



# newsletter

March 2008

music in the vale  
where music comes to life  
lle daw cerddoriaeth yn fyw

Dear Member

We are enclosing membership cards for those of you who have paid for this year (Jan to Dec 2008) and thank you very much for your support. If you are a little late subscribing for this year don't worry, it's not too late at all. Just pop a cheque in the post for £5 per person with your names and address and I will send you your cards by return.

Keep your card safe because this year Members will have FREE entry to the Competition Concerts on presentation of their card - on BOTH evenings.

We hope you like our 'new image'? All is revealed over. And now for some more news.....

## exhibition performances

On Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April there will be an opportunity for you to see some of our finalists performing again. Councillor Margaret Alexander, the Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, has invited Music in the Vale's finalists to gain experience in playing to a live audience. The Gallery at the Town Hall in Barry is to be re-launched as "Arts Central", an exhibition gallery for use by people as well as the Council..

The re-launch will be promoted by a Town Crier and the Mayor inviting people to join him at the Gallery, between 11am and 1pm, to view the new exhibition by the Merchant Navy Association and have a free cup of fair trade tea/coffee. The Merchant Navy Assoc. are actually having the Freedom of the County Borough of the Vale of Glamorgan bestowed on them on the Saturday before the exhibition.

It will be an informal affair with people attending the exhibition, milling around viewing the exhibits whilst listening to some beautiful music.

We hope to see you there.

## november competition

This year we have moved the competition to the last weekend of November, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, in the hope that more young people will be encouraged to enter. Please note these dates in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you then.

## marketing launch at the senedd

On Friday the 7th of March an enthusiastic group of music lovers, performers, parents and committee members of Music in the Vale gathered at the exquisite Senedd building in Cardiff Bay. Jane Hutt, a dedicated supporter of Music in the Vale, initiated this third twilight reception which was an opportunity for our talented young finalists to perform in the wonderful Senedd Atrium with its amazing acoustics. The evening reception also acknowledged the enthusiastic voluntary work of Music in the Vale, which has provided a platform for singers and instrumentalists for over 15 years.

It is especially thanks to the commitment and many hours of hard work put in by our Chairman, Ann Humphrey, that a successful grant application was made to the Arts Council for Wales, and funds have now been made available for marketing materials to raise awareness of Music in the Vale. Fortunately the three tall, dramatic display screens were ready in time to launch Music in the Vale's new corporate identity at this first 'extramural' performance opportunity for our 2007 finalists. As you can see, the design of the screens matched the challenge of this prestigious venue with its stunning back-drop of the bay. Ann Humphrey explained to the audience "we are proud to place each performer before such super screen backdrops which now give us a more modern and contemporary image to take us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century."



At this year's event we were able to offer nine of last year's finalists the opportunity to perform. Ben Tarlton on cello aged 12, winner of the Junior Young Instrumentalist opened the evening, followed by Emily Langford aged 13, Junior Young Singer winner, Megan Morris on harp, aged 14, winner of the Intermediate class and Ellen Williams aged 17 winner of the Intermediate Singer class.

The winners of our first ever Vocal Ensemble class then performed for us - Ellen Williams and Lisa Medi aged 14 and both from Cowbridge, followed by our instrumental ensemble winners, Rosie Akass from Penarth and Anna Salisbury aged 16 from Barry played their violins.

Solo, runner up in the Intermediate Singer competition, Jade Curnik, aged 16 was next to perform, followed by Jamie Clark aged 17 from Cowbridge, winner of the Senior Young Instrumentalist title and Leigh Coggins aged 21, runner up in the Senior Young Singer category. It was a truly rich selection of performances enjoyed by an appreciative audience.

Ann Humphrey rounded off the evening by acknowledging the financial support of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Arts Council of Wales, Penarth Round Table and LEL Properties and thanked all the committee, performers, accompanists, adjudicators, comperes and volunteers who "all combine together every November to give us a wonderful weekend of competition and concerts".

A DVD of the Senedd performances is available from the secretary for a donation of £10.00 or £7.50 to members.

Secretary, Six Wells Farmhouse, Vale Business Park, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan CF71 7PF  
T 01446 771911 E [secretary@musicinthevale.org.uk](mailto:secretary@musicinthevale.org.uk) W [www.musicinthevale.org.uk](http://www.musicinthevale.org.uk)