



ABERTAWWE FESTIVAL for YOUNG MUSICIANS

AFYM was founded in 1993 by Penny Davies and Nicola Exell
Charity Registration No 1042635

January 2022

Dear Patron,

Re: Abertawe Festival for Young Musicians 2022

I am writing to tell you about the exciting news that the AFYM will be back this year after an absence of nearly two years due to covid-19 restrictions. First however I need to introduce myself. Diane Workman, who for a good many years has been Patrons Secretary, feels that this year due to personal circumstances she is unable to commit herself to the time needed to fulfil her duties as a Festival Committee member which also included her role as Patrons Secretary and Treasurer, so in the meantime I have undertaken to carry out the role of Patrons Secretary, hopefully meeting the high standards which Diane set.

The last few years have presented numerous challenges to those supporting the talents of young musicians; many families have been hit by economic strains, as has our AFYM, eg. venue hire charges have risen considerably over the last few years; schools and private music teachers have been hit by restraints on close personal contacts with pupils; music ensembles including school orchestras are still in many cases unable to meet due to social distancing regulations; and live performances are only just beginning to occur albeit under tight constraints. The need to support young musicians is greater now than it has ever been, if we are not to lose an entire generation of musicians.

For these reasons the AFYM Organising Committee has decided that it is vital to play its part in contributing to this support by a determination to hold the AFYM in 2022, but with compliance to the constraints of current covid-19 risk assessments regarding such an event. The format this year has presented numerous technical challenges, but I am pleased to say we have a talented team of technical support which is enabling us to run the festival. Many of the classes this year will be recorded by entrants at home and compiled into electronic "class folders" for online adjudication, all of which are then merged into a presentational video for viewing online by students, parents and relatives, sponsors and patrons, by means of a secure password. In addition, there will be two days of "live classes" held in the Brangwyn Hall over the weekend of 12th and 13th February 2022 which will be in our more normal format, however there will be no Festival Concert in 2022, and the classes will not be competitive.

The arrangements described above, we feel will motivate pupils by providing performance opportunities for them to work towards; providing adjudicator feedback on how they could develop their playing; providing performance experience including managing their nerves and following performance presentation protocols, and most importantly helping them to keep practising!

It is the financial contribution made by you the Patrons that in large measure makes all the above possible, and we really hope that you can continue to support us again this year.

Time and time again AFYM alumni have reported back to us on what a significant contribution performing at the AFYM made to their musical development both as a means of preparation for the demands of graduate level music studies for those who went on to become professional musicians, and for those who went on to earn a living in other professions, helping them to develop their musical talent to the extent that it equipped them with a life skill which enabled them to enjoy listening to, and performing music, thus making a significant contribution to their well-being.

If you feel able to renew your patronage again this year then please continue to make your payments by Standing Order or send a cheque together with your name, email and address to the AFYM Patron Secretary, 6 Dinas Baglan Road, Port Talbot SA12 8AE

For an annual subscription of £20 (£30 per couple) Patrons receive regular updates about Festival activities and upcoming events, so that you have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to ensure AFYM's future, its development and success, for generations of young aspiring musicians.

Thank you once again for your kind support,

Yours sincerely,

Michael J. Turbervill
AFYM Patron Secretary