

Dear Colleagues,

It is with a deep sense of honor and humility that I begin my term as president of RSCM America. As an organization, we are stronger than ever due to the hard work of our Board, our past presidents, particularly Enid Oberholtzer and Andrew Walker, and all of you.



At the beginning of his term three years ago, Andrew Walker challenged us to break the 600 Affiliate/Individual/Friend threshold, and we have succeeded. I challenge us to keep the momentum going and reach 700 within three years. It will be a stretch, but one which we can achieve. I know that each of you has a commitment to excellence in church music and to RSCM America. I invite you to share your passion for our work with your colleagues who are not familiar with the RSCM. Talk with them about your programs, your successes, how you use *VOICE for LIFE* and other RSCM publications. Encourage them to attend one of our growing number of Summer Courses, even if it is just to visit for a day. Host an RSCM choir festival, or a Saturday morning gathering of colleagues to look at and explore RSCM materials and anthems. There are so many ways we can share in this wonderful organization, and every new Affiliate, Individual, and Friend brings gifts and talents to continue to strengthen RSCM America.

As RSCM America moves into the future, we have a number of exciting initiatives that are in various stages of development. Thanks to the vision and hard work of Andrew Walker, we have an RSCM America Choir. As you know, this group sang at Westminster Abbey the week following this past Christmas. Due to the success of that venture, the decision has been made to continue the choir and to put structures in place to direct its future and assure its continuation. We are delighted to open a new course in Portland, Ore. this summer, and we thank Michael Kleinschmidt, Arwen Myers, and all those involved in setting up this course for their foresight and hard work. We will, again, have an exhibit at the AAM Conference in Tampa this summer. We encourage you to stop by the exhibit to visit with those staffing it. I am grateful that Andrew Walker has agreed to continue as editor of *PSALLAM*! Regular communication with our membership is an ongoing priority of the Board. We are also looking at a variety of ways to enhance our revenue stream, which will enable us to engage in more projects to support those who belong to RSCM America, and we are looking into the possibility of starting to publish resources and music under our own brand. As you can see, the Board has set a very ambitious program in addition to the normal work of running such an organization.

We have a very hard working Board of Directors, each of whom volunteers time, energy, and creativity to advance the work of RSCM America. It has been a pleasure to serve with all of those who have been on the Board during my tenure thus far. Each of our current Board members stands ready to assist you with questions, concerns, or suggestions, as do I. You may contact any of us through our RSCM America website by going to [About RSCM America](#) and scrolling down to [Board of Directors](#). We are also very lucky to have Kevin Radtke as our RSCM America Coordinator. He works out of our office at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J. Kevin is quick to assist any of you and if he doesn't have the answer, he knows who to contact who will.

I look forward to working with you as we ensure the future of RSCM America and encourage you to contact me with your thoughts, dreams, and ideas.

Peace and best wishes for a Holy Lent and a Blessed Eastertide,

Bert Landman,  
President  
RSCM America