

**Diocese of London
London Church Music Forum
Newsletter 2
8th April 2008**

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

Are you receiving me?

From this second newsletter I am keen to discover how many church musicians are receiving and reading this email. I know there are still people who do not use email but it does provide a very cost-effective and efficient way of getting information out to many people, especially when the budget is close to zero. To do the same by regular post would cost at least £300 per newsletter. So if you do not use email please do nominate a church member to be on the list so that we can reach a 100% coverage.

The first sent in March went out to churches that had notified an email address, for their church music leader, about 300, but surprisingly I have heard little back. So do write mervyn.hogg@blueyonder.co.uk and tell me what you would like to read about in future issues or what information would be useful on the diocesan music web pages.

Mervyn Hogg

St Paul's Diocesan Choir

There are two events in the diary for June and July for experienced parish singers to sing at St Paul's Cathedral with the Director of Music, Andrew Carwood. These events provide both a great opportunity to sing at St Paul's and to explore and study repertoire with tuition of the highest standard.

Peter tide Ordination Saturday 28th June 2008.

The choir wills rehearsal on the day, 1030-1230 and 1330-1530(with some of this 2nd period upstairs) leaving a good break until 1630 before the service commencing at 1700.

Workshop and Choral Evensong Saturday 26th July and Sunday 27th July, 2008

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.

Please consider these events with the singers from your church; remember we welcome regular choir members and time-poor, talent rich singers from your congregations who would like to participate.

It will assist with planning the music if you could let me know during the next ten days how many singers by voice part are able to come to each event. An email to mervyn.hogg@blueyonder.co.uk will suffice.

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.

A Job description for these roles is now available at www.london.anglican.org/music

Implementation of these roles will be arranged through the Archdeacon during the next three months. If you would like to know more or be considered as a candidate please contact mervyn.hogg@blueyonder.co.uk

Publicising Musical Events, Training and Concerts

Please may I encourage all churches and their musicians to publicise their forthcoming musical events on the diocesan website event pages. That way we will be able to see the true richness and diversity of what is offered in the churches of the London Diocese and provide the best possible support to each other. Examples of forthcoming events can be found at: http://www.london.anglican.org/Events_Music. Information about your event can be added by sending an email with the details to Robert.Hargrave@London.anglican.org

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.

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 Diocesan music web pages. <http://www.london.anglican.org/music>.

Examinations

Dates and venues for these will be fixed later in the year and advised directly to candidates. The first session will be in May and later session will be scheduled for 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 pleased 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.

Featured Events

The following major events are taking place over the next few months and are of particular interest to church musicians and worship leaders.

London Festival of Contemporary Church Music 10th-18th May 2008

The Festival, now in its seventh year, provides a principal showcase for performances of recent and contemporary liturgical music and organ music at the very highest levels, both in the context of services and concerts.

It also aims:

- To encourage and enthuse people to experience such music in live performances, rather than through recorded media,
- To add to the living musical tradition through newly commissioned works,
- To provide a platform for composers to present and, hopefully, to discuss their work

Full details of concerts, services and the festival brochure can be found at:

<http://www.stpancraschurch.org/index.php?id=121>

London Organ Improvisation Course 21st-24th July 2008

The London Organ Improvisation Course is designed for all organists with an interest in improvisation, including those with little or no experience of the subject. The course operates in streams to cater for beginners new to improvisation through to an advanced class for those who want to develop the skill of improvising complete pieces in a variety of styles.

See 2008 brochure at <http://loic.org.uk/>

RCO- St Giles Summer Course for Organists

Based at St Giles Cripplegate Church in the Barbican and running from Monday 4 - Saturday 9 August, this course is for organists of all standards. Its flexible pattern of tuition will include individual lessons, masterclasses, concerts, and workshops on technique and theory of music. There will be special provision for church organists wishing to hone their skills and for those preparing for RCO examinations.

Booking information and details of other RCO events can be found at:

<http://www.rco.org.uk/events.php?eventid=139>

Deep Calls to Deep 11-13th September 2008

London School of Theology, Northwood

This is a major event offering a unique opportunity to explore current and future directions of corporate worship across a broad spectrum of worship expressions for clergy, worship leaders and musicians.

See: <http://www.lst.ac.uk/newsevent.php?newseventid=15>

Annual Festival of New Organ Music Oct 28th – Nov 2nd, 2008

The third Annual Festival of New Organ Music will be taking place in London and Helsinki.

The Park Lane Group and AFNOM are now co-operating to enable organists under the age of 29 to become PLG Young Artists each year. There are four performance opportunities available in 2008. Details can be found online at the following address: <http://www.afnom.org/plg.htm>. Performers must be resident in the UK for the whole of the academic year 2008/9. Composers are invited to enter compositions for inclusion in the exhibition-concerts, as well as for the New for Old commission. http://www.afnom.org/new_old.htm

Featured Links

Please write-in with links to web-sites that you find helpful with musical activities at your church. These can be added to the list on the Diocesan website and therefore shared with all musicians.

For example

St Giles International Organ School

<http://www.organschool.com>

Based at St Giles Cripplegate the organ school offers both individual tuition at all levels and one day events are held to provide a comprehensive training programme for organists of all standards. The website also provides useful guidance on resources such as music editions books on all aspects of performance and recordings for core sectors of the repertoire.

Organist Publications

<http://www.organistpublications.co.uk>

Robert Leach and Barry Williams to provide authoritative reference information to all involved in the making of music in worship founded Organist Publications in 2005. The site provides guidance on such matters as contracts and guidelines for composers and authors and books published by these authors.

Music and Worship Foundation

<http://www.mwf.org.uk/>

Rev John Leach, Executive Director writes:

For a number of years our high quality training events and resources have enabled Christian musicians across denominations to go deeper and broader in their worship experience. All over the UK we are seeing individuals and churches transformed as they learn how to engage with God in creative, authentic ways. I hope you will take advantage of the range of services that **mwf** can offer, and be equipped and encouraged in your music ministry.

New Book

“O Clap your Hands” is a new book by the Rev Gordon Giles, Vicar of St Mary Magdalene, Enfield. Published by SPCK it is aimed at choral musicians and comprises a set of meditations on anthems, with a CD and study course.

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Clap-Your-Hands-Musical-Sacred/dp/1557255679/ref=sr_l_46?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1207314410&sr=8-46