

# SOUNDS

of

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*Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion, we beseech thee, upon our infirmities, and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, mercifully give us for the worthiness of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

## LISTEN UP!

On its website, The Royal School of Church Music describes its history, in part, as such:

*On the initiative of Sir Sydney Nicholson, then organist of Westminster Abbey, the School of English Church Music (SECM) was inaugurated at a meeting in the Jerusalem Chamber of Westminster Abbey held on 6 December 1927, the feast of St Nicolas. It was to consist of a training college for church musicians (the College of St Nicolas), and an association of affiliated churches who committed themselves to attaining high standards.*

*The School was housed at Buller's Wood in Chislehurst, Kent. The college opened there in 1929 and continued until closure was forced at the outbreak of war in 1939 when most students were called up for military service. During those first ten years major choral festivals were held triennially in London (1930 at the Royal Albert Hall, 1933 and 1936 at the Crystal Palace) and the number of affiliated churches rose to 1300 worldwide. Throughout the war Sir Sydney continued his itinerant teaching at diocesan and parish level from a base at St Michael's College, Tenbury, and then from Leamington Spa.*

*In 1945, by command of King George VI, the SECM became the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). Canterbury Cathedral allowed the school to function within the precincts of the cathedral, and the College of St Nicolas reopened there in January 1946. By 1952 over 3000 churches were affiliated.*

*In 1954 the RSCM and the College of St Nicolas moved to Addington Palace near Croydon, the former 'country residence' of the Archbishops of Canterbury, with Gerald Knight as Director and the Revd Cyril Taylor as Warden responsible for the RSCM's educational work.*

*In 1973 Gerald Knight was succeeded as Director by Lionel Dakers, and he in turn by Harry Bramma in 1989. The College of St Nicolas was*

*closed in 1974, and the RSCM then concentrated on short courses, and on work in the regions with new structures of voluntary committees. The membership[\*] increased, with a peak of almost 10,000 affiliates in 1980.*

*In 1996 the RSCM moved its administrative centre to Cleveland Lodge, near Dorking in Surrey, the former home of the organist Lady Susi Jeans. Professor John Harper was appointed as Director in 1998.*

*The RSCM [then] moved its administrative centre to Salisbury in Summer 2006. Its office is located within Sarum College, a Christian ecumenical college in Salisbury's cathedral close.*

*Professor Harper retired as Director of the RSCM at the end of December 2007, and has been appointed 'Emeritus Director'. He continues as RSCM Research Professor at Bangor University, and will also remain a Visiting Scholar at Sarum College. Lindsay Gray took up the post of Director of the RSCM on 1 May 2008.*

Additionally, RSCM America states:

*RSCM America is the branch of the Royal School of Church Music in the United States. Our goal is to uplift the spiritual life of our communities through high quality choral music. We provide musical education to singers through a structured choral music program and summer music courses[\*]. We provide support to music directors through an organizational forum, which facilitates the exchange of knowledge and ideas.*

*\* Potomac Parish is one of those member churches and has been since before my arrival fifteen years ago. In addition, Washington DC is host to one of the summer courses, an intense week-long course for Advanced Trebles, which is housed at Saint Alban's School and National Cathedral.*

*(Continued on page 3)*

This year I have been asked to co-manage the course and, as a result, Saint Francis is privileged to have the choir come and offer a **concert here on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 4 o'clock** in the afternoon. This is an important connection for us and is part of the continuing effort by your staff to maintain a vibrant future for this parish church. You may participate in that effort by your attendance and show of support. There is no admission fee and the concert is open to family and friends. (And it's late enough in the day to get your golfing and swimming in – or mowing of the lawn and other charming chores – and early enough not to interfere with supper plans.)

The choristers also sing evensong at the National Cathedral on the weekdays of July 27-30 and will sing for their morning services and evensong on Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. I hope you will avail yourselves to some of those offerings, as well.

I am pleased – and extremely so – that two of our own choristers will be in the ranks of this group: **Lisa Johnsen**, last year's Head Chorister and newly appointed Choral Scholar, and Senior Choral Scholar, **Nikki Fraser**. There also will be an adult contingency with several of our own singers involved, including yours truly and past treble participant, **Bryn Whiteley**! The music director for the course this year is **David Ogden**, an energetic and widely respected choral trainer from Bristol (UK). It is no understatement to say this is a golden opportunity for our parish.

I do hope you will join us.

RSCM Choral Concert  
Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 4:00 p.m.  
St Francis Episcopal Church

Gary Davison, O-C

## JOY AND CONCERN

Please pray for Kevin Joseph Rengers, father of our seminarian Josiah Rengers, who died.

## AGED IN NEED OF FANS AND WINDOW AIR CONDITIONING UNITS

The low-income seniors who attend SOME's Senior Day Center and participate in our Caregivers program for homebound elderly are **in need of 25 fans and window A/C units**. Many of these seniors do not have air conditioning or even fans in their homes and are at risk during the hot Washington summers. One person has already died in D.C. this summer.

If you can help, please deliver any fans and/or window units that are new or in excellent condition to SOME at 71 "O" Street, NW, DC.

If you prefer, we would equally appreciate monetary donations to help purchase fans and window units. You can mail a check to **SOME at 71 'O' Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001**.

For additional information, please contact Kate Topping, Dwelling Place Geriatric Care Manager, at 202-581-8000 or at [ktopping@some.org](mailto:ktopping@some.org).

## SUPPORT OUR COLLEGE-BOUND HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Parishes with students entering college in the fall, or already in college, are invited to contact the Rev. Preston Hannibal, canon for academic ministries, at [phannibal@edow.org](mailto:phannibal@edow.org) with the student's name, e-mail address and college or university.

He will forward the contact information to the appropriate college chaplain. Thank you for continuing to support your students.

**COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH**

*For more information, please visit our website at [www.stfrancispotomac.org](http://www.stfrancispotomac.org)*

**SUNDAY, JULY 18**

8:00am Holy Eucharist  
10:00am Holy Eucharist

**TUESDAY, JULY 20**

6:30 pm Youth Bible Studies  
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 21**

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

**THURSDAY, JULY 22**

5:00 pm Deadline for Sounds 8/1/10

**FRIDAY, JULY 23**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

**SUNDAY, JULY 25**

8:00am Holy Eucharist  
10:00am Holy Eucharist

**MONDAY, JULY 26**

Jr. High Youth to Great Escapes Conference

**TUESDAY, JULY 27**

7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 28**

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

**FRIDAY, JULY 30**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study  
Jr. High Youth return from Great Escapes

**SATURDAY, JULY 31**

4:00 pm Choral Concert by the Royal School of Church Music

The Scripture appointed for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost:  
Amos 8:1-12, Psalm 52 or Genesis 18:1-10a, Psalm 15, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42

The Scripture appointed for the Feast of St. James:  
Jeremiah 45:1-5, Acts 11:27-12:3, Matthew 20:20-28, Psalm 7:1-10

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