

## **Speech and Drama Adjudicators for the Eisteddfod Festival 2021**

### **Bob Thompson**

Every year since 1967 Bob has been either taking part or entering juniors in various classes of the Eisteddfod. Having taught at four Primary schools over the years, including being a Headteacher for fifteen years, Bob has introduced countless children to the excitement of performing on stage, many for the first time. He still has people of mature years coming up to him and saying 'Do you remember when we did .... and sometimes we took a trophy back to school!' The Eisteddfod has fond memories for so many people.

Bob's personal entries have been varied – from Humorous Verse to Readings from 'Kes' or Gervase Phinn, from Reminiscences to Character Studies and from One Act Plays to Verse Readings and even impromptu mimes and duologues.

Bob writes 'We are certainly living in strange times! To be asked to assist with the adjudication of the Speech and Drama section is indeed a great honour and totally unexpected.

Having been on the Executive Committee for a number of years he has seen at first hand many adjudicators at work and has been in awe of some of them. He realises that the job is not for the faint hearted and hopes he will not let anyone down in this new role.

### **Shaun Winterflood**

Shaun has been a well known face on the amateur theatre scene for many years, having taken part in his first GADOC production at the age of eight as one of the Snow children in Carousel. He took part in his first Eisteddfod at the age of six and has been the Executive Officer for the Speech and Drama section for the past twelve years.

Shaun has directed many pantomimes, musicals and One Act plays and ran his own successful drama school, SWATS, for twelve years. He is a member of the Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama, having been recommended by Felicity Amor who was the first adjudicator to see his drama school's work in an Eisteddfod.

Shaun is very honoured to have been asked to be one of the Speech and Drama adjudicators this year and looks forward to seeing the talented children and adults take to the stage.

## **Music Adjudicators for the Eisteddfod Festival 2021**

### **Joseph Edwards BMus MA DipABRSM LRAM DipRAM**

Joseph is an English baritone whose career as a soloist and consort singer has led him to perform in various venues across the world. He is an Associate Artist with the internationally acclaimed consort, Tenebrae. Joseph works professionally as a choral director and singing teacher and his students have appeared on the west end stage and have been awarded scholarships to London conservatoires.

Joseph's performance highlights include his debut recital at Wigmore hall in 2015, concerts at the Royal Albert Hall, Carnegie Hall and Philharmonie de Paris, Radio 3 'In Tune' broadcasts with Sansara and Tenebrae, 'Orpheo and Euridice' with Classical Opera, a European premier of a Brazilian radio opera 'The Tram Conductor's Sweetheart' and film soundtrack recordings at Abbey Road Studios. Joseph has worked in the music production of TV Shows including the X Factor Live Shows and Made in Chelsea.

Hi career began as a chorister at Windsor Castle, where he sang at the wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles, among other royal occasions. He studied as a choral scholar at King's College, London, and later graduated from the Royal Academy of Music with distinction in his Master's degree. He received the rare honour of being awarded the Academy's highest graduate diploma, DipRAM, for performance.

Joseph is also an accomplished 'cellist, holding a DipABRSM diploma in performance. He has recently been awarded an LRAM teaching diploma from the Royal Academy of Music.

Joseph has used the hiatus in his touring and concert schedule to relocate permanently to the island with his wife and is very grateful to the music community for being so welcoming.

## **Mervyn Grand BMus Hons PGCE ARCM LTCL ATCL**

Mervyn was born and educated in Norfolk. A graduate of the University of London, he studied violin with the late Frederick Grinke, formerly Head of Strings at the Royal Academy of Music and the Yehudi Menuhin School, and with Frances Mason from the Royal College of Music. He studied piano with George Kinnear, Philip Fowke and John Blakely and he received conducting lessons from Arthur Davison.

A versatile musician, Mervyn has an ARCM teaching diploma in piano, an ACTL with distinction in violin and an LTCL in piano accompaniment.

Performances as soloist have included the Grieg Piano Concerto at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto in Guildford Cathedral and Lambert's Rio Grande.

Mervyn has forty years of experience working in music education. Former students have successfully gone on to study at prestigious universities and music colleges. He taught for Hampshire Music Service for seventeen years before becoming Senior manager, responsible for the work of over forty teachers in a large area of the county. During this period he also worked for OFSTED, inspecting schools across the south of England.

In 2000 Mervyn moved with his family to Guernsey to become Head of the Guernsey Music Service, a post he held for nineteen years. During this time he conducted the Guernsey Youth Orchestra for visiting royalty, at Symphony Hall Birmingham in the National Festival of Music for Youth and as far afield as Australia, Germany, the Czech Republic and Canada.

On two occasions he adjudicated the Jersey Young Musician of the Year competition.

Last year he conducted an American Youth Orchestra and directed a local concert by the Guernsey Sinfonia, the first orchestral concert since lockdown. A keen chamber musician on both violin and piano, he also accompanies local and visiting professional musicians and plays in the island's orchestras.

Mervyn is looking forward to adjudicating, helping to ensure that the Guernsey Eisteddfod can take place.