



# VOICE *for* LIFE

## **Singing Awards**

RSCM SINGING CERTIFICATE

### **Syllabus (Extract)**

*Valid from September 2026 until further notice*

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## Introduction

The new 'entry level' RSCM Singing Certificate is intended as a 'first step' for choristers in their RSCM awards journey. Features of the certificate are

- 'Low stakes' assessment: Choristers will receive a certificate and comments on their performance.
- Importantly this is **not** a 'pass/fail' exam. It is an opportunity for Choristers to sing to an external assessor, to get used to the idea of singing exams, and for their achievement to be affirmed. All those who 'enter' for the singing certificate will receive a certificate.
- The design of the certificate's content includes elements which are likely to be 'normal' choir practice things for new singers, namely, warm-ups, a hymn or worship song and an anthem. There are some very simple listening exercises too, helping Choristers to begin to develop their ear skills.
- Although RSCM suggests repertoire for the Singing Certificate, **own choice** is not only permitted, but encouraged. Choristers will be able to sing music which they know well, from their own choir experience.

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 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.

### General notes

Accompaniment (for all sung elements: warm-ups, hymn/worship song and anthem/song) should be provided by the representative/choir director. Examiners will **not** provide accompaniment.

Accompaniments may be pre-recorded (although live accompaniment is preferred), but there must be someone present to operate the play-back. This should **not** be done by the candidate.

Any edition of the chosen music is acceptable, in any suitable key/transposition.

Candidates may, if they wish, sing a lower voice part (A/T/B) in the hymn/worship song and/or anthem/song.

# Singing Certificate Syllabus

## Using the Voice Well

Item	Detail
1. <b>Vocal warm-ups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sing <b>three</b> vocal warm-ups.</li><li>• These are set by RSCM. The music for the warm-ups can be downloaded, for free, from the RSCM website.</li></ul>
2. <b>Hymn or Worship Song</b>	<p><b>ONE VERSE only (or one verse and chorus)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Either</b> chosen from the following list</li></ul> <p>Amazing Grace Away in a Manger Be still for the presence of the Lord Give me oil in my lamp Morning has broken This little light of mine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Or</b> own choice*</li></ul>
3. <b>Anthem or Song</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Either</b> chosen from the following list</li></ul> <p>Bread of the world – Alan Bullard (OUP) (<i>First verse only</i>) Hand me down my silver trumpet – Joy Webb (Salvationist Publishing) (<i>First verse only</i>) Lead me, Lord – SS Wesley (<i>solo sections only</i>) Rejoice in the Lord always - Evelyn Turner arr Esther Jones<sup>\$</sup> Don't build your house on the sandy land - Karen Lafferty arr Esther Jones<sup>\$</sup> The Lord is my Shepherd – Sarah Moore (Flammer inc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Or</b> own choice*</li></ul>

\*For the Singing Certificate, 'own choice' repertoire does **not** need to be submitted to the RSCM for approval

<sup>\$</sup> In the RSCM Voice for Life Song Book, volume 1

## Practical Skills – Listening and responding

Candidates will

1. Clap in time with the pulse of a short piece of music
  - The assessor/examiner will play a short piece in 2, 3 or 4 time. Candidates should join in clapping as soon as they are able.
2. Clap back, as echoes, the rhythm of two short phrases played on the piano.
  - The phrases will be in 2 or 3 time, and will last two bars each.
3. Sing back three notes
  - The notes will be played twice, in free time.