

The Death of Queen Elizabeth II

The Royal School of Church Music expresses deepest sadness on the news of the death of our patron, Her Majesty the Queen.

We give thanks for her Majesty's faithful support and extraordinary service over a lifetime of dedication and duty. Her Christian faith, both in practice and in the personal devotion which characterised her life, will continue to be an inspiration.

The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Chair of the RSCM Council, and Dean of Westminster from 2006 to 2019 says:

'The death of The Queen has left us all bereaved. Her long reign of 70 years has meant that, for most of us, there has been no period when we have not known her as our Queen. Her sense of duty and her commitment to the United Kingdom, and to her other Realms overseas, have been exemplary. Her Christian faith, in practice, and her personal devotion have inspired us and set us an example. The date of The Queen's accession, 6th February 1952, has always meant for The Queen not only the moment of her own accession but also the date of the death of her beloved father George VI at the age of 56. This longest ever reign has drawn now to a close. We pray for Queen Elizabeth II and commend her to the care and keeping of almighty God. We pray also for our new King as he accedes to the throne.'

As Royal Patron to the RSCM and Sovereign, the Queen had important and distinct constitutional relationships with the Established Churches of England and Scotland, dating back to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. As Head of the Nation and Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty also recognised and celebrated other faiths in the UK and throughout the Commonwealth.

'There are any number of ways in which that single piece of music alone can be played or sung anywhere in the Commonwealth. And by sharing the same music with our own personal interpretations and contributions, the wonderful human attribute of imagination is nourished, and we gain insights of understanding and appreciation of others.'

The Queen's Commonwealth Day Message, 2012

We commend Her Majesty to the care and keeping of Almighty God, and we pray for the Royal Family.

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM)

The RSCM is an educational charity that works for the flourishing of church music, promoting the best use of music in worship, church life, and the wider community. The RSCM also publishes music and training resources and organises courses, short workshops, and other activities. RSCM is an international network, with over 8,500 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries, supported by hundreds of volunteers and a small team of staff based throughout the UK.