

Kellswater Band wins World Championship Flute Contest

Written by Administrator

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Kellswater Flute Band returned home from the North of Ireland Bands' Association Contest in Armagh with the premier award in flute band competitions, the Grade 1 World Championship Flute title. Performing the test piece "The Three-Cornered Hat" arranged for flutes by David Heaney, Kellswater with conductor Carolyn Watson were competing against five other top class flute bands in their section, all the bands impressing the adjudicator Mr. Donald Finlayson from Scotland, who studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

Kellswater were awarded the NIBA Cup, £200 and two BBC Radio Ulster Broadcasts, in addition Kellswater's piccolo player, Shannon Mc Kay won the Jim Stain Memorial Cup for the best piccolo in the section, a remarkable honor for such a technically demanding piece of music. The special adjudicator's award for the best overall performance of the day was also given to Kellswater.

Kellswater was formed in 1947 and achieved their first NIBA success in 1967 in the Grade 4 section, Grade 3 wins came in 1974, 1975 and 1980 but the band had to wait until 2003 and 2004 before success in the Grade 3 section returned, in 2007 The band went on to win the Grade 2 section.

Band chairman Sylvia Clyde whose father Jack Mc Kee was a founder member and still plays in the band, was delighted with the result and paid tribute to all members and conductors over the years who helped bring about the success.

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The band will receive their awards at the NIBA Annual Dinner Dance and distribution of prizes which will be held in the Millbrook Lodge hotel Ballynahinch on Saturday 27th November 2010.

Kellswater will be supporting Ballymena's own Willie Drennan and Nae Goats Toe at a Concert mid November, the high octane Ulster-Scots outfit will be in Ballee Community High School on Thursday 18th November at 8.00pm (doors open 7.30pm), a night not to be missed! Tickets are a snip at £6 and can be purchased from Irons Bakery, Larne St, Ballymena and Sporting Occasions, High St, Antrim, a limited number of tickets will also be available at the door on the night of the Concert.

Kellswater will also be performing at the Newsletter's Festival of Marching Bands in the Ulster Hall on Tuesday 23rd November 2010, featuring sixteen marching bands from across Northern Ireland.