

Brief diary for RCS visit to Rochester, New Hampshire in 2010: Mission Accomplished.

Before Tue. 25 th May 2010	Group's plan to fly out on Friday 28 th thwarted by airline union action. Jessica tried her hardest to get us out, even in two groups, but Friday was not possible and later dates were not assured.
Tue. 25 th	<p>Crisis point. Jessica had found two flights to New York for Sunday 30th. Some members were for cancelling, as return times weren't guaranteed either and New York meant extra transit expense.</p> <p>A majority, canvassed by e-mail, said "go ahead" and as cancellation would have been very costly, we ended up with a <u>unanimous</u> "go ahead" to go via New York, on two separate flights.</p> <p>We also had assurance of an RCS "safety net" to cover the up-front cost of extra coach fares.</p>
Sun. 30 th	<p>We assembled at Heathrow and, an hour or so before the first flight's (delayed) check-in time, Philip discovered that there were seats for all of us on a BA flight direct to Boston. So Jessica transferred our flights and I contacted the coach company (at 2.30 am local time) to re-schedule the coach from Boston instead of New York and let Jan Kaslowskas (their "Jessica") know.</p> <p>So, thanks to prompt action and a bit of team work, we all went together to the right airport and were met by Jan and Mary (who had arrived in the U.S. a week earlier) at the airport and then by the hosts at the Free United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Rochester. It seemed too good to be true!</p>
Mon. 31 st	<p>Memorial Day, a public holiday. We had a rehearsal at the FUMC in Rochester, with the Granite State Choral Society and members of the FUMC choir.</p> <p>The Handel Coronation anthems and Dawson spirituals were conducted by Seth Hurd, GCSC DoM; the Fauré Requiem by Kevin Lindsay, FUMC DoM and Rutter's Gaelic Blessing (an encore) by Roger Sayer, who otherwise gave organ accompaniment and a solo recital.</p>
Tue. 1 st	Free day with hosts.
Wed. 2 nd	2 pm rehearsal at the South Congregational Church, Portsmouth, till 5 pm, then, after an early dinner and an extended "warm-up", a concert. The singing was really excellent and the audience really appreciative. I gave greetings on behalf of RCS (as not singing – several of us had to overcome bad throats).
Thu. 3 rd	Free day with hosts.
Fri. 4 th	After a free morning, we all crossed into the State of Maine to rehearse, then sing, in the South Congregational Church in Kennebunkport, whose members provided an excellent hot dinner. The audience was large and appreciative and the singing was excellent. I presented to the church's organist, Paul Schnell, one of the two commemorative plaques that Alan had commissioned and put into superb presentation boxes. (I also joined in the singing, having partly recovered my voice.)
Sat. 5 th	<p>After a free morning, we were back at the FUMC Rochester for another rehearsal, then a concert. Again the singing was excellent and the audience appreciative. I presented to Mr. Thomas J. Jean, the Mayor of Rochester, a greetings scroll signed by the Mayor of Medway and he presented us with a framed proclamation, declaring 5th June "Rochester Choral Society Day". I also presented the scroll from the City of Rochester Society to Karen Manning, Granite State CS President and her VP, Diane de Vries and, finally, the other one of Alan's splendid plaques, to Kevin Lindsay (a GSCS Board member and DoM of FUMC) and the FUMC pastor.</p> <p>At the post-concert reception, and by invitation, I presented gifts from a grateful RCS to Jan and Jessica (having got quite used to making presentations by then).</p>
Sun. 6 th	<p>Thanks again to Jessica's outstanding organisation, the return went like clockwork.</p> <p>Roger very happy throughout.</p>

Malcolm Moulton, RCS Tour Chairman. Compiled 7th June 2010.