



newsletter

August 2008

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

Dear Members and Supporters

Yes folks, the competition countdown has started and the committee are extremely optimistic that this year is going to see the largest entry yet of our local young talent. Why? Well, we have been taking every opportunity to use our new marketing tools, which as we reported in our last newsletter, were generously funded by a 75% Arts Council for Wales grant. Have you spotted any of our publicity around?

Over the past few months, members of the committee have been travelling around the area, delivering and collecting the pop up screens and leaflets. So far they have been displayed at the Senedd, the Music Department of Cardiff University and the Friary in Cardiff where the youth orchestras meet to practise.

This year we have moved the competition to the last weekend of November - the 29th and 30th. Please note these dates in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you there.

website

You may also have had occasion recently to look at our website (image below) at www.musicinthevale.org.uk. This has been updated in line with our new image and has given our amateur web-master, Phil Bowers, many hours of challenges (he's also called them by other names***!!). This is a very time consuming process so please bear with us while we slowly update each page and respective links etc. However, the site is already getting lots of hits and the search engines usually bring our site up on their first page, so well done Phil.

The biggest success of the web site from the organisation's point of view is the facility to access entry forms and rules etc. Of last year's new entrants, 98% printed their forms off the internet. There is also the added advantage that all the information about the competition, opportunities and our organisation is available at the touch of a button – no more phoning and waiting for the post to arrive.



RSS FEED – Really Simple Syndication is a relatively new and easy way to distribute content via the Internet. When you visit our site, simply click the RSS icon on the home page and subscribe to the feed. Important news and informative messages from the website are then automatically fed to your computer when you open Internet Explorer (you may need to find and open the RSS Folder to view the feeds).

tesco stage - wales millennium centre

Following a meeting with the organisers at the Wales Millennium Centre, they have generously offered Music in the Vale three performance slots on the Tesco Stage over the next 12 months. When we contacted last year's finalists to offer them this additional performance opportunity it was received with tremendous enthusiasm.... some are even returning early from their holidays in order to take part.

When is the first performance? **Saturday, 9th August – 12:45-1:45.** We do hope that you will be able to come and enjoy their performance experiences with them. For those who have not yet visited the WMC, the Tesco Stage is situated in the foyer and provides free performances most lunch times and evenings – ranging from professionals to young hopefuls. You can find their calendar of events on the WMC website address www.wmc.org.uk/index.cfm?alias=events

The other two dates for your diaries, which will of course feature our (2 week old) 2008 competition winners, are **Saturday, 13th December – 11:45 to 12:45** and then on **Friday 27th March 2009 – 6:15 to 7:15.**

We are hoping the first event will be a resounding success and that the WMC will continue to offer this fantastic opportunity to all of our future winners for years to come.

making music

Making Music is a national organisation which represents and supports amateur and semi-professional music groups of all genres throughout the United Kingdom, providing a comprehensive range of artistic and administrative services as well as development and training opportunities.

The Charities Act 2006 means that Music in the Vale now qualifies as a Charitable Organisation and this new status also qualifies us for membership of Making Music.

One major advantage of our membership is the very cost effective source of Employers and Public Liability Insurance they provide in the form of a block scheme available to all full members. If you would like to know more about their organisation, their website is www.makingmusic.org.uk

membership

Just to remind you all, if you haven't yet sent in your membership cheque for 2008, it's not too late. A minimum of £5 per person will get you membership and free entry to both Competition Concerts on presentation of your membership card.

If you would like a 'greener' version of this newsletter in the form of an email attachment, please email the secretary with your preference. All Newsletters can also be found on our website.