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AWARDS2006



Grimethorpe Colliery
(UK Coal) Band



2006 4BR
Awards

The Results

All had enough Christmas pud and turkey? Then sit back and relax as we reveal the award winners for 2006. Maestro please.....

The 4BR team has spent the last day and a half wading through the thousands of nominations from we received from our readers from all over the world. Many thanks for taking the time to log in and tell us who you thought were the best in each of the categories.

There were a couple of people who did try and circumvent the voting process as always with multiple entries (school computer use was way up this year), but they were not successful, whilst we had more than a chuckle or two at some of the nominations put forward as well – some were inspired in their deviousness.

Still, the results have been checked and double-checked and now that you have had your fair share of turkey and Christmas pudding we can reveal each of the winners. Thanks to everyone for taking the time once more to vote, and congratulations to the winners.

Band of the Year:

And the 2006 winner is...

Grimethorpe Colliery (UK Coal) Band

It was a two way fight for the most prestigious award between the two giants of Yorkshire banding, Grimethorpe and Black Dyke. In the end it was the perhaps the overall impression of brilliance that Grimethorpe gave throughout the year that gave them the edge with the voters – but it was very close indeed, with Grimethorpe gaining 41% of the vote and Black Dyke 40%.

Behind them there was something of a three way battle led by Brass Band Willebroek and followed by Brass Band of Central Florida and Eikanger Bjorsvik all of whom shared around 12% of the remaining votes.

Other notable nominations came in respect to Brighouse and Rastrick, BAYV, Fribourg, YBS and Fodens Richardson amongst the 20 plus others who got a vote.

Conductor of the Year:

And the 2006 winner is...

Allan Withington

And just as close came the fight for the most prestigious individual award, with Allan Withington and Nicholas Childs fighting tooth and nail to claim your votes. Once more they were a considerable distance ahead of the rest with the Norwegian based Englishman just taking the honours with 40% of the vote to 38% for the Welshman.

Behind them there was an excellent showing for young Elliot Darwin who came just ahead of some notable conducting talent in the form of David King, Richard Evans, Arsene Duc, Frans Violet, Chris Wormald, Robert Childs, Sharon Stansfield, Alan Lawton and Duncan Beckley to name but a few of the 40 plus MDs who got a mention.

Player of the Year:

And the 2006 winner is...

Katrina Marzella

Just about as clear a winner this year as David Childs last year. The brilliant young Scotswoman polled 51% of the votes cast to take yet another award in what has been a fantastic last 12 months.

Second place went to Roger Webster with 16% of the vote, with Steven Mead in third with 14%.

There were also notable nominations for Bert van Thienen, Ben Thompson, Kirsty Abbotts, Tormod Flaten, Richard Marshall, David Childs, David Thornton, Alex Kerwin, Kevin Crockford and Michelle Ibbotson amongst close on 50 players who got a mention.

CD/DVD of the Year:

And the 2006 winner is...

Heaton – Volume 4

Black Dyke Band

Conductor: Nicholas Childs

SPS Recordings: SPS218CD

Total Playing Time: 63.27

This was a real battle between a number of CD releases, but Black Dyke's fantastic final chapter in the Heaton retrospective just beat off their musical review of their 150th contesting year to take the honour.

'Heaton – Volume 4' received 25% of the votes, with 'The Golden Year' gaining 22%. Close behind came another retrospective in the form of '20 Supreme Years' by Eikanger Bjorsvik that gained 17% of the votes cast.

There after there were a whole host of notable nominations and votes cast for the likes of 'The Lighter side of Elgar Howarth' and 'Brass Band Classics – Volume 5', both by BAYV Band, Black Dyke's 'Christmas Carol', 'Brass Band Aid', 'Chatham Dances' by Eikanger, 'Festive Impressions' by YBS, the DVD's of the 2005 Brass in Concert and the 2006 European Championships, 'Nyman' by Wingates Band, 'Cool' by Reg Vardy and many more including Smithills Schools in Dublin, which was a new one on us in a field of over 40 nominations in total.

Solo CD of the Year:

And the 2006 winner is...



Steven Mead

The World of the Euphonium - Volume 5

Accompanied by: Tomoko Sawano (piano); Lucy Haslar (harp)

Polyphonic Recordings: QPRZ 026D

Total Playing Time: 79.31mins

Another artist who battled somewhat against himself for the award this year, with his 'Euphonium Virtuoso' release coming a close second in the solo CD release stakes.

It was this fantastic release – the fifth in the World of the Euphonium series that really captured the imagination though and took 32% of the votes cast with Steven's other major release gaining 25%. It goes to show just how good this man is becoming with age.

In third place came another euphonium player – this time the Norwegian, Tormod Flaten with his 'Norwegian Euphonium' release, which gained 10% of the votes, whilst yet another brilliant exponent of the instrument, David Childs with his 'Welsh Connection' just behind.

Other notable nominations to gain votes were for the releases of Ian Bousfield, Brett Baker (twice), Alex Kerwin and Ricki McDonnell, David Childs (a second time), Childs Brothers and quite a few others.

Lower Section Band of the Year:

And the 2006 winner is...

Pennine Brass

Clear winners here for the Yorkshire based band, which really did enjoy a great year despite the disaster at Bradford. Ian Porthouse and his band polled 38% of the votes cast in what has become one of the most hard vote categories to win over the years. This year there were over 80 bands that got nominations.

In second place came Brass Band Oberoesterrich with 13% with Mount Charles Youth in third with 10% .

Then there was a whole plethora of nominations that had a ground swell of support with the likes of Smithills Schools, Dodworth MW, Oldham (Lees), Greater Gwent Youth Band, Long Eaton, Kibworth, St Keverne, Marsden, Newbridge (Celynen), Chalford. There were many, many more...