

Sept 2020

## HASTINGS MUSICAL FESTIVAL NEWS



Newsletter for Friends/Volunteers of Hastings Musical Festival

### 2021 FESTIVAL!

Hastings Musical Festival is going Virtual! Entry Date is 1st October 2020.

We want to continue to offer our wonderful Musical Festival experience to all those who wish to enter. We have decided to hold a virtual Festival this year and will return to our home at The White Rock Theatre in 2022.

We will still be using our talented adjudicators who are registered with The British and International Federation of Festivals and all the entrants will receive their Crit sheet and Certificate by email.

Through the **playandperform** platform entrants will be able to safely upload videos for adjudicators to judge. Videos can be uploaded anytime from 1st October to closing date on 31st January 2021 and all the details of how to upload will be available on **playandperform**, which can be accessed through our website.

Our Dance adjudicator is Sharon Wood FIDTA. She is an All England Dance adjudicator, so this will be a great opportunity for dance entrants to have their work critiqued in 2021, giving them pointers of how to improve ready for the 2022 Hastings Musical Festival which will be the qualifying festival for the next All England Dance Championship.

We have reduced entry fees to £5 for solo dance performances but will be unable to hold large group dances this year. Hopefully there will be some family groups who can perform duets and if the social distancing rules were to change before January, we will look at opening other classes. This year we will be giving 1st, 2nd and 3rd awards but will not be holding our Bronze, Silver and Gold Medal Dance classes.

All other sections will also have 1st, 2nd and 3rd awards for classes and most medal classes will also be running. The medals for these classes have been produced for the Hastings Musical Festival for over 100 years and are not only unique but also highly prized. Most solo classes will be £5 entry as in Dance although some classes will have different entry fees; nearly all reduced this year as it is a virtual Festival.

Our Speech and Drama adjudicator is Jean-Marc Perret who trained at The Bristol Old Vic and is an examiner for The London School of Music. We are offering solo and group classes in this section as social distancing rules can still be maintained with group performances. We hope that schools and theatre groups will enjoy entering class groups via video.

Our Singing adjudicator is Sarah Jefferies, a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music and a previous adjudicator for our Festival and we look forward to welcoming her back. We are hoping to run most singing classes as normal but will not be able to have our usual Choirs Day. We look forward to schools entering class groups and will run our choirs evening later in the year if at all possible.

Our Instrumental adjudicator is Richard Deering who studied piano and trumpet at Trinity College of Music. He has helped interview and train new adjudicators for The British and International Federation of Festivals and is co-author of the assessment criteria used by all BIFF adjudicators today. We look forward to receiving videos from local (non fee-paying) primary schools for our Primary First Access Class which offers £100 per local school entry for schools to spend on musical instruments. Also this year for the first time we are offering a Primary School Orchestra Class.

**Trophies:** It will not be possible to give out trophies this year and we will be asking everyone who won a trophy in 2020 to keep their trophies safe until 2022.

**Volunteers:** We are not sure yet what role our Festival volunteers will have in 2021 but Heather Spence, volunteer co-ordinator will keep you all informed. It may be that we need people to help post out medals and awards or write up adjudicator notes. We will need people to help with putting results onto the website so volunteers with IT skills will be very welcome this year.

**Funding:** Obviously we will not be able to have an audience this year for the Festival and so our funds will be very low in comparison to a normal year. If you are able to help by sending us a donation we would be really grateful. We would like to be able to continue with offering our usual grants to young people who are going on to study Performing Arts and will only be able to do this if we have the finances available. Donations can be made by BACS; Hastings Musical Festival Account No: 60720689, Sort Code 60 10 15

We will of course continue to offer The Molly Townson Bursary in 2021.

**Membership:** Membership of Hastings Musical Festival remains at £35 for under 65s and £25 for over 65s. We rely on this money to help support our activities so please contact Membership Secretary, Deirdre on [dgoodger46@gmail.com](mailto:dgoodger46@gmail.com) if you are able to support us again this year. Hopefully later in the year we can have a concert and members would get reduced priced ticket.

**100 Club:** We still have some places left on our 100 Club so please contact Deirdre if you would like to join. It is £2 a month and £50 prize is awarded each month.

For any more information, or sponsorship opportunities please contact me.

Jenny Griffiths, General Secretary: [info@hastingsmf.org.uk](mailto:info@hastingsmf.org.uk)

Website: [www.hastingsmusicalfestival.org.uk](http://www.hastingsmusicalfestival.org.uk)

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