

Diocese of London London Church Music Forum Newsletter I

6th March 2007

To all Music Leaders and Directors of Music
To the Diocesan General Mailing List
Diocese of London

From: Mervyn Hogg
Email: mervyn.hogg@blueyonder.co.uk

This is the first in an occasional series of newsletters to keep you informed about events in relation to Church Music in the Diocese of London.

London Church Music Forum

Last October the first London Church Music Forum was run at St Paul's Cathedral. Materials from that day are available at <http://www.london.anglican.org/music>.

The March 2008 edition of the RSCM's Church Music Quarterly also has a report of the event.

Plans for another forum are under-way. The proposed date is 25th October at St Paul's Cathedral Conference Centre in the Crypt.

Music Worship Co-ordinators

Proposals for establishing voluntary positions within each of the London Episcopal areas have been presented by Michael Lawson, Archdeacon of Hampstead, considered by the Diocese's senior clerical staff and discussed at the Diocesan Synod.

The intention is to appoint one or more MWC's in each area who will act as a conduit and address requests for advice and ideas to support church music. It is anticipated that they will work with the London Church Music Forum and the RSCM's London committee to secure a programme of events will meet people's needs.

Implementation of these roles will be arranged through the Archdeacon. If you would like to know more please contact mervyn.hogg@blueyonder.co.uk

The 21st Century Church Musician is the title of an article by Huw Williams and Mervyn Hogg

It will appear as the lead article in the RSCM's Church Music Quarterly, March 2008. It aims to provide some general thoughts and advice on the organisation of church music in a diocese and parish and to stimulate action about investing time and resources in the Church's central role of worship.

St Paul's Diocesan Choir

The St Paul's Diocesan Choir was formed three years ago to provide opportunity, for members of London's church choirs plus time-poor, talent-rich singers from congregations, to gain experience of being involved in the cathedral's music making.

Many of you will have heard by now that Huw Williams is shortly moving to Philadelphia to be Director of Music at Bryn Mawr Church of the Redeemer. I am sure you will want to wish him every success in this adventure.

I am immensely pleased to be able to tell you that Andrew Carwood the new director of music at St Paul's Cathedral has agreed to be director of the SPDC and is very keen to see it grow and flourish.

In 2008 two events are now in the Diary

Petertide Ordination Saturday 28th June 2008.

The musical requirements have still to be considered with the Bishop but are likely to include a mass setting (Huw's London Mass?), a communion motet and hymns with some descants.

The intention is to schedule the rehearsal on the day, say, 1030-1230 and 1330-1530 (with some of this 2nd period upstairs) and leave a good break to 1630 before the service at 1700 (if that is the time).

Workshop and Choral Evensong Saturday 26th July and Sunday 27th July

The format of this weekend has evolved over the last three years. The last two years have included epic anthems at evensong; this year we are going to vary the pattern with a more modest anthem balanced with the choice of canticles.

The workshop will run on the Saturday 1030-1430 and the Sunday times will be as per previous years i.e. 1300-1630 with evensong at 1515.

This will be the first time out for doing two events. So I am interested to know how you feel about this programme. As always the music will be performed at both services to the highest standards.

Please will you consider with the singers from your church; remember we welcome both regular choir members and time-poor, talent rich singers to participate.

It would be helpful if you could let me know during the next three weeks how many singers by voice part are likely to come to each event. An email to mervyn.hogg@blueyonder.co.uk will suffice.

Royal School of Church Music, London Area

Dean's and Bishop's Awards

The RSCM offers three levels of award for singers that are examined externally from a parish. They are designed to provide scope and challenge for both young people and adults to attain a standard of singing beyond that accessed within the parish. Each of the examinations assesses musical skills, Christian and liturgical knowledge plus commitment to a churches' music.

The first level is the Bronze or Dean's award aimed at good participatory contributors. The second level is the Silver or Bishop's award and looks for a solo level of performance and leadership. The third level of Gold or St Cecilia/ Nicholas awards are examined nationally and aimed at assessing a substantial knowledge of the repertoire as well as a high standard of musical skills.

In London the RSCM committee are offering two training and examination sessions this year for the Dean's and Bishop's awards. Copies of this year's syllabus and the application forms can be found at:

<http://www.rscm.com/ukIreland/areas/22.php>

Training

The next training event for Dean's and Bishop's awards will run at St John's Pinner on Thursday May 15th 1900-2100, and will be lead by Andrew Carwood, Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral and Michael Turvey MBE, Chair of the RSCM London Committee and Director of Music at Pinner. For further details please email michael@mturvey.fsnet.co.uk.

An application form for this event can be found on the Dicoesan music webpages.

<http://www.london.anglican.org/music>.

Examinations

Dates and venues for these will be fixed later in the year and advised directly to candidates. It is anticipated that they will take place during September or early October.

Presentation of Awards

Candidates who are successful in the examinations are invited to a rehearsal at St Paul's Cathedral and to sing with the cathedral choir at the evensong where the awards are presented. In 2008 this will take place on Saturday 22nd November.

RSCM London Workshop Day

Saturday 14th June 2008, 1000-1600
at the National Musicians' Church, St Sepulchre-without-Newgate

The recently re-organised RSCM London area committee is please to announce its first workshop day intended for adult singers, music leaders and choir directors. The day will include sessions about repertoire, accompaniment, choral training and singing and the business of running a successful music programme. Presenters include composer John Barnard, Rosemary Field (Diocesan Music Advisor for Lincoln), Andrew Carwood from St Paul's Cathedral and Michael Turvey, Chair of RSCM London Committee.

This event will provide a great opportunity to meet and learn both from the presentations and through networking with other participants. Full details of this programme and an application form will be available from:

<http://www.london.anglican.org/music>.

This event is open to all singers and musicians who work in London's churches irrespective of denomination or RSCM affiliation. We are keen to reach the widest possible audience to ensure a day of best impact.