

THE YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2018
A FESTIVAL OF YOUTH MUSIC



The annual Rotary Young Musician of the Year Competition is an event of which Rotary can be justly proud. It culminates in the awarding of the Young Musician of the Year titles to one vocalist and one instrumentalist but more importantly it offers to so many youngsters across Great Britain and Ireland the opportunity to develop their musical talent and their personal confidence. Here's an extract from a letter received from a 2017 Young Musician, who made it to a Regional Final, making exactly that point:

"I'm writing to express my thanks for the recent opportunities I have been provided with through the Young Musician of the Year competition. I am truly grateful for the experience and encouragement that this competition has given me.

Performing at four concert style competitions has given me invaluable experience of performing as a soloist which will undoubtedly benefit me in the future. I'm delighted to have gained such success in the competition and thank you all for your efforts in organising this event."

It all starts with local competitions organised by individual Rotary Clubs who invite nominations from schools and professional music teachers. These initial events provide young musicians under the age of 18 with the opportunity to display their talents and for most this is their first experience of performing in front of an audience. In 2017 750-800 Rotary Clubs participated giving some 8000 young musicians this experience. We hope that even more Clubs will hold local competitions in 2018.

From these local events singers and instrumentalists are selected to go forward to the next stages organised at Rotary Area level and District level; and from each District competition 2 singers and 2 instrumentalists then compete at Regional events. The winners there are invited to the Grand Final which is to be held in May 2018 in Edinburgh and which is to be organised by the Rotary Club of Currie Balerno.

These events are always attended by the youngsters' families, by their sponsoring teachers and by Rotarians; but members of the public are invited to them all and their presence in the audience adds very much to the sense of occasion for the performing young musicians. And what could be better than a visit to Edinburgh in the Spring with an opportunity to enjoy a feast of young musical talent at the Grand Final? It is an event not to be missed..

The **Grand Final** will be held in the **James Watt Theatre** at the **Heriot Watt University, Riccarton, Edinburgh** on **Saturday 19 May 2018** commencing at 11am. Details of Club and District events will be available at District level.