

Chairperson's Letter

March 2017

Dear All,

A very warm welcome to the 89th 'Perform in Dumfries' and many thanks for buying this 2017 Programme' whether it be the one for Speech 3rd and 4th March ,Music 17th -19th March Scottish Country Dancing 11th March or Accordion & Fiddle 25th March.

No doubt you have bought it to find out when a particular person or group is performing so that you can come along and give them your support. For many it is the first time they have performed in public so please give them a smile of encouragement when they take to the stage and be sure to give them a big round of applause when they finish!

All performers need an audience! After all what's the use of all the hard work and practice if there is no-one there to listen or watch and show their appreciation?

There is a wide variety of Classes in each Programme so do please look through these to find out what other Classes are taking place which may interest you. I think you will be amazed at the talent on display .Please also spread the word about 'Perform in Dumfries' around your friends and family and tell them that everyone is welcome to come along to any of the events.

Once again I would like to pay tribute to the many dedicated teachers, tutors leaders and conductors who dedicate their precious time to coaching all our competitors. Without them there would be no Festival! It is also very encouraging to see that some of our previous competitors are now teachers/tutors and entering their own competitors. As long as this continues the Festival will survive. This festival has always been a stepping stone for many talented youngsters who have gone on to greater things.

I think it is important to remind everyone that the Festival is run by volunteers who do it for the love of it and not for any financial reward and so I would like to thank them all, particularly the Office Bearers who give up hours of their time before and during the events to ensure everything runs smoothly. Our new General Secretary Billy Dewar-Riddick is settling in well to his role and doing very nicely. Well done!

Financially, we are in good shape at the moment and so I am delighted to report that, again this year, we are offering to help large groups with the cost of transport to the Festival . Details of this are in the Syllabus.

Perform in Dumfries is affiliated to the British and International Festival Assocation whose rules we follow and as far a possible we hire adjudicators recommended by them. Our adjudicators are all highly qualified people and have a wealth of experience.

I look forward to meeting you all in March and sincerely hope you enjoy the performances.

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve the experience please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Doreen Jaap

Adjudicators for 2017 are as follows

Speech	Brian Marjoribanks & Carol Schroder
Music	Christina Thomson & Stewart Fyffe
Scottish Country Dancing	Jimmy Hill
Accordon & Fiddle	Leonard Brown