

# Llangollen 2018

Gorffennaf 3-8 July

## *Hands on @ Llangollen Eisteddfod e-newsletter*

Edition 9

October 2017

### *A note from our Chairman*

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all volunteers for their contribution to the running of the Eisteddfod. Once again, we've had a splendid festival in 2017 and work is now on-going for 2018.

Our new Music Director, Vicky Yannoula, has started with us and I welcome her and look forward to working with her. Many of you will have met her already. She certainly has brought a breath of fresh air along with her.

Unfortunately, I regret to inform you that one of our longstanding volunteers and Board members, Brian Evans, died recently after a short illness. Brian will be missed by many; his enthusiasm for the Eisteddfod and competitors was second to none. The Eisteddfod has sent condolences to his family.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help the Eisteddfod, those who want to share the enthusiasm for the festival and those with helpful skills. Please encourage your friends and acquaintances to get involved.

Finally, it is important that we have good communication with our volunteers, so please ensure that we have your current e-mail address and mobile numbers so we can contact you electronically.

**Dr Rhys Davies**  
Eisteddfod Chairman

#### **Dates for Your Diary:**

- **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October** - LIME volunteers needed to help with food festival. 9.30am to 1.00pm and 12.30pm to 5.00pm. See page 11 for details.

# New Music Director

## Vicky Yannoula

**In September, we were excited to welcome our new Music Director, Vicky Yannoula. For those of you who have not had the pleasure of meeting her as yet, below is the press release about her appointment, courtesy of DeWinter, plus her biography, which will give you a little insight into her background and impressive experience and achievements. For certain, there are exciting times ahead!**

The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod has announced its 8th Music Director and first ever representative of Greek origin to hold the prestigious title, Vicky Yannoula.

Portfolio musician with international experience, Vicky, joins the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod following successful positions at organisations such as Trinity College London, Middlesex University and the Drake Calleja Trust, succeeding Eilir Owen Griffiths following his six-year tenure.

“As soon as I saw the role advertised online, I was instantly drawn to it,” said Vicky, “I already knew of the Llangollen Eisteddfod due to the incredibly special place it holds in the world’s musical calendar.

“The International Eisteddfod’s core values of peace and multi-cultural celebration inspire me, so to be appointed and follow in the footsteps of a host of incredibly talented music directors is a real honour.”

Since moving from Corfu to London in 1995 to study at the Royal College of Music, Vicky’s list of accomplishments has made her a notable pianist on stages around the world and seen her collaborate with a wealth of international artists. Her impressive CV is also bolstered by her experience as a tutor, recording artist, manager and an entrepreneur.

Vicky continued: “Throughout my career, I have been lucky enough to be involved in an array of performances, educational projects and to hold managerial positions in music. It is my passion and understanding – both as a musician and manager – that I can’t wait to bring to the role as Music Director.

“It’s such an honour to be appointed. The organisation’s heritage and global prominence along with the team’s vision, passion and sense of purposefulness are a huge source of inspiration to me.

“It is a privilege to be joining this superb team and I am overjoyed that we shall be working together towards a dynamic International Eisteddfod for 2018.”

Vicky's comprehensive and varied experience combined with her globally relevant background, represents an exciting opportunity for the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod as it continues to develop.

Chairman of the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, Dr Rhys Davies, said: "We're excited to see Vicky add her personal flair to next year's festival and use her extensive international experience to further cement the International Eisteddfod on a global stage.

"Her impressive background will ensure the International Eisteddfod continues to grow and develop reaching new audiences nationally as well as globally."



**Photo courtesy of Vicky Yannoula**

## **Biographical note**

Vicky Yannoula is a classical musician engaged in an array of performance, educational, managerial and entrepreneurial activities.

