



**THE COMMITTEE OF RSCM FRANCE
WISHES YOU A HAPPY AND MUSICAL
CHRISTMAS AND A JOYFUL NEW YEAR –
ATTENDING OUR EVENTS!**



NEWS



NATIONAL FESTIVAL

12 October 2019 at the American Cathedral in Paris

From our director for the day, Christopher Gray, Director of Music at Truro Cathedral: "I've been on the Cornwall area committee of the RSCM since moving to Truro in 2000 and have just taken part in my nineteenth Diocesan Choral Festival there, with singers coming together from across the county as they have done since 1889. In those nineteen years I've never experienced another area's Festival, so when asked to direct the RSCM France National Festival, I jumped at the chance. It was interesting to see how very similar the spirit of the occasion is in Paris and Truro. There is a sincerity and a dignity about the way people approach taking part, and the potential is there to create something much greater than the sum of the parts. Zachary Ullery, Canon for Music at the American Cathedral, could not have been more welcoming as we assembled over our first coffee of the morning at 9.30am on Saturday 12th October. I was slightly taken aback to see that our organist for the day was to be Andrew Dewar, Organist at the American Cathedral and one of the finest organists of his generation. Talking to the singers at various points during the day, everyone had their own story about why they had chosen to take part in the Festival (in many cases travelling long distances to do so). The music had been expertly chosen by the Committee and we were able to make good progress, gradually developing ideas around posture, phrasing, diction, energy in the sound, and of course meaning. Evensong went very well indeed, and it's remarkable that a disparate group could come together and hone their singing to produce a meaningful act of worship within a single day. It was an added pleasure to be able to present Shirley Rowson, Area Secretary, with Honorary Membership of the RSCM, in recognition of her work for RSCM France. Hopefully everyone left, as I did, feeling enriched by the experience."

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

11 November 2019 at Cathédrale Saint-Louis des Invalides, Paris

Once again RSCM France was asked to organise the music and provide the choir for this important service, and their input was appreciated and valued by those who were present. The event was tinged with sadness as it is usually held in Notre Dame Cathedral, which was severely damaged by fire a few short months after last year's service. Zachary Ullery, Director of Music at the American Cathedral, directed the music and the accompanist was the organist from the host church.

ORGAN LESSONS

Our Chairman, John Crothers, is offering organ lessons in the Paris area from near-beginners up to experienced level at €35 per hour, a proportion of which will be donated to RSCM France. Please enquire at rscmfrance@gmail.com or telephone the Secretary on 04 94 50 38 46.

Our future events are listed below. We do hope you will join us. Our website is updated regularly, where details and booking forms for all events can be found as soon as they are available : www.rscmfrance.org.

If you would like more information about membership of RSCM France, or about our events, please contact us on rscmfrance@gmail.com.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SINGING WORKSHOP USING RESONANCE TECHNIQUES

A three hour workshop led by RSCM France Vice-Chairwoman Joan Marie Bauman to be held on the afternoon of 26 January 2020 at St Michael's English Church, Paris. Cost : 20€ adults, 15€ under 18s. More details and booking form on our website: www.rscmfrance.org

SINGING THE WORD

On 29 February 2020 spend a day with Father Peter CR, Precentor of the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield, Yorkshire, learning about how plainsong helps us understand and share our faith. The venue is St George's Anglican Church, Paris and this is a joint venture between St George's and RSCM France. Cost: 25€ including simple lunch. More details on our website: www.rscmfrance.org

INSTRUMENTAL AND SINGING DAY

St Mark's Church, 31 rue du Pont Colbert, 78000 Versailles. 14 March 2020. 10.00-17.30



Our first combined Instrumental and Singing Day, where the choristers will be led by Adrian Shaw, who started conducting in the early 1980s, running a choir of boys and men in northern France, directing the choir of St George's Anglican Church in Paris and conducting an opera group and a chamber orchestra. He continues to work as a soloist, recitalist, conductor, voice teacher and coach. The instrumentalists will be led by Dr Amanda Haste who is open to all styles of music, from plainchant to swing, and is passionate about bringing out the best in musicians at all levels. She holds teaching and performance diplomas from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama (flute) and the London College of Music (saxophone), and also has a PhD in musicology. She has been active in Anglican parishes in London, Devon and Zurich, and is now at All Saints', Marseille where she is musical director of 'Musique de

Belloi'. We shall be using the RSCM Festival book « Where shall wisdom be found ? » to prepare a service of Evening Prayer, sung by the choristers and accompanied by the instrumentalists.

See website for details : www.rscmfrance.org

HYMN FESTIVAL

RSCM France will once again be joining forces with the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland to present a Hymn Festival on Saturday 27 June 2020 at St George's Church, Paris, where participants can join in singing some favourites but also learn some very worthwhile new hymns and tunes, which they can take back to their own worship settings. This is by popular request from those who attended the last one. More details in the next Newsletter.

NATIONAL FESTIVAL

Due to various circumstances we will be unable to hold our next Festival in Autumn 2020 as planned, and it has been arranged for 30 January 2021 in our usual venue, the American Cathedral, Paris.
