

Bendigo
Competitions
Society Inc

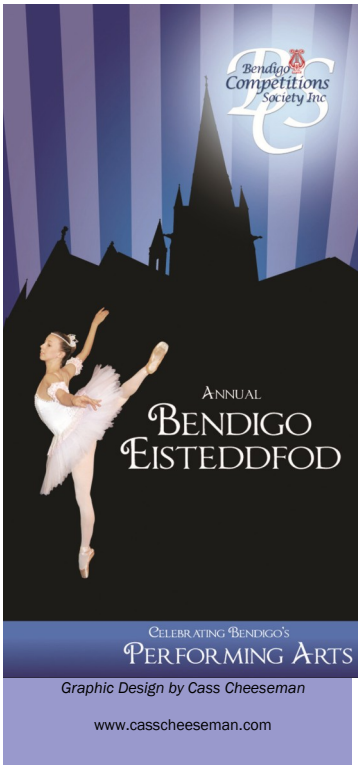
www.bendigocomps.org.au

Bendigo Comps

Newsletter
October 2010

PO Box 177 Bendigo VIC 3552
Ph: 03 5444 5733(dance)
bgocomps@bigpond.net.au

5443 0380(music)
musicbendigo@bigpond.net.au



Welcome to our report on the **85th** Annual Bendigo Eisteddfod...

To all our wonderful volunteers and sponsors—a sincere thank you for what was again an outstanding event on Bendigo's performing arts calendar. It was wonderful to see the amazing talent on display from so many dedicated young performers, exhibiting their skills in a wide variety of performances.

During May, we were pleased to offer competitions in Modern Vocal; Stringed Instruments, Guitar & VCE Music; Piano; Prim. & Sec. Schools Instrumental and the always popular Brass Bands and Solos.

Then in June, we moved on to Instrumental, including Concerto—Major Works; Classical Vocal; School Choirs; our Leila Watson Memorial Music Championship; and we held local heats of 'Storm the Stage', an exciting new national musical theatre and monologue competition we are co-hosting with our friends from the Rotary Clubs of Bendigo.



Culmination of the Bendigo Comps came with two big weeks of Dance Competition, featuring Classical Ballet & Theatrical Dance. We also held the state finals of 'Storm the Stage' and celebrated our 85th year with a Gala Entertainment Extravaganza, showcasing many of our outstanding performers for 2010.

All in all, this year was an outstanding success, with entries continuing to hit new heights. Thanks to one of our supporting sponsors, Bendigo IT, we were pleased to develop &

introduce GENI, an on-line Eisteddfod management system, which already is spreading across Australia.

And finally, we introduced a new corporate image (see an example to the left) which aims at continued professional promotion of the Bendigo Comps 'brand'. Some of you may also have noticed our wonderful library display, which went for a few weeks, as well as our media launch at the start of the Eisteddfod.

Major sponsors



ARTS
VICTORIA



bendigo IT



President: Fay Thomas

V/ President: Ray Butler

Secretary: Penny Goonan

Treasurer: David Hague

Committee: Terry Carr,
David Castles, Daryl
Cheeseman, Judy Scott,
Heather Shearn, Philip
Spark, Kathie Veitch

Some Stats from Music...

Overall, there were 868 individual entries in the 2010 Music Competitions, including 15 Brass Bands, 13 Choirs and 16 Schools Instrumental groups performing.

The Modern Vocal weekend was very popular, attracting 229 entries (72 competitors).

Piano also proved popular with 61 competitors entertaining us with 166 performances and the Classical Vocal weekend attracted 162 entries.

Interestingly, of the 308 entry forms we received, 144 were from Bendigo and 164 from other places, including many

from Melbourne, Geelong and Ballarat.

24 VCE Music students took the opportunity to perform study pieces from this year's VCE Music curriculum and receive a professional critique of their work.