Vicky began receiving piano tuition in Corfu-Greece where she was born. She continued her piano studies at the National Conservatory of Athens and obtained her Piano Recital Diploma with Distinction and a Special Prize for Exceptional Performance. She holds a Bachelor in Music (Honours) Degree and a Postgraduate Diploma in Performance from the Royal College of Music where she studied with professors Niel Immelman and Yonty Solomon. She also holds a Masters in Performance course from Goldsmiths College-University of London, and worked with Professor Ruth Nye, a former pupil of the renowned pianist Claudio Arrau.

A few of her recent performances include solo piano and chamber music recitals at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Kings Place, The Forge, Thessaloniki Concert Hall, Pushkin House, Sherborne Abbey and Christchurch Priory. Vicky has performed at the Paxos Festival in Greece, has collaborated with renowned violinist Leonidas Kavakos and has also performed with the Botton Eurythmy Ensemble in two concert tours around the UK that included over forty performances.

While at the Royal College of Music and Goldsmiths College, Vicky participated in solo piano and chamber-music master-classes given by K. Gilbert, A. Semetsky, S. Isserlis, T. Allen, B. Zander, B. Berman and D. Han. With a scholarship by the Paxos Festival, she participated at the Sion Academy master-classes, working with N. Goerner and P. Badura-Skoda. She has also participated at the International Holland Music Sessions and worked with professors K. H. Kammerling and M. Voskresensky. Furthermore, Vicky is a scholar of the Leventis Foundation and the Solti Foundation.

In September 2006, Vicky made her Queen Elizabeth Hall (London) debut giving a recital for 2-Pianos with colleague Jakob Fichert. The concert was part of the international series of events organised by the Centre for Russian Music to celebrate the 100 years since the birth of Dmitri Shostakovich. Vicky and Jakob later recorded Shostakovich works for Toccata Classics. In August 2015, her world-premiere recording with pianist George-Emmanuel Lazaridis of Beethoven's symphonies 1 & 5 arranged for piano 4hands by Carl Czerny was released by Resonus Classics.

In addition to her activities as a concert pianist, Vicky is Music Director of the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, Head of Scholarships & Artistic Planning at the Drake Calleja Trust and Director of Akouson Classical Artists.

Vicky has held the following positions, amongst others:

- Music Director of the Hackney Youth Orchestras Trust Summer School
- Administrator of the Kathleen Ferrier Awards
- Head of Keyboard at Ardingly College
- Music Qualifications Manager at Trinity College London
- Music Lecturer and Chorus Director at Middlesex University
- Deputy Piano Tutor at Junior Department of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama
- Music Consultant for Westminster Music & Arts
- Trustee and Secretary of the London Chamber Music Society
- Acting Chairman of the Hampstead Garden Opera

<http://www.resonusclassics.com/beethoven-carl-czerny-symphonies-1-5-yannoula-lazaridis>

<https://toccataclassics.com/product/shostakovich-music-for-piano-duo-duet-1/>

<http://www.akouson-classical.com/profile/VickyYannoula>

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**Hands On @ Llangollen Eisteddfod has a Facebook page!**



**Like our page to keep up to date with the latest news and information!**

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# Committee News

## Music & Staging

### Celebration Chorus

In the January of this year, a call went out for volunteers to join a “Celebration Chorus” – a community choir to perform in the Wednesday night concert of the 2017 Eisteddfod. The response was fantastic – over 70 voices from North, South, East and West they came: - Pembrokeshire, Conwy, Cheshire, Shropshire, Flintshire, Wrexham and Denbighshire. But wait, what would they sing? The work chosen was by the American composer, Christopher Tin, who is world famous for writing the music to major computer games. The music to accompany computer games is no longer the tuneless “beeps” many of us remember from Pacman, but huge orchestral pieces for full orchestra, chorus and soloists. Two of Chris’ most famous works are a Swahili version of the Lord’s Prayer “Baba Yetu” and the theme from Civilisations IV, “Sogno di volare”; the Sogno di Volare would become the epic finale to the first half of the concert, the Baba Yetu the thrilling opening to the song cycle Calling All Dawns, which would be the second half of the evening. The challenge was huge – Calling All Dawns contains eight pieces for the choir, in eight different languages (none Welsh or English!) and with the Sogno di Volare in Italian, that makes NINE languages!

