

# THE RSCM SINGING CERTIFICATE

## What is the singing certificate?

The new 'entry level' RSCM Singing Certificate is intended as a first step for choristers in their RSCM awards journey. It is a 'low stakes' assessment, where choristers receive an encouraging report/comment form and a certificate to affirm their achievement. Importantly, it is **not** a pass/fail exam. All choristers who enter for the certificate will receive one!

Although the RSCM Singing Certificate is envisaged as being of most likely appeal to younger choristers, the design allows for singers of any age to enter and receive the comment form and certificate. An adult chorister who was unsure about the Bronze/Silver/Gold Awards would be equally welcome to enter for a Singing Certificate, choosing repertoire with which they are familiar and receiving encouragement and affirmation in their singing journey.

## What do choristers have to do for their certificate?

- 3 vocal warm ups. These will be specified in the syllabus and available to download, free, from the RSCM website.
- 1 verse of a hymn or worship song. RSCM will provide suggested repertoire, but applicants/candidates may substitute these with their own choice.
- A short anthem/suitable church song. RSCM will provide suggested repertoire, but own choice is allowed (length limit of 2 minutes).
- Brief listening exercises (clap the pulse, clap back 2 rhythms, sing back 3 notes)

## When will this be available?

Late April 2026 – Launch, with syllabus and warm-ups available via the RSCM website.

September 2026 - Entries bookable via RSCM online system as per VFL Bronze/Silver/Gold Awards.

c. January 2027 – Digital submissions possible. This will be in the form of a 'video upload'.

*We are also working on being able to offer 'visits' to churches for all of our awards, including the certificate, but this will be dependent on examiner location/availability.*

## What's the outcome (and the 'tangible' reward)?

All those who take the certificate will have a report on their performance. This will be positively focussed, and with developmental language used where necessary to indicate areas for future work.

Everyone who enters will also receive an 'RSCM Singing Certificate'.

## Duration and cost

The certificate assessment will be timetabled for 15 minutes, but it is anticipated that it will likely take no more than 10 minutes.

Entry for the certificate will cost £20. Fees are regularly reviewed.

## Looking ahead...

We hope that taking the 'certificate' will affirm choristers at the beginning of their choral journey. We have plans to introduce a 'foundation award', which will sit before the current Bronze Award, onto which those who have taken the Singing Certificate will, we hope, progress.

*Chris Sparkhall, Chief Examiner*

*April 2026*