Dance

Classical Ballet and Theatrical Dance was extremely well patronized this year, with entries up considerably on last year (which we thought then was a big year!). In all, we received 240 entry forms amounting to 1,266 solo/duo performances and 119 troupe entries. Exclusive of troupes, there was a total of 352 competitors performing solos/duos in every imaginable genre. It is interesting that hip hop and street dance are starting to become very popular with the younger brigade and is ob-

viously stemming from various popular television shows and movies.

It is also interesting to look at the geographic break up of entry forms received for dance—the Bendigo Comps are extremely well-patronized by not only our Bendigo dance schools, but also throughout the entire state as well as interstate. This obviously provides an economic boon to the city, with many competitors and their families, friends and teachers staying in Bendigo for several nights.

Entry forms received:

Bendigo & District —77

Ballarat & District —55

Sunbury/Gisborne/Kyneton/Woodend — 37

Seymour/Kilmore —20

Melbourne etc — 16

Echuca District —12

Geelong District —5

Mildura —5

Other— 13



“The future is looking extremely bright for GENI”

-
Andrew Trewartha
CEO Bendigo IT

GENI News

(Gala Eisteddfod Navigator Interface)

The Committee is excited to announce the recent development and implementation of GENI, an online software program that has been developed allowing competitors to view schedules, enter sections and pay online, as well as allowing the complete set up, management and administration of an Eisteddfod via the internet.

Many thanks go to Bendigo IT and offshoot company Gaia for the countless hours that have gone into designing and refining this outstanding product in conjunction with the Society. CEO Andrew Trewartha says that the future for GENI is looking extremely bright.

“We are really heartened by the amount of interest that is coming from all corners of Australia” he said.

“WA is the only state that I haven’t received some form of direct enquiry from so far. This in itself shows us the potential for the product, particularly in 2011”.

Eisteddfods already using GENI include the Bendigo Comps, Royal South Street (Ballarat), Devonport, Southern Dance and West Gippsland Dance.

The GENI website can be found at: geni.gala.com.au

Storm the Stage

The Society was pleased to introduce a new initiative this year to augment what we believe is already an outstanding Eisteddfod. In conjunction with the five Bendigo Rotary Clubs, we now offer an exciting new discipline.

‘Storm the Stage’ offers the opportu-

nity for young people between the ages of 16 and 19 to perform a solo monologue or musical theatre piece from the established world repertoire in drama or musical theatre. District heats, together with the Victorian finals, were held in Bendigo as part of the 85th Bendigo Comps, with the lucky winners travelling to Perth for the national final, to be held at Burswood Entertainment Complex in December. Finalists in drama and musical theatre

from all states battle out for a \$5,000 prize in both disciplines.

Rotary Clubs throughout Victoria have big plans for this event, which offers young performers an excellent opportunity to demonstrate their skills in these artistic fields.

Stay tuned for more news regarding this—the Society is pleased to partner Rotary in this great concept.



A Call for Volunteers...

We are currently undertaking a review of how we run the Eisteddfod, with a view to improving processes and procedures. A point that clearly stands out in this review is that the Comps depends totally on a dedicated group of volunteers to allow it to run smoothly. With this in mind, the Committee has decided to concentrate on recruiting more willing helpers to assist us next year and into the future. Our target is 100 volunteers (this number would mean everyone could share the workload to make things so much easier!)—and we seek your help to

reach this target.

We ask all existing volunteers to please fill out the form below (to ensure current records are correct) and perhaps pass copies of the form to any friends you believe may enjoy becoming a Friend of the Society. If every volunteer could add an additional person, we would soon reach the target we are seeking. And remember—it's a great cause. It is hugely gratifying to see all the wonderful young talent coming through our doors.



VOLUNTEER REGISTER

(Please cut out and return to the Society at PO Box 177 Bendigo 3552 or email details to our Volunteer Co-ordinator Phil Spark at: spark@impulse.net.au)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

.....

PHONE: MOBILE:

EMAIL:

PREFERENCE: Music / Dance / Both (Please circle)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT—WE WILL BE IN TOUCH FURTHER WITH DATES & INFORMATION FOR NEXT YEAR.