

WONDERFUL FINISH TO YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL

The Parish Centre at St Comgall's has once again gone back to normal use after what was another fabulous Choral Festival! The choirs may have all gone back home, the Organisers may be taking a well earned rest, at least for a couple of weeks before next year's Festival plans begin, but the Festival memories will live on in the hearts and minds of all the competitors, organisers, Adjudicators and audience alike. Every year the Festival just gets better and better and this year was no exception with the choral standard extremely high giving the Adjudicators a very hard task in making their judgements.

Some of the choirs were seasoned Festival competitors but we also had several new choirs competing for the first time with all of them commenting on the friendly welcome they received and how much they enjoyed their first competitive choral experience. The Festival Organisers would like to thank all of the competing choirs for the hard work and effort put into their performances.

From primary schools through to Adult Choirs the wonderful choral sound was heard over the four days of competitions, outside the venue as well as inside, as some of our choirs rehearsed in the sunshine. The Primary School competitions were exceptional with local choirs taking several first and second places. The Saturday Youth and Adult competitions in particular displayed camaraderie between the choirs which emphasized the aims of the Festival - all inclusive, friendly atmosphere, high standard of competitions but with overwhelming support for all the competitors from all of the competitors, which the Adjudicators commented upon.

The Special School competition was again an amazing day with all the children participating and enjoying every minute and, of course, they enjoyed their party lunch afterwards! We welcomed back our friends from Oaklands School in Cheshire for and it was great for everyone to catch up again! In fact the Adjudicators awarded Oaklands School the Tourism Ireland Trophy for the Best Visiting Choir from outside the island of Ireland – what a wonderful accolade for the school. The trophy for the Best Northern Ireland choir went to another wonderful choir - Cantamus from Derry.

Saturday's competitions gave the Adjudicators Rob Elliott and Donal McCrisken plenty of difficult decisions to make due to the exceptionally high standard of the choirs resulting in very close marks. Indeed there were several outstanding performances over the four days which were highlighted by the Adjudicators – one in particular by Our Lady and St Patrick's Grammar School, which warranted and received a standing ovation.

However, at the end of the Saturday competitions and indeed the end of the Festival, it was home grown talent which won the day. With very little separating the top two choirs, it was Strathearn Chamber Choir who won the prestigious Open Choral Award with the Open Arts Community Choir coming a very close second.

So roll on Festival 2017 – 5-8 April - when we hopefully will see new choirs and many others return again for even more choral friendly rivalry!

For more information on Festival 2017 please visit the website www.bicf.co.uk

Bangor International Choral Festival 2016 - Results

Post Primary Choir (15 years & under)

1. Loreto College, Coleraine
2. Beech Hill College, Monaghan

Grammar School Choir (19 years & under)

1. Glenlola Collegiate School, Bango

Secondary/ High School Choir (19 years & under)

1. Bangor Academy & Sixth Form College
2. Beech Hill College, Monaghan

Primary School Choir (8 years & under)

1. Castle Gardens Primary School, Newtownards
2. Glencraig Integrated Primary School, Holywood

Primary School (Musical Highlights)

1. Rathmore Primary School, Bangor
2. Millisle Primary School

Primary School Choir (small enrolment)

1. Millisle Primary School
2. Castle Gardens Primary School, Newtownards

Primary School Choir (under 30 singers)

1. Castle Gardens Primary School, Newtownards
2. Grange Park Primary School, Bangor

Primary School Choir (Sacred Music)

1. Downshire Primary School, Hillsborough
2. Orangefield Primary School, Belfast

Primary School Choir (over 30 singers)

1. Ballyholme Primary School, Bangor
2. Rathmore Primary School, Bangor

Special School Choir (SLD)

1. Parkview School, Lisburn
2. Clifton School, Bangor

Special School (MLD)

1. Oaklands School, Cheshire
2. Harberton School P5 Choir, Belfast

Community Choir

1. Mraane Ayns Arrang, Isle of Man

Youth Choir

1. Ean Ceoll, Girls Chamber Choir, Knock, Belfast

Folk Song

1. Mraane Ayns Arrang, Isle of Man
2. Rosinka Russian Choir

Barbershop Ensemble

1. Open Arts Barbershop Ensemble, Belfast

A Capella Chorus

1. Our Lady & St Patrick's College, Knock, Belfast

Ladies Choir

1. Ean Ceoll, Girls Chamber Choir, Knock, Belfast
2. Gracenotes, Belfast

Male Voice Choir

1. Portadown Male Voice Choir
2. Rosemount Male Voice Choir, Derry

Mixed Voice Choir

1. Cantamus, Derry
2. Our Lady & St Patrick's College Chamber Choir, Knock, Belfast

Sacred Music

1. Portadown Male Voice Choir
2. Portadown Ladies Choir

Light Entertainment

1. Open Arts Community Choir, Belfast
2. Lisburn Harmony Ladies Choir

Open Choral

1. Strathearn Chamber Choir, Belfast
2. Open Arts Community Choir, Belfast

Margaret Green Salver (Primary Sacred Music)

Downshire Primary School, Hillsborough

George Best Belfast City Airport Trophy

Our Lady & St Patrick's Chamber Choir, Knock, Belfast

Marion McLarnon Trophy (Sacred Music)

Portadown Male Voice Choir

Isobel Reid Rosebowl

Our Lady & St Patrick's College Chamber Choir, Knock, Belfast

Marine Court Shield

Cantamus, Derry

Best Northern Ireland Choir Trophy

Cantamus, Derry

Tourism Ireland Trophy

Oaklands School, Cheshire