

CHIPPING NORTON MUSIC FESTIVAL 2000

During the music festival in Chipping Norton the Roseneath School of Music entered thirty four candidates across most of the classes in both adult and junior sections.

Under the constructive and consistent adjudication of Terry Mann, currently director of music at Kingham Hill School, Henry Stratford, Katie Mozumder and Rebecca James flew the flag for the Wychwoods in the beginners solo section – a beginner here being classed as a pianist of less than a year's experience. Of all the performances throughout the festival these constitute some of the most delightful – displaying the triumph of conquered nerves and stagefright, these young musicians walk away from the piano bursting with pride and revelling in the adulation and applause of the audience.

The preliminary section included fifteen pianists of whom only three were not members of the Roseneath School of Music. Three certificates were awarded; to Lisa Sharp who played "Wilbur puts the kettle on", Sarah Mozumder performing a piece from the Associated Board's preparatory test and to Emily Hillier for piece entitled "Tiptoe" which kept the audience on tenterhooks until the very last note. Emily was later included in the final concert as a representative of the junior piano section.

Interspersed between the various solo sections some duets for varying abilities provided some light relief. Teachers were pressed into service accompanying some of the youngest pupils and some brave parents played alongside their offspring. Chris Powley ably accompanied Rebekah in "Twilight" and Ros and Emily Hillier were awarded a certificate for a Berceuse (lullaby) by Adam Carse. Bethanie Nisbet was similarly rewarded for a spirited rendition of "Caribbean Carnival".

Lunch provided some fresh air before returning for the grade 1 class which had twenty-three entrants – all of whom played to a very high standard. Here were some truly musical performances and Hannah Browne was successful in collecting a certificate for the "Very Vicious Velociraptor".

In the intervening duet section Michelle Duffin and Samantha Taylor along with Sarah Duffin and Sarah Mozumder entertained the audience before Thomas O'Neill represented us in the grade 2 class with a Scherzo by Haydn.

A week later we were all back again but this time for the senior piano which was being adjudicated by Timothy Barratt. Ian and Paula Duffin along with Nick Browne bravely entered the adult beginners section and all three gave highly commendable performances with three totally contrasting pieces ranging from Mozart to Tchaikovsky. Ian was awarded the certificate in this section for the second year in succession. Well done to all of you!

Wychwood pianists made their final appearance in the class for grades 3 – 4 where David Ridley received a certificate for literally "Taking the bull by the horns" courtesy of Pamela Wedgwood, and Laura Browne was similarly rewarded for performing "Summer Song" by the same composer.