

PRESS RELEASE



DEUTSCHE BANK FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS – NOVEMBER 2006 JERSEY EISTEDDFOD

Jersey, October, 2006

The Deutsche Bank Festival of Performing Arts starts run on Tuesday 7th November.

The Music Section, opening the Festival at the Opera House at 9 a.m. have introduced two classes in celebration of Mozart's Centenary, one for male and one for female voices, with awards donated by the Freemasons of Jersey. Mozart himself was a Freemason. These classes are a 'one off' for this year only. The Music Section, which also includes classes for a variety of instrumentalists, vocalists, and ensembles, will continue at the Opera House until Saturday 18th. The Finals and Gala concert will be held during the evening of the 18th and tickets for this evening may be booked through the Opera House Box Office.

Additionally, to encourage newcomers to the Jersey Eisteddfod, various Non-Competitive classes have been introduced. The response has been most encouraging with School Choirs especially. Rowland Heaven, Chairman of the Music Section commented "We hope to move on from here with more of the States' Primary Schools, Adult Choirs and new entrants to the Eisteddfod using this route to gain experience before entering the competitive field".

The English Speech and Drama will commence on the 20th at both the Opera House and the Arts Centre, spending two days at the Arts Centre and the complete week at the Opera House. A varied and entertaining programme has been organised on a daily basis throughout the week, with plays spread over various evenings. The section will conclude on Saturday 25th with a grand gala. Once again, tickets for this performance can be booked through the Opera House Box Office.

Classes for Jersey Norman French will take place on at St Martin's Public Hall on Friday 24th during the evening and will continue on Saturday 25th both during the day and in the evening. These classes represent part of our Jersey heritage and as such everyone, whether English- French- or Jèrriais-speaking, is invited to attend. They are always popular so you are advised to be early !

The Festival will conclude with the French section. Twenty-two classes will take place at the Arts Centre on Monday and Tuesday 27th & 28th.

The combined entries for all sections this year are in excess of 4,000 with schools, clubs, societies and individuals competing. Competitors in the Eisteddfod work hard throughout the year to produce high-quality performances for their audience and as such deserve the public's support.

Programmes are now on sale and tickets will be available at the door for all competitions at a cost of £2 per day. Space permitting, these tickets are re-usable across all venues on the same day. With the exception of the Gala evenings on the 18th & 25th November, students in full time education are admitted free of charge.

Christine Hamon, General Administrator for the Jersey Eisteddfod commented: *"It is the aim of the Jersey Eisteddfod to provide its participants with the finest venues possible in which to perform. To this end our thanks go to our Sponsors, Deutsche Bank and the Jersey Arts Trust for their continued support, and to our many volunteers who ensure the smooth running of the Festival."*

Mark Hirst, Chief Executive Officer of lead sponsors Deutsche Bank, commented, *"The Eisteddfod is an important component of our community particularly as arts initiatives take a lot of hard work, dedication, energy and enthusiasm to bring to fruition. It is very rewarding to know that once again we are helping to foster local talent on the island and supporting one of the most comprehensive cultural events in Jersey."*

Ends.

For further details contact:

Christine Hamon, General Administrator, Jersey Eisteddfod, Tel: 854529

Sari Cuming, Deutsche Bank, Tel 889336

Issued by: Christine Hamon, General Administrator, Jersey Eisteddfod, Tel: 854529

Notes:

1. The Jersey Eisteddfod is sponsored by Deutsche Bank and the Jersey Arts Trust.
 2. Programmes are available from W H Smith, Island Music, the Jersey Opera House and the Jersey Arts centre.
 3. Adjudicators notes follow.
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