

In this Issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Tenebræ | 1 |
| Updates from the National Board | 2 |
| RSCM Music Sunday | 3 |
| Member Benefits | 3 |

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—TENEBRÆ—

I think it's safe to assume that the majority of us who work in Church Music lamentably do so on a part-time basis, often in addition to other full-time or half-time work. Periods like Holy Week are notoriously taxing, the complexity of the liturgies is only compounded by the number of them.

Latin for shadows or darkness, *Tenebræ* is the ancient service that was originally celebrated in the early morning hours of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Some parishes do a single condensed service on the Wednesday of Holy Week, others are brave enough to pray each of the Offices separately on Wednesday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday.

In many ways, I find publicly praying the office to be one of the most fulfilling aspects of working in music ministry, especially

during Holy Week. Maybe it's the stark musical settings of the Psalms, the simplicity of the chants employed, or just the somberness of the whole thing.

"The Book of Psalms provides the most reliable theological, pastoral, and liturgical resource given us in the biblical tradition. In season and out of season, generation after generation, faithful women and men turn to the Psalms as a most helpful resource for conversation with God about things that matter most. On the one hand, Israel's faithful speech address to God is the substance of the Psalms. The Psalms do this fully [...] from profound praise to the to the utterance of unspeakable anger and doubt. On the other hand, as Luther understood so passionately, the Psalms are not only addressed to God [...] They are a voice of the Gospel, God's good word addressed to God's faithful people. [...] the community of faith has heard and continues to hear

MEMBERSHIPS

Your membership renewals for 2019 have been sent. If you have not received yours, please let me know. If you have, your prompt attention to it will be greatly appreciated by me!

W. Joy Horswill
Membership Secretary
membership@rscmcanada.org

the sovereign speech of God, who meets the community in its depth of need and in its heights of celebration." (The Message of the Psalms, Walter Brueggemann: Augsburg publishing house, 1984)

The centrality of the Psalms in the Daily Office provide for one of the more enriching liturgical experiences. The Psalms help us express the entire range of human emotion in our lives: outrage, shock, grief, anguish, comfort, joy. These are the emotions of the Passion narrative.

When we sing the Psalms, we learn to explore the depths of our emotions. Just as those present for the Passion, we feel hope, loss, grief, victory, love, and failure. May we journey with those closest to Christ, so that we may know Him more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly.

Michael Pirri
Chair, Toronto Chapter

—NATIONAL BOARD—

As those working at the coal face of liturgical music at this time of year will no doubt have realised by now, we are less than two weeks from Easter. I hope that your preparations for the various liturgical events during Holy Week, the Easter Triduum, and Easter Day are going well.

It is a time when we inevitably face new beginnings, whether that be the warmer spring weather some of us are currently enjoying, with the signs of new life nudging their way up from the cold earth; or new life directions, career paths, and changes in family life; or new organisational relationships.

In terms of the last of these, it is my pleasure to inform RSCM Canada members that, at the April Board meeting, the Board ratified and signed a new Collaboration Agreement with the RSCM.

Very little change, if any, will be noticed on the surface of our

work together - CMQ and Sunday-by-Sunday will still arrive as usual (and, if by some chance, you don't receive one or the other, please make a point of contacting us to let us know - it's the only way we can address with RSCM UK staff any glitches in the mail out system they are using) and your discount at the RSCM shop will be unaffected as will access to RSCM programmes and services - but the fundamental working relationship between RSCM in Salisbury and RSCM Canada has now been formalised according to a "franchise" model as it's described in the documentation.

This is the culmination of some lengthy work - originally begun in 2006 - to codify the arrangements between RSCM in the UK and the "International Partners" (as the overseas branches are now called). RSCM America has ratified a similar document and RSCM Australia and RSCM New Zealand are in the process of doing so after negotiating some of the material that is specifically relevant in those countries.

Please do get in touch if you have any specific questions about this development and milestone in the RSCM Canada history. We'll do our best to answer any queries that might arise.

