



## News from the Royal School of Church Music

### **CHURCH MUSIC 'OSCARs' ANNOUNCED BY RSCM.**

Leading church musicians from all over the world are to receive the church music equivalent of the film industry's Oscars later this year. Among those to receive honorary awards from the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) are a cathedral dean, cathedral organists from England, New Zealand and Canada, as well as those who have made significant contributions to the mission and work of the RSCM throughout the world. Awards will be presented at a special choral festival in St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015.

**DIARY MARKER: RSCM Celebration Day, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015, Bury St Edmunds.**

**NB NEWSDESKS : Religious correspondents, Music correspondents, London (Westminster Diocese), Derby, Hereford, Scotland (Strathclyde and Stirling), Yorkshire (Knaresborough and Sheffield), Exeter, Cambridge, Bristol. Also: Canada (Toronto), South Africa (Grahamstown and Bloemfontein), New Zealand (Christchurch and Dunedin)**

Honorary awards are conferred by the RSCM Council for outstanding contributions to church music, and range from Fellowship (FRSCM) and Associateship (ARSCM) to Honorary Membership and Certificate of Special Service. Nominations are received from RSCM volunteers all over the world.

Among those receiving Fellowships (FRSCM) are Martin Baker (Master of the Music at Westminster Cathedral), Andrew Nethsingha (Director of Music at St John's College Chapel, Cambridge) and Andrew Millington (Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral). David Ogden is also being honoured; amongst many other roles he directed the RSCM Millennium Youth Choir. Two former cathedral organists from Canada and New Zealand, Giles Bryant and Paul Ellis respectively, are also to receive fellowships.

Those receiving Associateships (ARSCM) include Helen Bent (co-author of the *Worship 4 Today* training course), Peter Gould (former organist of Derby Cathedral), Christopher Cockburn (former organist of Grahamstown Cathedral, South Africa), Richard Darke (an organist and choir director from Yorkshire), Alan Tavener (Director of *Cappella Nova* in

Scotland), Michael Tavinor (Dean of Hereford Cathedral) and Alistair Warwick (RSCM Co-ordinator in Scotland).

Those to be made Honorary Members of the RSCM (HonRSCM) are Simon Aiken (Dean of the Highveld, South Africa), Robert Armstrong (inaugurator of the Guyon Wells RSCM Fellowship in New Zealand) and Colin Gibson (hymn-writer and musician from New Zealand).

Commenting on this year's honorary awards, Andrew Reid, Director of the RSCM says: "These awards are made to those who have given great service to church music, whether through the work of the RSCM or in other ways. We're delighted to have this opportunity to acknowledge their significant contributions at local, national or international level, which too often go unrecognised."

Awards will be presented by Lord Brian Gill, Chairman of the RSCM Council and Scotland's most senior judge, during the RSCM's annual Celebration Day service on Saturday 3rd October 2015. The service will be at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, and will be combined with the annual St Edmundsbury Diocesan Choirs Festival.

## **ENDS**

**27<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

### **Notes for Editors:**

**The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM)** is an educational charity that promotes the best use of music in worship, church life, and the wider community. The RSCM also publishes music and training resources, and organises courses, short workshops and activities. With around 8,500 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries, it is an international network, supported by over 600 volunteers and a small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at [www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com)

**Honorary Awards.** The RSCM has the power to confer awards and diplomas. Nominations may be made by RSCM staff and volunteers and are considered by an Awards Committee in the Autumn. **The full list is below.** **Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music (FRSCM)** is awarded for achievements in church music and/or liturgy of international significance, or for exceptional musical and/or liturgical work within the RSCM. **Associate of the Royal School of Church Music (ARSCM)** is awarded for achievements in church music and/or liturgy of national significance, or for important musical and/or liturgical work within the RSCM. **Honorary member of the RSCM (HonRSCM)** is awarded for exceptional or very significant work that has contributed to the cause of church music and/or liturgy at international or national levels, or within the RSCM, but which is not primarily musical or liturgical. **Certificate of Special Service** is given for significant administrative work as a voluntary officer or member of staff within the RSCM; or an award for a significant contribution to church music and/or liturgy at a local level.

Honorary awards will be presented by Lord Brian Gill (Chair of RSCM Council) at **RSCM Celebration Day**, which is an annual service held at a cathedral in the British Isles. This year's service in St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October will draw singers from RSCM affiliated churches in the region, and will be combined with the annual St Edmundsbury Diocesan Choirs Festival.

