

2017 Festival News from Arun Young Musicians

This weekend saw the completion of our 2017 Festival with the Gala Concert at the Steyning Centre on Sunday.

What a concert it was with six instrumentalists, six voice and a choir. The range was great from ragtime to classical, musicals to modern and classics.

Our untried venue , the Steyning Centre, was of high standard as was another new scene, Littlehampton Baptist Church for the classes.

Having seen so many of our young musicians grow up and move on to university and college recently it was lovely to welcome so many new young faces at the classes and concert, setting a high quality standard and enabling them to gain confidence in public performance.

This year's Arun Young Musician was James Dew on cello. James also won the Raven Cup. James will be one to watch in the future.

Kira Hyde on recorder won the Rotary Club of Littlehampton award as most promising young musician and the Vi Casey trophy as Arun Young Musician runner up. Never let it be said recorders are for schools only.

The recently formed Littlehampton Academy Choir led by Jon Mizler and Lisa Lyons showed us just what they could do with " Only We Know " to win the Arun Choral Society Shield and award

Bursaries were awarded to Catherine Brewer on violin (Sinfonia Bursary) who gave a beautiful playing of Gavi's song and Emily Williams the Angmering Chorale Bursary for her singing of " Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man of Mine " into which she put great strength of feeling. Emily also won the Susannah Flegg Trophy.

Ashtyn Roworth sang her heart out to win the Paul Blackwell Trophy with " Owls ".

The Rustington Music Group Trophy for young instrumentalists of under 12 was awarded to Jaziel Suresh. Not only did he play beautifully but had been poorly till the night before, so doubly brave.

Our other performers completed the afternoon with their first rate contributions , Isabelle Walton singing the Cloths of Heaven and

Amelie Beauchamp “ O Holy Night . Other singers were Rosalind Dyer “ Callers”and Emily Higgs as a French Chef with “ Les Poissons “

Instrumentalists Oliver Beverton” Apres un Reve” (cello) and Ben Ward “Cubana Peppermint Rag “(guitar) added to our interesting mix.

We were honoured to have distinguished adjudicators from the British and International Federation of Festivals, Ben Costello and Richard Haslam. Ben is a member of the Court of Royal Society of Musicians and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians and Richard a Moderator for GCSE Music and an a Level examiner.

George Jones compered with his usual flair & ability to think on his feet and our official accompanist Rudi Eastwood (Young Musician 1997) provided a suite of three piano pieces to keep us entertained during the break for the tough decision making at the end.

We begin working towards next year this Tuesday. Thank you for your support