

## Promoting excellence in church music on the island of Ireland

This is the newsletter from RSCM Ireland. The RSCM works internationally, but much of the important work of training and encouraging takes place locally and is organised by the two area committees in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

### NORTHERN IRELAND WELCOMES THE NEW DIRECTOR!

The RSCM in Ireland were delighted to welcome Andrew Reid to Belfast in February. At the request of the Northern Ireland committee, Andrew was invited to conduct a Come and Sing Fauré *Requiem* event at which over 70 singers took part. Prior to the event Andrew met with members of the Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland committees, to discuss the work of the two committees and to outline the future work of the RSCM under his direction.



Andrew's expert knowledge and skills were gratefully received by all who took part and his patience and understanding knew no bounds when he introduced plainchant to be sung at the performance; a first for many of the singers who took part! The performance took place in a liturgical context and was led by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Revd John Mann. Andrew will be in Ireland again later this year when he will direct events in the South West and West of Ireland and also in Dublin. We look forward to welcoming him back. Pictured above is Dean John Mann, Mark Bowyer (RSCM Ireland Coordinator), Andrew Reid and the Very Revd Dr Hugh Kennedy (Chair of the Northern Ireland committee).

## VOICE for LIFE

### Reflections on the Voice for Life scheme: Rosemary Smyth, Choir Director, St Gall's Church Carnalea

At present there are sixteen choristers under the age of eighteen in St Gall's Parish Choir. All are currently working at various stages of the RSCM Voice for Life scheme. For the first time, two of our older choristers gained the Bronze Award, travelling to Dublin to take the examinations in May 2012.

The Voice for Life workbooks encourage steady progression with achievable rewards in terms of medals and certificates. Our children are encouraged to take their certificates in to school to be included in their 'Record of Achievement' folder. I think it is important that the amount of time, effort and commitment that choristers make should be more widely recognised. RSCM Songbooks provide lots of additional appropriate material. A great deal of what is included in the workbooks in terms of theory and aural elements is covered naturally in normal rehearsals. Very often however, the practicalities of preparing music for upcoming services, leaves little time to spend on actually completing the exercises in the books! Sometimes we use a whole rehearsal to get back 'on track' with the workbooks, and often I focus on groups of choristers at a time rather than try to teach an age range from 7-17 all together.

Having had a number of years with no children at all in the choir it is a huge pleasure to see so many young faces. We have had to extend our choir stalls! Being an RSCM affiliated choir involved in the Voice for Life scheme has been a fantastic way of monitoring and encouraging each individual chorister to maximise his or her potential and recognising the value of the role that music can play in enhancing worship in the church.

Further information concerning the Voice for Life scheme is available at [www.rscmireland.com/voiceforlife/](http://www.rscmireland.com/voiceforlife/) or contact [awards@rscmireland.com](mailto:awards@rscmireland.com)

**FOR YOUR DIARY:** Please make a note of the following dates:



Sunday 23 June 2013 3.30pm-6.30pm Dublin (venue to be confirmed)  
**Instant Evensong (just add choristers!): David O'Shea**

For anyone who would like to sing evensong but may not have done so before (or recently!). Open to choirs, congregations and clergy alike, providing simple, accessible musical resources. The service will take place at 5.30pm. Contact Mark Bowyer: [mbowyer@rscm.com](mailto:mbowyer@rscm.com) / +353(0) 87 117 2995 for further information



Saturday 14 September 2013 9.30am-12.30pm St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick  
**Come and meet the RSCM Director: Andrew Reid & Peter Barley**

An opportunity to meet the director in your local area, share ideas, look at resources and to sing! Contact Mark Bowyer: [mbowyer@rscm.com](mailto:mbowyer@rscm.com) / +353(0) 87 117 2995 for further information



Saturday 14 September 2013 2.30pm-5.30pm St Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway  
**Come and meet the RSCM Director: Andrew Reid & Mark Duley**

An opportunity to meet the director in your local area, share ideas, look at resources and to sing! Contact Mark Bowyer: [mbowyer@rscm.com](mailto:mbowyer@rscm.com) / +353(0) 87 117 2995 for further information



Sunday 15 September 2013 2pm-5pm St Bartholomew's Church, Dublin 4  
**Come and meet the RSCM Director: Andrew Reid & Tristan Russcher**

An opportunity to meet the director in your local area, share ideas, look at resources and to sing! Contact Mark Bowyer: [mbowyer@rscm.com](mailto:mbowyer@rscm.com) / +353(0) 87 117 2995 for further information

**VOICE  
for LIFE**

Saturday 9 November 2013 5pm  
St Bartholomew's Church, Dublin 4  
**RSCM Awards Service:  
Tristan Russcher**

Sunday 24 November 2013 4pm  
St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick  
**RSCM Awards Service:  
Peter Barley & Malcolm Wisener**

**Church  
Music  
SKILLS**

Event details will be updated on the website as they become available, please check [www.rscmireland.com](http://www.rscmireland.com) for the latest information



The RSCM Coordinator for Ireland is Mark Bowyer. Mark is available to offer individual visits to affiliated churches and schools to suit your particular needs, address any issues and affirm what's going well.

If you would like to book Mark for a church visit, to lead a workshop, or simply meet for a chat, please contact him directly:

Email: [mbowyer@rscm.com](mailto:mbowyer@rscm.com)  
Tel: +353 (0) 87 117 2995

**Other news.....**

**Can you get involved?**

We are always looking for new ideas, new members and anyone willing to help spread the word about the work of the RSCM in Ireland. It is very difficult to get everywhere, so if you are willing to help in any way, please get in touch. In addition to the (voluntary) committee, we rely on a small number of volunteers to help out, but we would love to do more and get to more local areas. Please contact us if you can help in any way.

**RSCM Music Sunday: 23 June 2013**

RSCM Music Sunday is a celebration of the music and musicianship that are a vital and beloved part of church life. Music Sunday is a salute in words and music to the creativity, discipline, effort, and dedication of thousands upon thousands of people young and old, professional and amateur, singer and instrumentalist, administrator and practitioner – most of them working without expectation of recognition but who nonetheless deserve our awareness and our thanks. For more information see: [http://www.rscm.com/info\\_resources/music\\_sunday.php](http://www.rscm.com/info_resources/music_sunday.php)

**RSCM Music Sunday**  
THE 50:50 CAMPAIGN

We continue to plan RSCM events for the future so if you have any special requests or ideas for events, workshops or training opportunities, please get in touch and we'll see what we can do to meet your needs.

Contact information: RSCM Ireland, c/o Flat 7, 35 Castle Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Email: [info@rscmireland.com](mailto:info@rscmireland.com) Web: [www.rscmireland.com](http://www.rscmireland.com)



@rscmireland



rscmireland