



News from the Royal School of Church Music

“INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE.” RSCM OFFERS SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is offering organ scholarships to two young organists at the 2010 Bath Summer Course for Young People. The successful candidates will have the opportunity to play the four-manual Klais organ in the city’s splendid Abbey church; the setting for some of the choral services. They will assist the Course Organist in playing for rehearsals and services during the popular week-long event, which is based at Kingswood School and runs from 23rd – 29th August.

The Bath Summer Course for Young People, directed by international church musician Geoff Weaver, draws many young singers from RSCM-affiliated choirs around the UK who return year after year for its mix of specialist teaching, the chance to sing services and concerts in some lovely venues, and plenty of fun and friendship. The music-making reaches a high standard accompanied by experienced tutor and Course Organist Steven Grahl.

The scholarships will be awarded to young organists aged 16-21, at Grade 8 standard or thereabouts. “This is an excellent opportunity to learn with the Course Organist and gain valuable experience in accompanying large groups of singers,” says Sue Snell, the RSCM’s Head of Education. There will also be opportunities to direct choir rehearsals in some of the course’s wide range of repertoire. “And there’s the added attraction of the chance to play the four-manual Klais organ in Bath Abbey,” she said.

Previous organ scholars have gone on to take up organ awards at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and at Manchester Cathedral. Last year’s scholars are enthusiastic about the experience. Ben Bloor (18) from Derby said: “I found it an invaluable experience, in providing a fantastic all-round education in church music.” Anna Stepler (18) also learned much. “Being allowed to play in Bath Abbey was a great privilege; I know I gained in confidence as a result of my week.”

Full details of the course and scholarships can found on RSCM website www.rscm.com/courses or by calling 01722 424843. The course runs at Kingswood School, Bath, from 23rd to 29th August 2010 and the closing date for scholarship applications is 14th May 2010.

Ends

1 March 2010

Notes for Editors

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is an international ecumenical charity that educates, supports and enables musicians, composers and clergy in promoting sacred music in churches, schools and the wider community. The RSCM publishes music and training resources (such as its popular *Voice for Life* training scheme for singers of all ages), and organises a wide range of courses, short workshops and activities. With over 8,000 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is supported by over 600 volunteers in area committees and a small team of staff based throughout the UK. More at www.rscm.com

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