

SYLLABUS

There are four sections to the examinations. Each entry must also be accompanied by a written testimonial from a choir trainer/ minister outlining the candidates time in the choir and involvement in RSCM and other musical events as well as any other involvement in church life.

Marks are distributed as follows:

- A (50%) Using the voice well.
- B (20%) Musical skills and understanding
- C (10%) Repertoire
- D (20%) Choir in context

The pass mark is 60%, candidates achieving 75% are Commended and those achieving 85% are Highly Commended.

Successful candidates will be entitled to wear the appropriate ribbons and medallions which are presented at the Awards Ceremony on the date shown.

SYLLABUS CONTENT**Section A – Using the Voice**

- *Prepared Hymn* – 3 verses of a hymn or song of the candidate's choice. The second verse will be sung unaccompanied.
- *Prepared Anthem* – An anthem from RSCM Bronze/Silver collection, or equivalent.
- *Prepared setting* (Silver only)
- *Prepared Psalm* – 8 verses of a psalm to be sung to Anglican Chant, a Plainsong tone or a Responsorial setting.

Section B – Musical skills & understanding

- *Sight Reading* – A simple anthem or song. Two attempts will be allowed.
- *Ear Tests & Musical understanding* – See syllabus

Section C – Knowledge of Repertoire

- Candidates discuss their prepared anthem, and another chosen piece of church music.

Section D – Choir in context

- Candidates will be questioned regarding the principle parts of the service in their church. They should also show knowledge of the church building and of the shape of the Church's year, being able to suggest suitable music and readings for major Christian Festivals. (See syllabus)

**Chorister Awards**

An easy guide to the Bronze & Silver Awards as examined and awarded in the Wakefield Area.

Overview

For many years RSCM Wakefield has sought to encourage children to join church choirs, and to enjoy making music to a high standard. The institution of the Bishop's Chorister Award in 1973, by the Anglican Diocese, was an attempt to give tangible recognition of the attainment of such a standard.

The encouragement of young people in choirs remains the aim of the Bronze and Silver Chorister Awards. **However the exams are open to singers of all ages, and adult singers are encouraged to apply. There are no upper or lower age limits for these examinations.**

The following awards are currently available:

- The Bronze (Dean's) Award is intended as a first award for Choristers with around two years experience who reach the appropriate standard.
- The Silver (Bishop's) Award is intended as a further step for those who have already attained the Dean's Award and have gained further experience and reached a higher standard.

Overview

Both the Bronze (Dean's) and Silver (Bishop's) Awards have been validated by the RSCM and are examined by one of their accredited examiners.

It is expected that choristers will have already worked through the RSCM's *A Voice for Life* scheme (or equivalent) in their own choirs and will have reached Dark Blue level (Bronze) and Red (Silver) at the time of entry.

Holders of the Bishop's Award may go on to be examined for the RSCM Gold Award which is administered nationally.

This leaflet is intended only as an overview of the Awards that are available within the RSCM Area of Wakefield.

A full syllabus and entry forms are available from:
Fiona Fearnley, 52a School Street, Upton,
Pontefract, West Yorks, WF9 1EP
ludwigrod@sky.com
01977640298/07917198024

DATES & FEES

Dates for 2018

Training Day – Saturday 10th March 2018 (St Giles' Church, Pontefract)

Examinations – Saturday 19th May 2018

Presentation of Awards – Sunday 10th June 2018

Fees

Training Day £15.00

Examinations:

Dean's (Bronze) Award £20.00*

Bishop's (Silver) Award £24.00*

* Successful candidates are entitled to wear the appropriate ribbon and medallion which can be ordered direct from www.rscmshop.com