

## A Wonderful Weekend of Music Making—2005

The Vale of Glamorgan can be justly proud of its talented young singers and musicians. The staging for the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the Young Musician of the Year competition held at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, Barry. The committee of Music in the Vale were delighted at the number of entrants and the high standard of musicianship again this year. The event for singers took place on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> November involving preliminary rounds during the day in the 3 age groups, culminating in the evening's Gala Concert for 11 finalists. In total the event attracted 27 entrants.

The adjudicators for the Young Singer of the Year event were well known local singing experts Jeannette Massocchi and Mair Roberts who commented how thrilled they had been at the high standard of singing through their busy day of adjudicating. The evening concert was warmly compered by retired headmistress Margaret Hemmings OBE who commenced the evening by welcoming the Mayors of Barry, Penarth and Cowbridge who came to support the occasion. She warmly put contestants at their ease as she welcomed them to the stage.

Twelve year old Lisa Medi from Cowbridge won the Junior section and was awarded the Walter Parr Memorial Shield. Lisa is 12 years old, comes from Cowbridge and is a pupil at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg. Lisa sang a varied programme of *Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind* by Arne, *The Little Dustman* by Brahms, *Migaldi Migaldi* a traditional Welsh song and *I Could Have Danced All Night* by Lowe. The runner-up was 12 year old Lauren Brooks from Wick and also pupil from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg. The two other finalists were 11 year old Emily Langford from Cowbridge and 11 year old Chloe Davies also from Cowbridge. Chloe was the recipient of the Brinley Edmunds Memorial Cup for being the most promising young singer resident in the Vale of Glamorgan.

In the Intermediate section the 1<sup>st</sup> prize and Miriam Fairhurst Shield was awarded to 16 year old Menna Davies from Pontypridd who attends Bishop of Llandaff school. Her programme included *Giardini's Voi Amanti*, *Che Vedete*, *Die Forelle* by Schubert and *Little Polly Flinders* by Michael Diack. The runner up was 14 year old Ellen Williams from Cowbridge and pupil at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg. The two other finalists were 16 year old Daisy Evans from Siginstone and 14 year old Jessica Morris from Cowbridge.

The title "Vale Young Singer of the Year" and winner of the Senior Section, who received the Brinley Edmunds Shield, was 22 year old Adele Knox from Cardiff. She sang *In Vomini* from Mozart's *Così fan Tutti*, *Melodiam* by Brahms and *Be Kind and Courteous* by Britten. Runner up was 20 year old Keri Thompson from Cardiff and the other finalist was 22 year old Anne Marie Paton also from Cardiff.

Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> November was the turn of the Instrumentalists. The distinguished and experienced adjudicators, Jeannette Massocchi and Alun John spent a busy day listening to 28 young and talented musicians. The Gala Concert in the evening included in its guests Jane Hutt AM, Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Cllr

Margaret Alexander and her Consort Bonnie Bellis, Mayor of Barry Cllr Sten Strom, Mayor of Llantwit Major, Cllr Dave Lane, and the Mayor of Penarth Cllr Charles Curran and guest. Comper for the evening was retired head teacher Barri Hurford-Jones who has been a stalwart supporter of this competition for many years. The adjudicators expressed their view again of the high standard throughout the evening. Their judging had been based not only on technical excellence but on the enjoyment of performing.

Benjamin Patel, 11 year old Oboist from Llancafarn won the Junior section and received the Cliff and Mary Wakeham Shield. Benjamin delighted the appreciative audience with *Orientele* by Harty, *Siciliana* from *Concerto in C minor* by Cimarosa, and *Allegro Giusto* by Cimarosa. Runner up was 10 year old Ben Tarlton, Cellist from Llantwit Major and the two other finalists were 12 year old Hannah Ballinger (Clarinet) from Llantrisant and 12 year old Betty Atkins (Trumpet) from Penarth.

The winner of the Intermediate Section, who was awarded the Shaw Duffy Shield, was very accomplished 13 year old Rachel Patel, Clarinettist from Llancafarn who played 1<sup>st</sup> movement from *Sonata in Eb* by Brahms and 1<sup>st</sup> movement *Sonatina* by Arnold. Runner up was 14 year old Rose Stuart, Flautist from Cardiff. The other finalists were 14 year old Charlotte Clist (Violin) from Cowbridge and 15 year old Marged Hall (Harp) from St Hilary.

Erin Sawicka, 20 years old and from Penarth, won the Vale Young Instrumentalist of the Year title and the Leslie Tusler Shield. Erin has been a successful contestant in previous years and is currently studying Music at Birmingham University. She entranced the audience with *Sonata in G* by Scarlatti and *Toccata* by Khachaturian. The Runner-up was Hannah Gill from Cardiff and the 3 other finalists were William Tandy (Euphonium) from Cardiff, Louise Quick (Violin) from Cardiff and Will Stuart (Piano) from Cardiff.

The Hedley Davis Shield presented to the most promising young instrumentalist in the Vale of Glamorgan was this year awarded to two very gifted siblings Rachel and Benjamin Patel. Both brother and sister have a catalogue of musical successes behind them including previous successes in this competition and are both members of the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain.

Music in the Vale exists to promote excellence and enjoyment of musical performance and this year's event again did not disappoint. The success of this event is due to the hard work and dedication of all its entrants whether they reached the final stage or not and thanks were extended to all the young music makers by Mary Edmunds, Chairman of Music in The Vale, in her address at the end of this wonderful weekend of music. Appreciation and thanks were extended to Susan Bird, Sally Tarlton and Steven Burges who were the event's official accompanists. Thanks were also extended to all the main sponsors of the event: the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Fordthorne of Cardiff, Dan Evans of Barry and to all those who made individual contributions to keep this important cultural event in the Vale calendar alive for another year.

# Annual General Meeting

**To be held at the Vale of Glamorgan Civic Offices at 7:00pm  
on Tuesday, 7th February, 2006  
followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the new Committee**

## AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last A.G.M held 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2005
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Officers
  - Chairman
  - Vice Chairman
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
  - Minutes Secretary
  - Publicity Officer
  - Membership Secretary
  - Committee Members

### **Everyone is welcome to join us at our 2006 A.G.M.**

Please note, if you would like to become a committee member or want to nominate someone onto the committee, or if you have any item you wish added to the Agenda, please contact our Chairman by 31 January, 2006. Mrs Mary Edmunds, 5 Porth-y-Castell, Barry, CF62 6QA Tel: 01446 735378

### **Chairman's plea for Members....**

Your support will be much appreciated and your views much valued. Please join us in 2006 to make this year's competition even better. Just send your cheque for £5 per person to the secretary or to the above address.