

## **Abergavenny Eisteddfod Gala concert**

Abergavenny Eisteddfod's evening concert at the Borough Theatre on June 15 was the culmination of a day's preliminary competitions held at the Castle Street Methodist Church. A real test of stamina for accompanists Jeanette Massocchi and James Joseph, for the helpers and adjudicators, all of whom reappeared to manage the evening's entertainment.

First on were the four acts who had most impressed the adjudicators at the afternoon competitions for 11-18 year olds. The evening audience clearly enjoyed the sparkling performances by pianist Molly Bradley, tenor trombonist Rhiannon Symonds, singer Caitlin Prowle and harpists Lisa and Cara. All received cash prizes from John Henry Davies, President of King Henry VIII Former Pupils' Association, as well as warm appreciation from the audience.

The evening adjudicators were Bethan Dudley Fryar and Vivien Care, both well-known professional singers and coaches, and cellist and choirmaster Peter Esswood, who adjudicated the instrumental competitions. Peter spoke on behalf of them all in praising the competitors during the day for the high standard of their performances, and saying how difficult it had been to select three or four performers only to appear on stage for each competition in the evening.

Robin Davies from the Lady Llanover Society presented first prize for the vocal solo under 25 to Megan Dee from Nant-y-glo, who was familiar to eisteddfod regulars from her many appearances in the 11-18 competitions, before leaving south Wales to study at the London College of Music.

Anastasia Kryvanos, a student from the Royal College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, won the instrumental solo, sponsored by the Abergavenny Local History Society, and the song from a musical was won by Eloise Rossiter from Newport, with an enchanting, light-hearted rendition of *Practically Perfect* from Mary Poppins. Councillor Sheila Woodhouse, Mayor of Abergavenny and Councillor David Dovey, Chairman of Monmouthshire County Council, came on stage to make a joint presentation of the £100 prize.

Seasoned national eisteddfod performers John Davies from Llandybie and Jennifer Parry from Llangynidr won the duet competition, with *Home to our Mountain* from Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, and Efan Williams from Lledrod near Tregaron came first in the Welsh solo, sponsored by Abergavenny Cymreigyddion, with *Llanrwst* by Gareth Glyn. Crowning the evening, Clive Howells presented the Abergavenny Rotary Club's Champion Solo award, claimed this year by Newport baritone Andrew Jenkins, singing *Vision Fugitive* from Massenet's *Herodiade*.

### **Full list of winners**

Under 25 solo

1. Megan Dee, Nant-y-glo
2. Helen Davies, Porthcawl
3. Eleanor Nicholson, Chepstow

Instrumental solo

1. Anastasia Kryvanos, guitar, Cardiff
2. John ap Evans, piano, Blaenafon

#### Duet

1. John Davies & Jennifer Parry, Llandybie/Llangynidr
2. Marianne Powell & Helen Pugh, Aberystwyth/Llandeilo
- = 3. Michael Lee & Beatrice Hayes, Chepstow
- = 3. Eleanor Nicholson & Caroline Hayes, Chepstow

#### Song from a Musical

1. Eloise Rossiter, Newport
2. Megan Dee, Nant-y-glo
3. Andrew Jenkins, Newport

#### Welsh Solo

1. Efan Williams, Lledrod
2. David Maybury, Maesteg
3. John Davies, Llandybie

#### Champion Solo

1. Andrew Jenkins, Newport
2. Peter Totterdale, Neath
3. John Davies, Llandybie
4. Philip Watkins, Llandovery