To face the challenge, the choir were extremely lucky that the very talented Nia Wyn Jones agreed to take on role of musical director for the rehearsals, with the highly skilled, Christopher Enston, as our accompanist. Along with the Chair of the Music & Staging Committee, Elen M Roberts, this musical team ensured that every one of the 39 hours of rehearsals were disciplined, productive, inspiring and fun!

After six months of rehearsals, the evening of the performance came, and oh, what a spectacular performance it was! The Celebration Chorus were accompanied on stage by the orchestra of the Welsh National Opera, choirs from across the world, and world-famous soloists, such as Elin Manahan Thomas. For every one of the 70+ volunteers who took part in the concert, this will be a night to remember for a very, very long time. One of the volunteers summed the whole experience: *“I hope I never recover from it! It was genuinely one of the best experiences of my life. I enjoyed every minute from the first rehearsal to the absolutely amazing Wednesday. To be given the opportunity to participate in such a well organised, unifying event with such a fantastic composer was so special”.*

**James Brown**  
**Secretary, Music & Staging**



Photo courtesy of Michael Jones, Music & Staging

## Volunteer Testimonial

**We had some truly wonderful feedback from new and recently joined volunteers this year, which was really heart-warming to read. It is fantastic to hear about positive volunteer experiences, after all, without you, the festival simply would not exist. Below is a contribution from Sue Griffiths who joined the backstage team in 2016.**

I was introduced to the fascinating and exciting world of L.I.M.E by my friend Chris Platt in 2016, she and her husband Graham have been volunteers for years. The area they worked was as part of the backstage crew and this particular area is what really interested me as I have been involved with local Music & Amateur dramatics Societies for many years. My name was put forward and I was invited to meet up the Sunday prior to start of Eisteddfod week. I felt a little apprehensive meeting the crew for the first time but was immediately put at ease and made very welcome. I could only offer my help a few days in 2016 due to prior commitments but that wasn't a problem as they were pleased to have extra help.

The backstage crew are a great bunch of volunteers and I was so impressed how professional and well organised they are behind the scenes but still had such fun and enjoy all that was unfolding around them. It only took a couple of days and I was hooked so I made sure that I was available for the whole week this year day & evening.



I'm not denying that it wasn't tiring but so worth it, meeting people from all over the world and watching and witnessing their joy and excitement when competing, it gives you such an incredible boost.

A lot of running around the field finding competitors to get them back stage to ensure smooth continuity but such fun and great interaction. My only regret is not volunteering years ago and I would encourage anyone who is considering giving it a go to just do it, there are many different areas and roles to work in. Yes, it is voluntary work but the joy of being part of a wonderful community who are providing such a multi-cultural experience is just priceless.

I had the privilege to work with a brilliant group of backstage volunteers and I thank them for making me so welcome and made to feel part of this special team. Looking forward to 2018.

**Sue Griffiths**  
**Continuity Team**

**Photo courtesy of Michael Jones, Music & Staging. Sue is on the far right and is pictured with other members of the Continuity Team, Christopher Tin and artists from the Calling all Nations concert.**

## **Wedding Congratulations!**

In September, two members of the Music & Staging Committee, Tracey Rawlinson and Michael Jones, were married at sea on the P&O cruise liner, MV Oceana, accompanied by their daughters, Alix and Georgia, and a number of their friends. This was followed by a fantastic party at the Pavilion on their return.

Congratulations to the new Mr & Mrs Jones from all your Eisteddfod friends and here's to many years of love and happiness!



**Photo courtesy of Michael & Tracey Jones**

# Grounds

## Site Team Opportunities

Fancy a new volunteering challenge this year? We currently have two new volunteering opportunities within the site team, which we are looking to fill as soon as possible! Both would suit an active, locally based person, with good weekday availability and an interest in playing a critical, year-round role in Eisteddfod site planning activities. Computer literacy and good all-round Microsoft Office skills are essential.

