

Newsletter

March 2011

music in the vale

where music comes to life
lle daw cerddoriaeth yn fyw

Welcome to our 1st Newsletter of 2011. Well, what a busy few months it has been! We have lots of news to share with you in this issue. Particularly exciting is the recently acquired support of our two new **Patrons** and new **Artistic Director**; the Rebecca Evans **Master Classes**; future **Performance and Educational Opportunities** being offered to our young finalists; our first ever **Fund Raising** event; our **New Competition Venue** and preparations for the **2011 Competition!**

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@musicinthevale). We can be found in the normal way or via the links on our web site www.musicinthevale.org.uk.

Patrons...

We are extremely proud and happy to announce that we now have the support of two new Patrons.

Rebecca Evans

International Soprano Rebecca Evans has already been pro-active in attending our last WMC concert and also organising and running her first Master Class for our senior winners.

Owain Arwel Hughes CBE

Welsh orchestral conductor and founder of the Welsh Proms, Owain Arwel Hughes has offered his support to publicise our organisation and to help provide more performance opportunities for our Young Musicians and there will be an opportunity for some of our finalists to be included in the programme of the 2012 Welsh Proms.

Artistic Director...

Christopher Vale

After adjudicating for us last year and seeing first-hand what Music in the Vale are trying to achieve, Chris offered to work with us in order to help us raise our profile, improve our networking and find new supporters both on the musical and financial fronts. We are delighted that Chris has offered to share his wealth of knowledge and experience with us and are looking forward to a long and fruitful partnership.

Master Class...

Senior Finalists' Prize

On February 16th, Rebecca Evans ran a Master Class for our four Senior Singer Finalists Grace Wain, Philippa Scammell, Heulwen Cynfal and Shoshana Pavett. Rebecca had planned to work with each of the singers for 30 minutes. However, such was Rebecca's enthusiasm and commitment and everyone was working so hard, that the session originally planned to finish at 5pm ran on until 5:45. All of the singers were delighted and incredibly grateful for her advice and guidance.

Performance Opportunities...

Glanfa Stage, Wales Millennium Centre

The first 16 of our 2010 finalists took advantage of the opportunity to perform on the Glanfa Stage on the 15th and 16th January. What made the weekend even more exciting than usual was the breaking news of our two new Patrons and Artistic Director. However, the icing on the cake on Sunday was that, along with our civic and adjudicator supporters, Rebecca Evans also came along to meet us and watch the concert and also took time at the end to speak to the young performers. The singers all admitted they had to battle more with their nerves due to Rebecca's presence but were obviously thrilled to have the opportunity to sing in front of her.



Fundraising Event...

Exclusive Musical Evening

Courtesy of Rhodri Traherne we shall be holding a very special fundraising evening of musical entertainment at his family home Coedarhydyglyn on the outskirts of Cardiff with impressive views of the city.

Performers will include Rebecca Evans, Trio D'Anches (a reed trio of WNO musicians) and our Music in the Vale Young Musicians. Invitations will be winging their way to your mailboxes very shortly. Obviously places will be limited so please buy your tickets at the earliest opportunity. This is truly an occasion not to be missed.



2011 Competition...

Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th November

Our Young Singer competition will be held on the Saturday and this year, following advice from our Patron Rebecca Evans, the upper age limit has been raised to 24.

This means that the age categories will be: Juniors 8-13; Intermediates 14-17 and Seniors 18-24. The age categories for our Young Instrumentalist competition on the Sunday will remain the same as last year, 8-11, 12-16 and 17-21.

In addition to the cash and other 'prizes' offered in previous years, this year we will be offering the additional prizes of a Master Class with Rebecca Evans to our Senior Singer Finalists and an opportunity for some of our finalists to be involved in the 2012 Welsh Proms, organised by our Patron Owain Arwel Hughes. Prizes worth chasing don't you think?

