



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

PRESS RELEASE

Pupils battle it out for top titles

Pupils hit the right note this week as the very best musical talent from North Ayrshire battled it out at the North Ayrshire Young Singer and Musician of the Year Awards 2022.

Hosted virtually and performed as a closed event due to Covid-19 restrictions, leading musical talent from North Ayrshire's secondary schools came together in Garnock Community Campus on Wednesday night for a wonderful evening of live music.

Competing for the titles of North Ayrshire Young Singer of the Year and North Ayrshire Young Instrumentalist of the Year, winners from heats held across the secondary schools gathered to compete for the coveted top spots.

Mr Matthew Chinn, Associate Head of the Junior Conservatoire (Music) at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, acted as adjudicator on the night and Chris Baxter from the RCS was the official accompanist.

Pianist Thomas Chan of Greenwood Academy was named Young Instrumentalist of the Year for his memorable renditions of Rachmaninoff Prelude in G minor Opus 23 no. 5 and Ravel sonatina 3rd mvt.

Runners up were saxophonist Michael Donnelly from St Matthew's Academy and Violist Gordon McLaren from Kilwinning Academy.

Winner of Young Singer of the Year was Anna Muir of Ardrossan Academy, who sang I Dreamed a Dream from Les Misérables and Nina by Giovanni Pergolesi. Beth Prentice from Greenwood Academy and Lily Ewing from Largs Academy took the runner up places.

Adjudicator, Matthew Chinn shared positive feedback and encouraged each of the performers to take their practice forward.

On the night, he said: "Congratulations to all of the finalists on their fantastic performances. The confidence all the performers showed despite the

challenges of having very few live performance opportunities over the past two years, is an inspiration to us all. The calibre was exceptionally high and this made choosing the prize winners very difficult indeed.”

The finalists were:

Young Singer Finalists

- Anna Muir, Ardrossan Academy
- Peyton Duckworth, Auchendarvie Academy
- Angus Collingridge-Watt, Garnock Community Campus
- Beth Prentice, Greenwood Academy
- Lucy Chavner, Kilwinning Academy
- Lily Ewing, Largs Academy
- Lana McIntyre, St Matthew’s Academy

Young Instrumentalist Finalists

- Christina McGillion, Ardrossan Academy – Cello
- Laura McVey, Irvine Royal Academy – Flute
- Gordon McLaren, Kilwinning Academy – Viola
- Erin Furey, Garnock Community Campus – Flute
- Thomas Chan, Greenwood Academy – Piano
- Grant Arneil, Largs Academy – Piano
- Michael Donnelly, St Matthew’s Academy – Saxophone

Thomas Chan will now go forward to represent North Ayrshire at the Scottish Young Musician competition on Sunday 29 May in the RCS, Glasgow. Musicians from across Scotland will compete for the prestigious title.

Caroline Amos, North Ayrshire Head of Service (Education) commented:
“Thank you to everyone who took part this year. The standards exhibited by this exceptional group of young singers and musicians are truly impressive.

“Their level of commitment and passion for music and love for the stage shone through in each one of their quality performances. They should all be very proud of themselves.

“We are so very lucky to have such talented young singers and musicians in our schools in North Ayrshire. They really do deserve the highest of praise for their performances and we are grateful for the support they receive from their families and friends and the outstanding work of the teachers in our schools.”

The event was organised by North Ayrshire Council’s Music Services department and was sponsored by the Rhoda Reid Charitable Trust and Scottish Young Musicians, supporting excellence in music education.