

RSCMNZ Waikato introduce

A distance learning training Course-

Skills of the Church Musician/Organist.

A distance learning course for organists was introduced by RSCM UK in 2014, with the intention of allowing people to receive information and instruction on the skills of learning to play a church organ by email.

David Brookes was given permission to trial this Course in Auckland NZ, which he used with a 13-yr old student at Dilworth School with remarkable success. Within 7 months this student was playing a 3-manual organ and full pedal board with such dexterity that he demonstrated the skills learnt to a RSCMNZ Workshop.

David later used the same Course with a 17-yr-old school student and 23-yr-old University student in Auckland with remarkable success over a two-year period. Both these young organists have since given organ recitals, and regularly provide organ music and accompaniment in churches for choral services of worship.

The criteria for people to take this Course of learning is not only an interest in church music, but also, they must have achieved at least grade six piano. They also must agree to play the organ for part of a church service of worship, (a hymn or voluntary) or a concert (an organ solo or accompaniment for a choir or soloist) at least on two occasions per year.

Being a distance learning Course means the Modules of learning can be emailed to the organ students, who need to be supervised by a church organist. The church organist sends reports of modules studied and the progress made for evaluation and approval, including recordings of the students playing and full details of music played, place, and dates.

It is proposed to award certificates to students when they have completed each module of this Course; and when they have completed the whole Course. These to be presented in their Church during a service or concert.

RSCMNZ Waikato has decided, after receiving approval from RSCMNZ Council, to make this Course available for use in the Waikato, for which David Brookes has all the resources.

More details and information about this Course will be published in the RSCMNZ Waikato March 2018 Newsletter- 'Notes', or contact David Brookes: dave.brookes273@gmail.com

David Brookes.

Committee member, RSCM Waikato.

Organist: All Saints Church, Matamata