



Jenifer with husband, John Pressdee, Honorary Treasurer of CFMDS

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

Hello everyone! It has been a long winter and we are now heading towards Summer with warmer temperatures hopefully!

Throughout the early months of 2016 we have been busy with our annual competitive Festival of Music, Dance & Speech and by all accounts it has been a resounding success. The Festival is now done and dusted followed by our Festival Concert held in Westbourne House School which reflected the high standards achieved by many of our competitors across the sections. The Concert attracted a large audience and a number of VIPs who were very impressed with this year's quality of performance.

The concert gives us a platform to allow our competitors to perform in front of an appreciative audience as well as to encourage them to seriously consider moving their aspirations forward towards a professional career. I have often referred to the Concert to be the "jewel in our crown" and it certainly shone brightly this year! No sooner does our Festival finish that we have to reflect on the organisation, the venues and the costs involved of running what is now deemed to be a very important part of Chichester and Bognor Regis. We are always open to receiving new ideas as well as the offer of voluntary help which is always welcome. Please do send in your comments or queries via our Honorary Secretary cfmdssec@gmail.com for consideration by my Committee.

Our forthcoming Recital is in aid of two charities this year. First of all our own bi-annual John Warner Competition (for supporting an adult singer whose ambition is to follow a professional career) and secondly the local branch of Save the Children Fund. The Recital is on Friday 1st July - look within this newsletter for full details. Peter Rice is very kindly co-ordinating the evening for which we are very grateful.

With many thanks to all our helpers for their support throughout the Festival this year for which I am truly grateful without whom we would be struggling. Do tell your friends about this wonderful event and spread the word for even more success in the future.

Have a good summer.

Jenifer Pressdee LGSM, ANEA

Chairman, Chichester Festival for Music, Dance and Speech

Provisional dates for the 2017 Festival

Please note that the following dates are provisional and may be subject to change. We will post the confirmed dates on our website as soon as possible.



Guitar (Junior)	4 th & 5 th February	Orchestras & Bands	4 th March
Speech & Drama	4 th & 5 th February	Recorders	4 th March
Musical Theatre	4 th February	Junior Singing	4 th & 5 th March
Guitar (Senior)	11 th & 12 th February	Choirs	11 th March
Adult Singing	17 th & 18 th February	Woodwind	11 th March
Dance	18 th to 22 nd February	Piano	11 th & 12 th March
Brass	4 th March	Strings	11 th & 12 th March

Our Festival Concert will be held on 26th March.



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Jenifer Pressdee LGSM, ANES

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2016 Festival Concert

This year's concert was really exceptional. The following report comes from Jenie Pressdee, with photographs by Liz Cruttenden.

Our special guests in attendance this year were our Patrons the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Chichester, Councillor Peter Budge; the Chairman of the Chichester District Council, Mr Nick Thomas and Mr John Rank. Our President, Mr Ron Williams and his wife Margaret; Vice-Presidents, Mrs Clare Apel, Mr Christopher Doman and Mrs Rosemary Edbury. The Chairman of the Chichester Branch of the Decorative & Fine Arts Society, Mrs Rhoda Sheppard and fellow member Mrs Pat Martin and the Town Crier of Chichester, Mr Richard Plowman. Also in attendance were the three Presidents of the Rotary Clubs of Chichester, Chichester Priory and Chichester Harbour namely Mr Tim Reedman, Mr Peter Haydn-Jones and Mrs Lucy Hopkins respectively who were there to judge and select the best Junior and best Senior performances of the Concert. Sadly apologies were received from the Mayor of Bognor Regis, Councillor Mrs Jeanette Warr and Vice-President, Mr Graham Garfield Sharples and Rebecca Cooke.



by John Sousa which gave a rousing start to the evening. This was followed by the "Mermaid of Zennor" by Philip Harper which was beautifully orchestrated and conducted by Musical Director, Mr Tim Cooper.