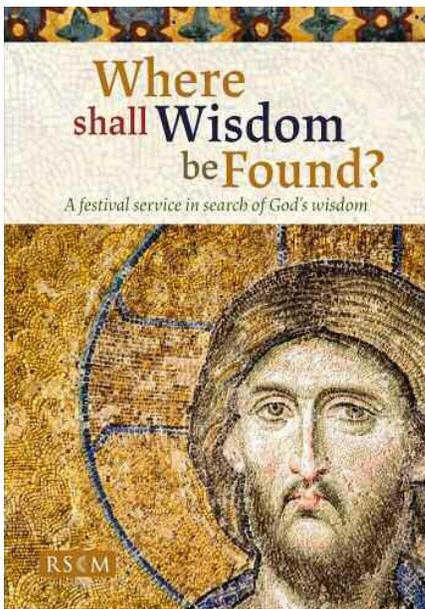
This Newsletter will also be my last as President & CEO of RSCM Canada as my term expires at the AGM this June. More details about the AGM will be circulated in due course - we needed to make a last-minute change in date, so you'll hear from the Board again in the very near future. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the Board for the ongoing work they do for all our RSCM Canada members; it has been my pleasure and privilege to meet many of you during my term and to serve the needs of RSCM members here in Canada over that time.

I wish you the best of success for your Easter celebrations.

Andrew Keegan Mackriell
President & CEO

—WHERE SHALL WISDOM BE FOUND?—

Where Shall Wisdom Be Found? A Festival Service in Search of God's Wisdom is now available on the RSCM Shop website. The annual service books are designed to provide a wide selection of hymns and songs, built around a liturgical form. They provide a choice of choral items suitable for full SATB choirs as well as those with more limited resources. The service are equally suitable for festivals performed in a cathedral and for smaller services in a parish church. The services are flexible, broad and exceptional value for money, which each book typically containing more than \$75 worth of music.



Visit rscmshop.com to [see a preview](#) of the booklet!

—RSCM MUSIC SUNDAY—

For Music Sunday 2019, the RSCM has commissioned a new anthem by acclaimed composer, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange. God the Holy Trinity is a beautiful, fresh setting of the Blessing for Trinity Sunday – the date for this year's Music Sunday celebration. It's an approachable piece with singable lines; the three-part texture is a deliberate reference to the Trinity. There is an optional soprano descant. The intention is for this to be an unaccompanied piece, but a keyboard reduction is supplied to aid preparation and to discreetly support performances where necessary. We hope you will be encouraged to join in including this in your celebration of Music Sunday on June 16th. The piece is available as a free digital download to RSCM members. For more information, including a recording and preview of the piece, [click here](#).

Music Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for the role of music in the life of the Church, and the way in which music can draw people together. We are encouraging members and non-members, organisations and individuals, to put on events that will both highlight the work of the RSCM and raise money. Visit www.rscm.org.uk/music-sunday/ for more information on RSCM Music Sunday.

—MEMBER BENEFITS—

For some time now, Members across the world have been asking for more music to be made available for use within their services. After prayer, thought and discussion, RSCM UK has put together this new and sought after benefit that will provide you with a resource that enhances your music in worship.

The first edition of the RSCM Members' Music Book is now available to Affiliate Members via their account on rscmshop.com

This benefit alone will supply you with over \$100 worth of material within each edition in addition to other Membership benefits.

This benefit (released periodically) will comprise of a small selection of sheet music that has been carefully chosen to

be accessible by many different musical skill sets. The collection of music within each edition may include (but not be exclusive to) accompanied or unaccompanied anthems, organ voluntaries, instrumental arrangements, arrangements of hymns and worship songs. The aim is to vary the content from edition to edition so that there is something for everyone to access.

The choice of music will in most cases look to facilitate the forthcoming events in the church's calendar, and some of these items will of course be able to be used more than once throughout the church's year.

Not only will Affiliate Members have the sheet music to keep, but they will have the copying rights for these pieces too.

RSCM UK will be introducing this new benefit in stages to our different Membership categories, beginning with the Affiliate Memberships.



JOANNA FORBES L'ESTRANGE

God the Holy Trinity
Anthem for Music Sunday

RSCM Canada is currently developing a new set of resources specifically for members in Canada. Included among these are festival booklets based on public domain works, easily reproduced within each parish, as well as a Canadian companion to Sunday by Sunday utilizing the hymnals in use in Canada.

If you wish to contribute to the creation of resources and programming initiatives for RSCM Canada, please contact us at rscmc@rscmcanada.org

***Please let us know
about Church Music
related events.***

***We are happy to
publicize them both in
our newsletter, and on
Facebook!***