

RSCM America Choir Adult Trip to Westminster Abbey
December 29, 2014-January 2, 2015

**Please note that this initial trip for an RSCM America Choir going abroad is for
Adults only, age 21 and up**

Lodging – The Holiday Inn Express–Limehouse in the East of London (with breakfast included at a very reasonable price for London) is a short tube ride from center of London, with a station just a 3-5 minute walk away. Having all participants stay in the same hotel allows for meeting new folks over breakfast, discussions about various sightseeing options during the day, which pub or restaurant to try after Evensong for dinner, etc.

Flights – Participants will book their own flights. This allows for arrival and departure flexibility and means that participants can extend their stay in London if they desire.

Singing Dates – Monday, December 29, 2014 through Friday, January 2, 2015

Schedule – Monday’s events will begin with rehearsal at 10 a.m. and will conclude after Evensong at 5 p.m., with breaks for lunch and a tour of the Abbey worked into the schedule. The goal for this first day will be to run through all of the music for the entire week, which will hopefully mean that only one rehearsal at 3:30 p.m. will be needed on each of the succeeding days. Thus, mornings and evenings will be free until rehearsal at 3:30 p.m., and evenings will be free after Evensong. Evensong services will be sung at 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; there is no Evensong service on Wednesday, as that day traditionally features a spoken service at the Abbey.

Maximum Numbers – 16 Sopranos, 8 Altos, 8 Tenors, 8 Basses

Repertoire – Music will be sent to each participant at least two months prior to the trip, along with any YouTube links and/or recordings. It is expected that each singer will have learned all of his or her music by the time he or she arrives in London.

Musical Director – Andrew Walker, President of RSCM America. Tuesday’s Evensong service will be conducted by Andrew Reid, Director of the Royal School of Church Music.

Fee – \$50 per singer

Auditions – All singers will be required to submit an audition, either via a digital recording OR via ooVoo video conferencing (see Page 2 for details.) All singers must also complete and submit an audition form (Page 3.) In order to give selected candidates as much time to set aside the necessary funds for the trip, please have your form and audition CD/file sent or ooVoo session completed before **Friday, January 31, 2014**. Andrew Walker and Bruce Neswick, FRSCM will review the auditions over the succeeding month in order to inform singers of their decisions by February 2014.

Auditions must be supervised by the candidate's choir director or accompanist.

Audition instructions are as follows:

1. Have your choir director or accompanist record the audition using an iPhone, Android, or other video/audio recording device. OR:
 - Download ooVoo free video chat software (*ooVoo.com*), set up a camera and mike near the piano (a laptop with both, connected to the internet, can work well for this), and arrange a time with Andrew Walker to do the audition live. Mr. Walker has ooVoo as well, and the advantage of it over Skype is that he is able to record the video conference as it happens, so a video/audio file of the audition will be ready to send to Mr. Neswick.
2. State your name, age, voice part, and the name of the church or choir you presently sing with.
3. Sing a couple of pages of your voice part's line from an anthem or canticle, of medium-level difficulty, for a choir singing at a cathedral level. For example, pieces such as "O nata lux" (Tallis), "A Hymn for St. Cecilia" (Howells), "Beautiful City" (André Thomas), "Insanae et vanae curae" (Haydn), and Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis "Collegium Regale" (Howells) are all possible suggestions.
4. Sight-reading: Using a four-part hymn that is unknown to you in your preferred hymnal, have your choir director/accompanist play the tonic chord and then your part's first note (optional!) Sight-read your part unaccompanied, then sing another verse accompanied. It is requested that the choir director/accompanist state out loud, before beginning, that they affirm the selection is an unknown hymn for you.
5. If you are auditioning with Mr. Walker via ooVoo, verify that he has received your audition form by mail or via e-mail. If you have recorded the audition on an iPhone, Android, or other video/audio recording device, send the recording and your audition form to Mr. Walker by one of the following methods:
 - Put the recorded file on a CD and mail it with your audition form to:
Andrew Walker, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2499 N. Westmoreland Drive, Orlando, FL 32804; OR:
 - Reduce the recorded file in size and/or audio quality and e-mail it to **andrew@stmichaelschurch.com** as an attachment, along with your audition form. (Reducing the video size will often not reduce the audio quality; if necessary, please check for any degradation of quality. Generally, for most e-mail servers, 10MB is about the limit for an attached file)

Deadline – Please have your audition form (Page 3) and audition CD/file sent or ooVoo session completed before **Friday, January 31, 2014.**

Contact Information –

Andrew Walker, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2499 N. Westmoreland Drive, Orlando, FL 32804
407-843-8448
407-619-0967
andrew@stmichaelschurch.com

AUDITION FORM

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Please note that this initial trip for an RSCM America Choir going abroad is for
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NAME: _____

AGE (as of December 1, 2014): _____

VOICE PART FOR AUDITION: S A T B
(Please indicate a "1" or "2" if you prefer an upper or lower part if there are any divisi

AUDITION PIECES

1st SELECTION: _____

2nd SELECTION (Sight-reading): _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

BEST PHONE CONTACT #: _____

FOR CHOIR DIRECTOR/ACCOMPANIST

I certify that the recording attached, or included in the mailing, is a true and accurate representation of what was sung at the time the applicant and I made this recording.

PRINT NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____