



THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC



STRATEGIC PLAN 2022–2027

Enabling the flourishing
of church music

A dark, monochromatic profile portrait of a man with short, curly hair, wearing a suit and tie, looking towards the left.

Celebrating our past

A dark, monochromatic photograph of a group of people, mostly women, sitting in a room and clapping. There are framed pictures on the wall behind them.

Encouraging and resourcing
the present

A dark, monochromatic photograph of a group of young people, mostly teenagers, standing and smiling. Some are holding folders or bags.

Inspiring the future

Missional values

The RSCM is an independent UK charity dedicated to supporting, nurturing and sustaining church music. We provide relevant education, training and resources to our members and to the wider church in countries all around the world.

We work to improve the study and standard of live music in Christian worship.

We advocate music as a missional tool for church growth.

Our work is underpinned by our Christian faith. We value each person as bearing the image of God, and as someone who should be protected from harm.


We strive to broaden the church music landscape, to make it more inclusive and more active.

Vision

In 2027, the RSCM will celebrate its Centenary. This will be an excellent opportunity to celebrate the rich heritage of church music and to remember the RSCM's positive role in shaping that history over the past one hundred years. Looking forward, we will be motivated by three key aspirations,

We will redouble our efforts to encourage the church to recognise the power of live music as an agent for growth.





We will encourage and support churches to make the most of the musical resources they have and to be ambitious about their music making.

Above all, we will ensure the future flourishing of church music by inspiring young people.

Strategic priorities

1 Encouraging the development of church music and musicians

A comprehensive programme of education

Part of our mission is to improve the study and standard of music in Christian worship. This requires the RSCM to function as an educator and to train current and future generations of church musicians. We have a mandate to provide a coherent, comprehensive educational offering that is relevant to the church, to our members and to all those whom we serve, regardless of age or ability. This must include positive engagement with young people as we enable them to begin a lifelong encounter with church music.

2 Bringing people closer to God through music

Provision of high quality and relevant support.

We will motivate churches to align with our aims and values. Our resources encourage our members and the wider church to view music as a tool for mission and growth. If church music is to flourish in the future, it is essential that we introduce more children and young people to the joy of singing in church.

Each of these three priorities has a subset of SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) goals, with clear objectives.

Our Business Plan outlines key projects across the time period covered by this Strategic Plan and includes a process of regular review to enable refinements.

3 Promoting music in worship, and excellence in music

Advocacy and engagement in the wider world.

The RSCM promotes the value of church music in the wider world. We are advocates in a range of spheres, working with appropriate partner organisations and in relevant public forums. We build upon the rich heritage of church music, while celebrating the diversity found within the contemporary landscape. We ask what the wider world can bring to church music, and what sacred music can bring to the life of the church and society in general.

But what do these priorities mean in practice?

Our activities will be shaped by one central question...

“How will this enable the RSCM and church music to flourish?”



A comprehensive
programme of
education

Our education programme is detailed in our Education Plan. Key highlights include:

- ★ The Education Menu, which is a subset of the Education Plan and will provide effective opportunities for learning and continuing personal development to people of all levels of ability
- ★ Singing courses and choirs for young people and for adults
- ★ Singing Awards that celebrate and encourage progress
- ★ Church Music Skills that offer systematic training for church musicians
- ★ An Emerging Leaders Network, which is a new expression of the original founding aims of the RSCM, and which will be delivered in partnership with local churches



Provision of high
quality, relevant
support

New products include:

- ★ Hymnpact!®
- ★ Voice for Life® Digital
- ★ New Publications

We will facilitate both digital and in person interaction with members at a local level to enable the exchange of practical, experience-led information. The RSCM will also continue to supply a range of courses, webinars and other formative sessions to develop the knowledge and skills of church music practitioners.



Promoting the value of church music requires advocacy. This means:

- ✦ Acting as a thought leader to engage with big questions facing music in worship. And to do this we must enable open conversations.
- ✦ Successfully engaging with key partners and parallel organisations to advocate the power of music as an agent for growth within the church. And it means being ambassadors for the value of music in worship.
- ✦ Active engagement with the Church and its educating bodies.

Support elements

There are six key support elements that are critical to the success of the organisation and its mission.

- ✦ Fundraising and income generation
- ✦ Staff and volunteer support and development
- ✦ Marketing and communications
- ✦ Administration systems and processes
- ✦ Use of enabling technology
- ✦ Compliance, including GDPR

We value and appreciate the support of our members and friends. We recognise that we have a responsibility as custodians of the living tradition of church music. We are committed to doing all we can to fulfil our vision for the flourishing of church music both now and in the future.

To learn more of our work and how you can engage with it, please visit our website: www.rscm.org.uk





Every gift matters, especially yours...

So, please consider donating to the RSCM.

Together, we can do so much more.



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The Royal School of Church Music
encourages and resources the best
use of music in Christian worship.

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01722 424848
enquiries@rscm.com
www.rscm.org.uk
19 The Close
Salisbury
SP1 2EB