### Catering Concession Coordinator

Tasks and responsibilities include:

- Liaising with all current and potential new caterers and bar providers.
- Preparation of all relevant documentation.
- Ensuring that valid hygiene and insurance documentation are provided.
- Liaising with the Siting Officer and site contractors regarding canvas and utilities requirements.
- Main point of contact for all concessions during festival week.

### Exhibitor Coordinator

Tasks and responsibilities include:

- Liaising with all current and potential new exhibitors (including traders, organisations and charities).
- Preparation of all relevant documentation and information.
- Liaising with the Siting Officer and site contractors regarding canvas and utilities requirements.
- Main point of contact for all exhibitors during festival.

If you are interested in either of the above, know someone who might be, or have any questions, please contact the volunteer team at [volunteers@llangollen.net](mailto:volunteers@llangollen.net).

# Staff News

## Congratulations Mikala and Julian!

Many congratulations to Mikala who married Julian Nash on the 1<sup>st</sup> September at St Mary's Church Ruabon.

Here is a photo of the happy couple, and some merry revellers at the reception who you might recognise despite the disguises!



Photos courtesy of Mikala Nash.

## It's a boy!

Congratulations to Elise and her husband Dave on the recent arrival of their second child, Otis James Jackson, a little brother to Seth. Baby Otis made his entrance on the Friday 25th August at 7.50am, just 8 hours after his due date!

Best wishes to you all from your Eisteddfod friends and colleagues!



Photo courtesy of Elise Jackson.

# Fundraising

## Volunteers to help at Llangollen Food Festival, 14th & 15th October

As in previous years, we are looking for a number of willing volunteers to assist with various tasks at the very popular Llangollen Food Festival, which will be held on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th October this year.

As usual, each day is divided into 2 shifts: 9.30am to 1.00pm and 12.30pm to ca. 5.00pm.

Exact tasks this year are to be confirmed but in previous years these have included taking money at the entrance, stamping hands and handing out goody bags.

In addition to Lime receiving a generous sum for our efforts, individual volunteers can also enter the festival free of charge.

If you can help, please e-mail Keith Potts, [Keith.potts@llangollen.net](mailto:Keith.potts@llangollen.net), or call the office on 01978 862001.

Please help if you can as this is an invaluable source of fundraising for us and also a great opportunity for Lime to support other local events.

## Donations to LIME

Over the past few months, we have received two very generous donations to Eisteddfod funds from supporters of the festival.

The first donation is for a sum of £540.72, which was donated by Mr Howell Gareth Griffiths in memory of his mother, Mrs Margaret Eurwen Hester. He wrote that his mother's life had been "defined by her Welsh roots and music". She was a regular at the Eisteddfod and had competed and won mezzo soprano in 1967. The money donated was collected at her funeral following her death in June of this year.

The second donation is for a sum of £800.00 and has been made by Mrs Patricia France in memory of her beloved husband Colin. Mrs France is a season ticket holder and she and her husband have supported the Eisteddfod for many years. She has requested that the donation be used as prize money and so it will be set against the Youth Choirs competition for the next 8 years.

It is incredibly touching when supporters of our festival show their appreciation of the event by making donations in memory of loved ones or by making bequests in their wills. As with all fundraising, these donations are simply invaluable to what we do.

## Give as you Live

Those of you who follow the Eisteddfod on social media will have seen posts publicising “Give as you Live” as a means of raising funds towards the Bursary Fund.

Give as you Live is a shopping and price comparison website with a heart. You can shop for products from thousands of leading online retailers; use their price comparison tool to ensure you get the best price and even save money by using the exclusive offers and deals available through their website. A percentage of every purchase you make will be donated to the Bursary Fund.

Sign up to the scheme is free and easy to use and you can shop at over 4,000 leading online stores including Amazon, eBay, Tesco, John Lewis, Sainsbury's, Just Eat and Booking.com, to name but a few!

Please help support us in this fundraising initiative which is an easy way to raise funds. For further details of to sign up please go to - <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/llangollen-eist>

