

## PRESS RELEASE



### DEUTSCHE BANK FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS JERSEY EISTEDDFOD

Jersey, 31 October, 2005

The Deutsche Bank Festival of Performing Arts starts its three-week run on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

This year the Festival will open at 1.30pm on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November with the Senior Hymn singing, Oratorio and Organ classes at the St Helier Parish Church, Royal Square. The Junior Hymn singing and Oratorio classes will take place at the St Helier Methodist Centre at 6.15pm, immediately preceding the Annual Service of Dedication, which starts at 7.30pm. At the Service Mr Tony Le Sueur, former Chairman of Management of the Jersey Eisteddfod, will give the Address and following the service the competitions continue with the Choirs' classes for Sacred Music.

The first week of the festival sees Music at the Opera House from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November and at the Arts Centre from the following day, continuing at both venues throughout the week. The section includes classes for a variety of instrumentalists and vocalists, soloists and ensembles, concluding on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November with the Finals and Gala evening at the Opera House. Tickets for this evening can be booked through the Opera House Box Office.

The Dance section of the Eisteddfod takes place on alternate years and this year runs from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November. For the first time this year, all evening performances must be booked through the Opera House Box Office, including their Gala Concert on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November featuring prize winners and finalists from throughout the week. Two new classes have been introduced this year, a 'Song and Dance Group' and a 'Classical and Modern Improvised solo'. A varied and entertaining programme has been organised on a daily basis throughout the week.

Also during the second week of the festival there will be twenty-two classes in the French section and twenty classes in the Jersey Norman French section.

The classes for French take place at the Arts Centre on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November with classes for Jersey Norman French taking place at St Martin's Public Hall on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November. These classes represent part of our Jersey heritage and as such everyone, whether English, French or Jèrriais speaking, is invited to attend.

The third and final week of the Festival celebrates English Speech and Drama with contestants ranging from five years upwards competing in a variety of classes including verse speaking, mime, solo and group acting. Entries for this section have once again been high and at least one Drama class has been divided in two to accommodate all entries.

The English Speech and Drama section will be at the Opera House on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November and the Arts Centre from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>. For the first time in recent years the Final Competitions and Gala Evening, on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, will also be taking place at the Jersey Arts Centre.

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. Tickets for the evening performances of the Dance Section are available through the Opera House Box Office at a cost of £5. With the exception of the evening concerts of 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November, students 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, as well as that of our many volunteers who ensure the smooth running of the Festival."*

Ends.

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**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.