To all you potential competitors, 'remember, remember the 5th of November' is the closing date for entries. Entry forms will be available to download from the competition page at www.musicinthevale.org.uk from the end of March.

We would like to highlight to everyone that the daytime auditions are open to the public free of charge and our young competitors would welcome the experience of performing in front of an audience in addition to their own supporters. The evening concerts, where the finalists will perform and winners be announced, will start at 7pm.

New Competition Venue...

Cowbridge Comprehensive School

Following encouragement by our supporters on the Vale Council to consider the new facilities of the recently completed school buildings, we will be holding this year's competition at Cowbridge Comprehensive School. There is a selection of good sized audition rooms to cope with all of our needs. We now just have to ensure that every one of the 300 seats of their purpose built theatre, with its Borchendorfer grand piano, are filled with an appreciative audience.



Biographies in brief...

Rebecca Evans was born in South Wales (Pontrhyfen) and studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She has performed at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and at the Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich. Elsewhere she has sung at the Deutsche Staatsoper, Berlin; for the Netherlands Opera and for the Opera de Lausanne; for Scottish Opera and for the English National Opera. And she is a favourite at the Welsh National Opera.

She has also established a major operatic career in America where she has sung for the Metropolitan Opera, New York; for the Santa Fe Opera; for the Lyric Opera of Chicago; and for San Francisco Opera.

A Grammy Award winning artist, she has recorded prolifically. On television she has appeared on the BBC in 'Maestro', as Belinda (Dido and Aeneas) and as host of her own series 'A Touch of Classics'.



Owain Arwel Hughes was born in Cardiff, the son of another successful musician, composer Arwel Hughes. He studied at University College, Cardiff and the Royal College of Music.



In a career spanning 40 years, Owain Arwel Hughes has conducted and recorded many of the world's leading orchestras. In November 2007 he was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra. As Founder and Artistic Director, Owain Arwel Hughes is the driving force behind the success of the Cardiff Welsh Proms. Committed to the highest level of music education for the young he accepted the position of Music Director of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales in 2003, the oldest such youth orchestra in the world

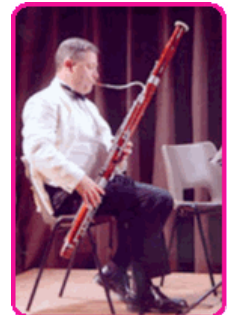
He has held the titles of Associate Conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra, London, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Principal Associate Conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and was Principal Conductor of the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra, Denmark. Between 1980 and 1986 Owain Arwel Hughes was Conductor of the world famous Huddersfield Choral Society.

Owain Arwel Hughes' contribution to music has been marked with honorary doctorates and fellowships at nine universities and conservatoires. In 2004 in recognition of his services to music and charity he was awarded an OBE and in January 2009 he was the recipient of a CBE.

Christopher Vale studied at the Royal College of Music under Kerry Camden. He achieved the highest College Grade, and won the Arthur Somerville Bassoon Prize.

He gained his A.R.C.M. in Bassoon and A R C M (teachers dip) in Piano.

He is at present Sub-principal Bassoon doubling Contra at Welsh National Opera. Previous to this he was principal Bassoon with the New Sadlers Wells Opera, also principal Bassoon for Orchestral Services, involving work with the Cuban, Australian and Houston Ballet Companies.



Christopher also has helped to start the training orchestra at the JMAS. He is involved as coach and conductor with the Welsh National Opera youth opera and is involved as project Co-ordinator for The Young Players Project. He has been Acting Head of the Junior Music and Access Studies at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and now works on outreach projects at the College as well as being a MAX project co-ordinator for Welsh National Opera.

You can read their full biographies on our website www.musicinthevale.org.uk

Keeping Up With Our News...

All of our Newsletters can be found on our web site www.musicinthevale.org.uk which now also includes a new Alumni page listing previous winners and their up-to date achievements. For more information, email the secretary@musicinthevale.org.uk or telephone 01446 771318.