



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is a unique charity committed to nurturing the best use of music in worship. We have 8,500 members and friends active in over forty countries, encouraged by 750 volunteers and a small central staff.

Categories of membership

Why should my church become an Affiliate of the RSCM?

As an Affiliate your church or organization will play a vital part in the RSCM's work and mission, and receive specialist help and support through a wide range of membership benefits. You'll have access to events and training courses for all ages and levels of ability, publications, resources (a copy of our liturgy planner *Sunday by Sunday*), discounts and other information to enable you to plan and carry out musical worship effectively.

Why should I become an Individual Member of the RSCM?

If you are actively involved in church, school, or community music, consider joining us as an Individual Member. You'll benefit on an individual basis from the opportunities, resources and discounts available to members, and play an important role in the RSCM's work.

Why should I become a Friend of the RSCM?

By joining as a Friend you are investing in the future of live music in worship, by helping us to train current and future leaders, arrange inspirational courses and events, support RSCM choirs, encourage outreach through our network of local volunteers and publish new music resources for churches and schools. You'll receive news and regular mailings about church music and the RSCM, including your own copy of *Church Music Quarterly*, and receive notice of festivals, events and courses in your local area.

My church is affiliated; why should I join as well?

It's great that your church is part of the RSCM. But we also want to build an international network of Friends and Individual Members who are committed to the future of church music and involved with the RSCM's work and mission.

I'm a member of the choir/band; why should I join?

We are all in this together! By supporting the RSCM as a Friend you will not only learn more about church music yourself but also be making an investment in the future by helping to train current and future leaders.

I'm a member of the clergy and leave the organist/music director to take care of the music; is the RSCM relevant to me?

We want to help all those involved in planning and leading services to work together. Our liturgy planner (the *Sunday by Sunday* magazine) is a major resource designed to help integrate planning.

The support of our members is vital to the RSCM's work of education and outreach. When you become a member in any category you are enabling us to serve the worldwide church and give the gift of music to a new generation. For full details of membership categories and benefits visit: www.rscmamerica.org

I support my local events; why should I join the national organization?

It's good to be involved in your local church's music, but it's also good to support events taking place in your local area and nationally. If you are the music director or organist you could consider joining as an Affiliate or Individual Member; if you are a singer or instrumentalist you could support us as a Friend.

I'm a member of another church music organization; why should I join the RSCM?

We work in partnership with other groups involved in church music and we each have our own individual identity. The RSCM brings you benefits that only *an especially large organization with 8,500 members worldwide can provide*, offering the acclaimed VOICE for LIFE program, a structured choral training guide, access to the RSCM America Master Class, a pool of experienced musicians who offer assistance to choral directors and individual singers on a wide variety of subjects, and a forum for enrichment and exchange among a group of highly qualified music directors.

Do I have to be a member to go on a course or take part in an event?

No, but Individual and Affiliate members receive valuable discounted rates.

Can you put me in touch with other members in my area?

The best point of contact is through the RSCM America office. You'll find our contact information on our website at www.rscmamerica.org, or call our office at 609-921-3012.

Money

Is the RSCM a non-profit organization?

Yes, we rely chiefly on subscriptions from Affiliates, Individuals, and Friends, funds raised by our volunteers, and donations.

Our church doesn't have any money in the budget.

Because we are a not-for-profit organization, membership is extremely affordable for the value offered!

What do I get for my money?

Each membership category outlined on our website provides specific benefits, including free subscriptions to a range of inspiring membership publications (Affiliate and Individual Membership includes the liturgy planner *Sunday by Sunday*), discounts on music and materials and course registration fees. You'll also receive incredible benefits from the RSCM's work encouraging singing, developing training programs, working with music leaders and clergy, representing church music within national and international church bodies, and ensuring the development and availability of repertoire.

How is the money from my membership subscription used?

Subscriptions are our main source of income and support all that we do. Your money helps publish printed resources; run, promote, and develop important training courses; and work with volunteers locally and internationally to administer and carry out our work.

Music styles and church denominations

My church is not Anglican; is the RSCM for me?

We are open to all church denominations, and have school and community choirs among our members. The RSCM aims to further the goals of all those engaged in church music.

My church doesn't have a choir; is the RSCM for me?

We support community choirs, organists, instrumentalists and solo singers.

My church doesn't have an organ; is the RSCM for me?

You don't need to have an organ to have good church music. We can help you find the right music for your church.

My church is evangelical/my church is charismatic/my church doesn't have traditional music; is the RSCM for me?

We help support churches across the whole spectrum of theology and churchmanship. It's very important to have inspiring music that is appropriate for your church, community and your worship context and theology. Many churches are discovering the richness of various styles of music at different services or within a single service.

Publishing

What does the RSCM publish? Is it suitable for my church?

The RSCM Press publishes music for the church and educational materials. Our music covers the full range of musical styles and resources, serving the needs of everyone from those with no choir to those with extensive musical resources. Most is selected with the "middle ground" in mind. You can find out more at www.rscm.com/publications.

We have a very small music budget. What discounts are available to members?

Affiliated churches and choirs receive 25% discount on RSCM publications purchased through RSCM Music Direct. Lois Fyfe Music, Cliff Hill Music, and GIA Publications also offer discounts. Individual Members receive a 25% discount on single copies. Many of our core publications have pages which can be photocopied so that they are affordable for small churches or choirs.

Why are the discounts only on RSCM publications?

RSCM is not a trading company, and sales of our publications are handled by an external distributor, SCM-Canterbury Press. We can therefore offer discounts only on our own publications as their terms with other publishers and suppliers vary.

Education and events

What events are happening in my area?

Visit www.rscmamerica.org for a current listing of our event offerings. Details of events in the United Kingdom and Ireland can be found at www.rscm.com.

What is Church Music Skills?

Church Music Skills is a pioneering new education program designed to help practicing church musicians develop practical skills. Students select the most appropriate "stream" to pursue (i.e. for organists, choir directors, cantors or ensemble leaders) then supplement with a range of supporting studies. *Church Music Skills* is based on distance learning, combining private study at home with practical experience in the student's own church. www.rscm.com/skills

What is VOICE for LIFE?

VOICE *for* LIFE supports and promotes singing in churches, schools and other communities. The program provides a comprehensive range of training materials, repertoire, and courses and enables choir trainers and teachers to train their singers more effectively, helping singers grow as people as well as musicians.