



Gŵyl Gorawl
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Choral Festival

Festival News

Issue 3 - November 2008

14 choirs descended upon Llandudno last weekend for the 21st annual North Wales Choral Festival. The festival warmed up on Friday evening with a concert by Loreto Secondary School from Co Cork, Ireland at the St George's Hotel. Other choirs from around the UK and Ireland joined them in the Daytime Competition on Saturday, competing in 4 classes: Youth, Mixed, Ladies and Male Voice. Choirs were allowed to sing 2 songs each to a panel of adjudicators, who then chose a winner from each class to go forward and take part in the Evening Winners Concert.

The first choirs to face the adjudicators were from the Youth class, which included Anglesey's Côr Ieuenctid Môn; Loreto Secondary School, Ireland; Lyndon Vocal Ensemble, Colwyn Bay and their older counterparts Rydal Penrhos. The adjudicators commended all of the choirs on the sincerity of their performances, but named Côr Ieuenctid Môn as class winners.



Youth Class Winners - Côr Ieuenctid Môn

The second class was the Mixed section, which included The Cahirmee Singers from Ireland; Cantorion Rhos, Wrexham; The Liffey Choir, Ireland and last year's class winners Côr Y Gleision of Cardiff. Again, the quality of all the choirs was extremely high, however, another North Walian choir, Cantorion Rhos, was chosen to progress to the evening concert.



Mixed Class Winners - Cantorion Rhos

After lunch it was the turn of the Ladies choirs, including Côr Merched Bro Nest, South Wales; Glenalua Singers, Ireland and the Sonata Ladies Choir, again from Ireland. All of the choirs performed valiantly, but only one could go through, with Côr Merched Bro Nest being chosen as class winners.



Ladies Class Winners - Côr Merched Bro Nest

The final group of the day was the Male Voice class and this turned out to be the closest of the day with the Betws-yn-Rhos MVC, Kidderminster Male Choir and Co Sligo Golf Club MVC all competing against each other.

All of the choirs brought something different to this class, with performances ranging from traditional Welsh arrangements to sea shanties and even a rendition of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody thrown in for good measure. Any of the choirs could have won the section on another day, however the Co Sligo Golf Club Male Voice Choir took Ireland's hopes through to the evening concert.

All of the winning choirs came back full of energy on Saturday evening, which was transmitted to the audience who gave the arena in Venue Cymru an electric atmosphere. Each choir was given 15 minutes singing time in front of the adjudicators before they were presented with their winners trophies by Cllr Glyn Jones, Chairman of Conwy County Borough Council.

All of the choirs supported each other throughout the festival, which was played out in a marvellous spirit. At the end of the day though, there had to be a winner and after much deliberation the adjudicators chose Co Sligo Golf Club Male Voice Choir as the 2008 North Wales Choral Festival Overall Winners. They were ecstatic with their win, as were the audience who nearly took the roof off at the announcement!



Overall Winners - Co Sligo Golf Club MVC

The festival is continuing to grow and couldn't take place without the support of its sponsors: Conwy County Borough Council, Stena Line, North Wales Pioneer, Pianos Cymru, Design 2 Print and the St George's Hotel. More sponsors are always welcome to help the festival develop further and place itself firmly on the International Choral Calendar.

Next year's festival is scheduled to take place on Saturday 7th November, 2009. All choirs are welcome to take part - for further information please contact Alun Pritchard on 01492 575948 or visit www.northwaleschoralfestival.co.uk

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