Compere for the evening Paula Tinker then welcomed everyone and introduced our youngest performers from the "Pop Up Club" based in Emsworth who took us to "The Circus" through their chosen thematic group performance. This was delightful and very entertaining with the ringmaster and all the various circus characters such as the tightrope walker and acrobats.

Among those in the first half were the junior choir "Oakwood Acorns" from Oakwood School who sang "Pulse 8" by Kevin Stannard and "Rollerghoster" by Alan Simmons. Conducted by Jo Wardroper these were highly entertaining performances although the choir numbers were depleted due to a school ski trip!

Lily Merritt-Birch expressively recited "Chameleon" by Alan Brownjohn which won her 1st place in the set poem for Age 7 years.

Kaitlyn Moore and Victoria Hitchens followed with Dance solos both classical and modern. The Dance section also provided two excellent tap dances by Lydia-Mae Locke with "Nut Rocker" and Heather Bryant with "I Got Rhythm" which were later followed by national solo dances by Lily Butler (Chinese) and Coralie Hunt (Irish). These were set off by their excellent costumes and appropriate make-up.

Some excellent individual performances were given by 9 year old Cornet player, Rose-Marie Moncrieffe, whose choice was "America" and "One Hand, One Heart" from 'West Side Story' by Bernstein. Also 21 year old Guitarist, Alexander Hart, is definitely a name to look out for in the future. His piece "Tarantella" by JK Mertz was a joy to observe in that he makes classical guitar playing seem so natural and easy. The Prebendal School Recorder Ensemble were also on form on the night with their renditions of "Allemande" by Gervaise and "Caribbean Carnival" by Paul Mann.

The enjoyment of performing was shared with the audience and finished the first half with the male Glendale Boys Group with their modern take on "Revolution" by Chris de Burgh.

This was an electric and impressive performance. As the Dance Adjudicator said during the Festival itself "there is nothing more powerful than seeing an all male group dance together".

The second half opened with the Chichester Youth Guitar Ensemble conducted by Linda Kelsall. "Let's Take The Flipside" by Cees Hartog and "Pavane Pour Une Infant Defunte" by Ravel were interesting pieces and technically absorbing.

Woodwind was represented by a very competent Hannah Wardrop who played "Il Cantilena" from Sonata for Flute and Piano by F. Poulenc. The dance duo Abi Lobo and Leah Rose Gardiner took the stage next with their Cabaret Duet "Lunch Break" which was quirky and amusing highlighting their effortless moves and clean story-telling.

In the second half we also saw solo dances by the remaining three of our four Victor Ludorum winners, Victoria having performed earlier. These were Cleo Badcock's enchanting Ballet solo and Chrissie Bhima and Saskia Whittles highly entertaining Song and Dance numbers. Dance Industry's Ballet Group showed why they were this year's winners of the Diana Taylor Statuette for Best Ballet Performance with a strong display of pointe work.

Intermediate Champion, Alyssia Jansz, aged 13 confidently recited her poem "Gloria, My Little Sister" by Russell Hoban and captivated her audience with excellent timing and clearly spoken verse.



Other Speech & Drama candidates Cameron and Charlotte Cragg demonstrated their own devised scene for the Family Class using sight-reading skills from "Alice in Wonderland" and reciting from memory TS Eliot's "Jellicle Cats" for which they gained a Distinction in the Festival.

The Singing section was represented by Isla Sturrock, Emily Stimpson and Rachel Green who in the interval was presented with the Joyce Foote MBE Memorial Trophy. Musical Theatre was represented by Pollyanna Gailer who sang "Popular" from the musical "Wicked" by Schwartz and Holzman. Young Harpist, Rachel Wright, studying at Grade 1-2 level took to the floor to play "Nocturne" from Trois Pieces by Marcel Grandjny.

