

# The Syllabus

## Section A - Music Making

The applicant will be required to;

1. Sing two verses of a prepared accompanied hymn.
2. Sing a prepared piece of music - not a hymn - from the usual church repertoire.  
(A list of example pieces is available).
3. Have knowledge of and describe note values, their corresponding rests, and the function of dots after notes and rests.
4. Have knowledge of the notes on the treble staff (middle C to top G).
5. Have knowledge of simple expressive musical terms: e.g. *p*, *f*, cresc., dim.

## Section B - Church Knowledge

The applicant must have a basic knowledge of the following;

1. The Church calendar
  - a) Church Seasons-  
Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent  
Easter, Ascensiontide, Pentecost (Whitsuntide), Trinity.
  - b) The meaning behind each season i.e. Advent is a period of waiting and preparation for the birth of Christ at Christmas.
2. The various parts of the church building;  
Nave, Altar and Sanctuary, Chancel, Side Chapel/Lady Chapel, Font, Pulpit, Lectern.

# General Information

**This is a diocesan award** open to choristers of all ages who are beginning to develop their singing skills and have committed to attending a choir on a regular basis within the Diocese of Manchester.

**The choir attended by the applicant does not need to be RSCM affiliated.**

**The award recognises** the loyalty, knowledge, and musical development in choristers. It may serve as a precursor to the current RSCM schemes, or as an incentive to further progress.

**The award is examined** in two parts. The first part is a practical examination, in which the chorister shows his or her ability to sing two items of church music and display a basic knowledge of music theory. The second part, taken at the same time as the first, explores the chorister's knowledge of the church calendar and the main parts of the church building.

**The examination is administered** by the RSCM Manchester Area Committee (contact details are below), which will arrange for an accredited examiner to listen to the chorister sing and answer the relevant

**The entry fee** covers expenses incurred in arranging the practical exam. Currently it stands at **£7.50**, payable upon entry for the award. Entry is by application form only - one is attached to this syllabus. Candidates, or their Choir Trainer, will be contacted regarding the arrangements for the practical examination shortly after the application is received. Successful candidates will receive a certificate and badge (The cost of these is covered by the entry fee).

**The award is marked** according to the following criteria. Section A is worth 75% of the overall mark, Section B is worth 25%. The pass mark must be reached in each section in order to qualify for the award. Applicants can expect a comment sheet from the examiner (sent out after the examination by post) detailing the marks and any comments the examiner may have. The examiner's report is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

### Contact Details

RSCM Manchester Area Committee, 184 Lloyd Street  
South, Manchester, M14 7DY, Tel. 0161 226 2756  
W: [www.rscmmanchester.co.uk](http://www.rscmmanchester.co.uk)  
E: [secretary@rscmmanchester.co.uk](mailto:secretary@rscmmanchester.co.uk)

# The Marking Criteria

This chorister loyalty award has been instituted to reward choristers who display a high level of loyalty and modest musical attainment in the work of the choir to which they belong.

Although this is not an RSCM award, it is hoped that some choristers may feel able, and even encouraged, to progress to the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards of the RSCM in due course.

This award has been structured in such a way as to provide a satisfying level of achievement in itself. It is hoped that this award will fulfil a need that has been long felt by many choirs and choir trainers in the diocese.

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## The Distribution of Marks

### Section A

1. Hymn Singing	20(15)
2. Prepared Item	20(15)
3. Note lengths, rests and dots	15(12)
4. Notes on the Treble Stave	10(7)
5. Musical Terms	10(7)

Total Section A: 75(56)

### Section B

1. Knowledge of the Church Seasons	15(12)
2. Knowledge of the Church Building	10(7)

Total Section B: 25(19)

**Total All Sections: 100(75)**

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### Notes

1. The numbers in brackets denote the pass mark.
2. Both sections must be passed for an overall pass to be achieved.
3. If the required standard is not achieved in only one of the sections, the Committee may consider a retake of that section.
4. The examiner's marks are final, no correspondence will be entered into. These criteria are used to assess performance. Please direct any questions regarding the criteria to the Committee.