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**The full 2015 list of those to receive Honorary Awards is as follows:**

**Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music (FRSCM)**

**Mr Martin Baker** has been Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral since 2000, having previously held positions at Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral. He has directed many internationally acclaimed recordings and directed the choir for many radio and television broadcasts. Martin co-founded and chaired the Catholic Cathedral Directors of Music conference and was recently elected as Chairman of the Cathedral Organists' Association. He is a sought-after organ soloist in the UK and abroad. He has brought an outreach programme to schools to the Westminster Diocese and has developed a number of initiatives to encourage congregational singing.

**Canon Dr Giles Bryant** has had a long and distinguished career as a singer, organist and choirmaster for nearly 75 years, both in England and in Canada. He was Organist and Master of the Choristers at St James Cathedral, Toronto for 20 years from 1979. He has held a wide variety of other organist posts in the city. In addition to directing many acclaimed choirs and making recordings, Dr Bryant has been in demand as lecturer and clinician on choral subjects. He is also a recitalist, adjudicator, reviewer and a contributor to Grove's Dictionary of Music and other encyclopaedias.

**Mr Paul Ellis** has enjoyed a career in church music in New Zealand spanning 50 years; he is currently Organist and Director of the Choir at St Michael and All Angels in Christchurch and directs the Girl's Choir at the Cathedral Grammar Girl's School. Past positions include Organist and Choirmaster at St Mary's Merivale, Director of Music at Christ's College, Canterbury, Assistant Organist at Christ Church Cathedral and National President of the NZAO. He has worked tirelessly for the RSCM, especially as its New Zealand President for the last 20 years, successfully organising, arranging and leading RSCM summer schools and other events.

**Mr Andrew Millington** has been Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral since 1999, following posts at Gloucester and Guildford. He is an examiner for the Associated Board, at home and abroad, and is well-known as a solo organist and choral conductor. He has made many recordings and is a published composer. He is a past President of the Cathedral Organists Association, and has given an exceptional contribution to the work of the RSCM, particularly in Guildford and Devon Areas. He has directed many RSCM festivals and courses and is a validated examiner for RSCM Awards.

**Mr Andrew Nethsingha** - as Director of Music at St John's College, Cambridge, Andrew is one of Anglican church music's senior musicians. He has directed many internationally acclaimed recordings and regular broadcasts on television, radio and internet. Andrew was Chairman of the Cathedral Organists' Association, sits on the Cathedrals' Liturgy and Music Group and is a keen advocate of commissioning and conducting new work. Previously he has served at Gloucester and Truro Cathedrals. At Truro, his choir was one of the first to undertake diocesan outreach work which led to the inclusion of cathedrals in the government-funded *Sing Up* programme.

**Mr David Ogden** has worked extensively with the RSCM for 20 years in a number of roles, most recently as Director of the RSCM Millennium Youth Choir (MYC). He is now Director of the RSCM Chamber Choir for ex-MYC members. His church music compositions and arrangements are published and performed internationally. He is Religious Music Advisor for the BBC One drama "Call the Midwife". He also conducts a number of choirs in Bristol where he is based, and is Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church, Westbury-on-Trym, where there are three choirs.

## **Associate of the Royal School of Church Music (ARSCM)**

**The Revd Helen Bent** is a trained musician and teacher who, since 2005, has been Bishop's Adviser in Music and Worship for the Anglican Diocese of Sheffield. She is co-author of *Worship 4 Today*, a highly successful training course which is being run throughout the country and abroad. Helen has been an enthusiastic and strong supporter of the RSCM, not least in chairing the Sheffield Area Committee devotedly since 2004. She has just been appointed Head of Ministerial Training at the RSCM.

**Dr Christopher Cockburn** was Organist and Choir Director at Grahamstown Cathedral in South Africa for 18 years. He has held a number of other leading organist and academic posts in the country including the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where he gained a PhD in Musicology. Christopher has given organ recitals throughout South Africa and in the UK, and is also a composer. Christopher has spent many years training both choristers and young organists and has dedicated much of his working life to the causes of the RSCM and church music.

**Mr Richard Darke** has been Director of Music at St John's, Knaresborough for 21 years, where he developed an excellent choir. From 1994 until 2009 he was also Director of Music of the Bradford Choristers. Prior to that, Richard was Organist and Master of the Choir at St Edmunds, Roundhay, Leeds for 22 years, where he established a large choir of boys and men and introduced a sizeable girls choir. He has been an active exponent of the RSCM Awards scheme and has served on the RSCM Ripon and Leeds Committee for many years including the role of Area Awards Administrator. He has given countless years of service in senior roles on a range of RSCM courses.

