

## THE RSCM MIDLANDS AND SOUTH WEST CATHEDRAL SINGERS GENERAL INFORMATION 2006 - 2007 SEASON

- Except for Bristol and Exeter, where Evensong is very early, **rehearsals** will follow the pattern of **11.00am start for all singers**, lunch from 1pm, rehearsal from 2 or 2.15 in the music room followed by a break and cathedral rehearsal an hour or so before the service; please do all you can to be **punctual** at the start of the day by allowing sufficient time for parking and getting to the building;
- **Music** All singers are asked to obtain their own music. The RSCM will oblige here but note that RSCM Music Direct requires payment with your order unless you can order against your choir account. We will provide **psalms and hymns**. Please note any references to **particular editions** mentioned as the text as sometimes even the notes vary from edition to edition. Singers are reminded of the need for **thorough preparation** of all items in advance of each event; this is especially so for the younger members of the choir who may need someone to help them learn the notes. Please **obtain your music in good time** and prepare it thoroughly; the enjoyment which comes from knowing the music well more than repays the effort. It is uncomfortable to have to *share* copies so please ensure that you come with your own music; an absence of copies means that you cannot have prepared properly..... Examination of complaints that "the music has not yet arrived from the RSCM" shows that nearly always the music has been ordered too late – non RSCM publications normally take **at least three weeks** to be obtained from the publishers and forwarded to the customer.
- **Black shoes** are required for the service; trainers etc are not acceptable; our custom is that **medallions** worn are restricted to **national or diocesan awards** only – RSCM Gold, Silver, Bronze, St Cecilia, St Nicolas or Bishops'/Provosts'/Deans' awards and that **only one** should be worn at any time; **long hair should be tied back** - so that the conductor can see you! Please have an RSCM Black or Dark Blue **folder** with you to hold your music for the service and always have at least one pencil and rubber.
- **Recruiting** Enclosed is an application form for you to use to encourage *other singers* to apply. Auditions will be arranged individually as required. Boys, girls and adults are welcome to audition so please do all you can to spread the word about the Cathedral Singers as many singers in RSCM affiliated choirs still do not know of us. Please pass the form on to anyone who would enjoy working with the Cathedral Singers. The first of this year's events **Sep 29th** is a recruiting/taster/audition day and we have another on **March 1<sup>st</sup>** in Tewkesbury. Please consider **bringing a friend** (who will need to complete an application form) to try the experience. Junior members, of all voices, are especially needed.
- You will see from the availability form that the RSCM has set out the extent of its *responsibilities* for the welfare of the young people who are members of the Cathedral Singers and if you are a parent or guardian of one of the Singers you are asked to read this carefully and sign to give your consent to your son or daughter - under the age of 18 - being a member of the organisation. The RSCM has asked that we should appoint a team of '*pastoral assistants*' to be on duty at each event. We should also like to know of any medical problem which your child may have - e.g. asthma - so that we may be prepared in the event of an emergency arising. Please note this on the availability form. If there is confidential medical information that you would prefer not to commit to paper please telephone John or Janet Henderson on 01793 525856.
- Remember that your availability form sets out **your intended commitment** to the programme. For many of us it can be difficult to be commit in September to be free on a weekend the following June or July. Young singers approaching GCSE /A Level examinations should think carefully about the dates for next summer. Please don't just drop out unless there is illness or another very good reason for doing so. If any clash of allegiance arises then notify us as soon as possible - don't wait until a few days beforehand as this can make it difficult to recruit extra singers if needed. If you have not committed to an event but then find you are free, please do ring and see if there is room for extra singers.
- If you cannot attend an event for any reason please ring Janet Henderson on **01793 525856**. If there is a problem on the actual day of a singing event due to illness, broken down car or whatever, then **text** us on our mobile **07786994475** to say you are indisposed - yes we do worry if people don't turn up !

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