This was outstanding for one so young and her stage presence and sense of performance was admirable. Both James Dew and Kenji Luc also from the Strings section gave us another outstanding performance with their Cello Duet "Trois Pieces; Tamborino, Tempo Di Minuetto and Giga" by F. Giardini. This was followed by Emily Alexander from Chichester University who has only been playing the piano for five years! Her chosen piece was "Le Catoroc" from "Sarnia" by John Ireland and was evocative of the Guernsey terrain.

The final performance of the Concert was quite remarkable in that it had such an impact on those of us in the audience as it was so powerful and brilliantly executed by the Glendale Modern Group of dancers with "El Tango De Roxanne". The costumes were impeccable with strong Spanish colours of red and contrasted with black. The sole male dancer in the group was in command and dominated his female ensemble throughout bringing the whole scene to a truly dramatic conclusion. Quite breathtaking to say the least! This performance was chosen by the Rotary representatives as the Most Entertaining Performance of the evening with Victoria Hitchens' Modern Dance Solo winning the junior award.

Organised by Committee member, Helen Phillips, and her backstage crew, it was a memorable and exciting Concert this year which provided plenty of variety to show off the full spectrum of the Festival classes. We are very lucky to have such excellent teachers in our area who work hard to bring out the best in their candidates. With their encouragement and expertise we look forward to future Festivals.

Introducing our Sections

The people organising and driving each of our sections are key to the continued success of the Festival, and we thought you might like to know a little more about them. In this issue we feature Liz Cruttenden.



Liz Cruttenden (Dance)

Born in south London Liz came to Chichester for teacher training in the late 1970s and stayed. An enthusiastic amateur across the performing arts Liz was never able to totally commit to one area and she returned to what is now Chichester University for a degree in Related Arts where she could indulge her passions for dance, music and drama alongside the visual and literary arts.

Shortly after moving to Chichester she began to help with the Dance section of the Festival and has now been connected with the section for more than 35 years. Liz's career has been largely in the visual and applied arts as a photographer and more recently a textile artist. She is married and husband Michael is a crucial part of the Dance Festival team.

Liz has been Vice Chairman of CFMDS for a number of years now and is also the Festival Safeguarding Officer.

Section Leader for Woodwind

The Woodwind section of our 2016 Festival was very successfully managed by a team effort from several Committee members, but we do still need a new leader for the section.

If you feel you could help, or think you know of someone who may be interested, do please get in touch with our Secretary, Mary Smith, via the Festival website. Running a section of the Festival is an immensely rewarding job, and we're a friendly and welcoming group. You can be sure you won't be thrown in at the deep end and we'll do all we can to give all the support, advice and guidance you need.

Every year, the Festival gives many hundreds of young (and perhaps not so young) performers the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills, and to receive professional feedback and encouragement from acknowledged experts in their field.

Why not join us and become a part of something exciting and worthwhile.

Photo Galleries

We now have two photo galleries on our website. The first is a collection of images by Liz Cruttenden, taken during our 2016 Concert. The second is a group of photographs of some of this year's class winners taken by Jenie Pressdee. Some of these photographs appear in this newsletter, but space constraints prevent our including more.

Do please visit our site to see the full collection.



Summer Recital - Friday 1st July 2016 7pm

We are delighted to announce preliminary details of our Summer Recital. Performers will include James Dew (cello), Victoria Fitzpatrick (singing), Poppy McGee (recorder/violin) and Cameron and Charlotte Cragg (speech and drama).

We are very grateful to John Rank for allowing us to present

the recital in the delightful surroundings of St Mary's, Sennicotts.

Tickets will be just £12, please continue to check our website for details of ticket availability. Do please keep this date free for what promises to be a memorable evening!

Content for our next Newsletter

If you have something you'd like us to include, we'd very much like to hear from you. Perhaps you have a special memory of a past Festival, news of a former Festival entrant, or thoughts on how you'd like to see the Festival developing for the future.

Please send in your ideas to our secretary, Mary Smith, using the email contact page on our website.



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Website www.cfmds.org.uk