May), are events featuring students from the London College of Music & London Contemporary Dance School (13th May), Trinity College of Music (14th May) and University College, London (15th May). On 11th May the choir of St Pancras performs a lunchtime recital at the British Museum including works by Henry Purcell and contemporary works inspired by Purcell.

The Festival consists of some 30 events across London, and full details can be found at: www.stpancraschurch.org. The Festival is committed to making events open to as many people as possible and is maintaining free admission to all but four events

Christopher Batchelor
Artistic Director

**11th May 1930-2130 London School of Theology Northwood.
Creative Keyboard: Breathing New Life into Hymns**

A workshop led by Steve Thompson who will show how to make hymns more musically interesting to sing and play hymns on a synthesiser, rearranging the voicing yet maintain authenticity. See <http://www.lst.ac.uk/newsevent.php?newseventid=79>
Tickets are available by calling 01923 456220 or emailing music@lst.ac.uk

June- July

St Paul's Cathedral Diocesan Choir

The choir formed from adult singers from London's parish churches has been invited to sing for:

Ordination of Deacons on Saturday 27th June. Rehearsal: 1300 Service 1700

This is a great and thrilling occasion when the cathedral will be full to welcome and support the new Deacons as they enter the ministry. For this service the choir sings from the NE Dome seats.

Workshop and Evensong with the Cathedral's Musicians, Saturday 25th July 1030-1430, Sunday 26th Rehearsal 1300 Service 1515.

This is our annual invite to spend time working in the cathedral's music department and studying the music for a choral evensong sung from the choir stalls on the Sunday.

Singers from all parishes who are either regular choir members or occasional singers are invited to take part.

Preparation of the music takes place mainly at the cathedral rehearsals. The number of singers is limited to 120 to fit into the Cathedral's Song Room.

I am very conscious that diaries do fill up rather quickly so please may I request you bring these events to the attention of your choirs and singers now and ask them to reserve the dates in their diaries. Names and voice part and further information from mervyn.hogg@blueyonder.co.uk Mob: 07770 641645

A poster advertising these events is available on www.london.anglican.org/music

July 9th-18th St Albans 25th International Organ Festival

Featuring:

The worlds leading competition for the interpretation and improvisation of music at the organ

A series of fine concerts including events presented by St Albans Bach Choir, three cathedral choirs and recitals by the distinguished members of the jury.

Details of forthcoming concerts and the festival available from <http://www.organfestival.com>