**Canon Peter Gould** has had a long and distinguished career as a cathedral organist and choir director, most notably as Master of Music at Derby Cathedral for over 30 years. Previously, he spent eight years as Assistant Organist at Wakefield Cathedral. On arrival in Derby in 1983, Peter established a choir of men and boys and in 1997 he founded the Cathedral Girls' Choir. He was made a canon at Derby Cathedral in 2012 and is an Honorary Master of Music at Derby University. Peter has brought new life to the RSCM Derby Area, serving on the Committee for many years, and he has supported the wider county in churches and schools.

**Mr Alan Tavener** is Director of *Cappella Nova*, Scotland's only professional vocal ensemble specialising in pre-baroque and contemporary music. Formerly Director of Music at Strathclyde University, he continues to direct the University Chamber Choir. As Director of Music at Jordanhill Parish Church in Glasgow he runs a community choir, an ecumenical liturgical choir and a children's chorus. He also directs the Scottish Plainsong Choir, a *Cappella Nova* outreach project which explores liturgical music in historical venues across Scotland. Alan has made a considerable contribution to church music in Scotland, particularly in his ecumenical approach.

**The Very Revd Michael Tavinor** - as Dean of Hereford, and previously Vicar of Tewkesbury and Precentor of Ely Cathedral, Michael Tavinor has been a great enabler and defender of church music, and of high standards of music and liturgy in the Anglican Church. For 10 years he was Chair of the Cathedrals' Liturgy and Music Group (CLAM), a working group for the Association of English Cathedrals, which has produced many resources for cathedrals on aspects of music and liturgy. He is also a writer and composer and has worked with and encouraged many church musicians. Michael has promoted the importance of music and liturgy working hand-in-hand.

**Alistair Warwick** is RSCM Co-ordinator for Scotland, Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church, Stirling, Organ Advisor to the Scottish Churches Organists' Training Scheme (SCOTS) and Conductor of Stirling University Choir. Previous appointments have included those of Director of Music at Arundel Cathedral and Organist at Worth Abbey. He has also carried out much typesetting work for publications such as *Hymns for Prayer & Praise* and *Common Worship*. Alistair has made a considerable contribution to church music, and has given several decades' service to the RSCM, especially with the Sacred Music Studies course at Bangor University and through his energetic and loyal work for the RSCM in Scotland.

## **Honorary Member of the Royal School of Church Music (HonRSCM)**

**The Very Reverend Simon Aiken** - born in England, Simon Aiken moved to South Africa in 2006 as Subdean at Bloemfontein Cathedral, where he was instrumental in forming the new RSCM Free State branch. Simon's long RSCM association started in England, notably as Chaplain for the Easter course at Rossall School for 11 years. From Bloemfontein, Simon went on to be Dean of Kimberly Cathedral and currently serves as Dean of the Highveld. The RSCM is very grateful for his devotion to liturgical music in South Africa and for his considerable administrative efforts in relation to RSCM events, particularly RSCM South Africa National Summer Schools.

**Mr Robert Armstrong**, a retired businessman and JP, inaugurated the Guyon Wells RSCM Fellowship in New Zealand in 1985, acting as both Secretary and Treasurer from then until 2013. He remains a Trustee of the Fellowship. The Fellowship has supported church music and the work of the RSCM in New Zealand for 30 years, making grants for RSCM members to attend Summer Schools as well as underwriting local branch activities and events. Since 1978 Bob has applied his dynamic energy to many aspects of the work of the RSCM Waikato Branch, for which, in 1994, he was honoured with life membership.

**Professor Colin Gibson's** hymn texts and settings have been published and performed throughout the world. He is organist at Mornington Methodist Church, Dunedin, New Zealand where he directs the choir. He is also a lay preacher and retired in 1999 as Professor of English at the University of Otago, where he currently heads the Department of Theatre Studies. He has conducted numerous hymn workshops in New Zealand, Australia and Great Britain and has been co-editor of a number of hymn collections.

## **Certificates of Special Service**

Christine Alder	RSCM Durham Area
Philip Brunswick	RSCM America
Terence Carter	RSCM Oxford Area/Oxfordshire District
Anne Connolly-Munt	Auckland, New Zealand
John Crothers	RSCM France
Graham Look	RSCM North West Europe
Jane McKee	RSCM Peterborough and Northampton Area
Allan Packman	Christchurch, New Zealand
Margaret Penfound	RSCM Bristol and Swindon Area
Frank Smith	Derbyshire
Eric Wayman	RSCM Lincoln Area
Eunice Woof	RSCM Liverpool Area