Press passes and tickets available on request, please contact Mr Producer (details below).

Interviews available upon request with all artists, VIP guests and competitors pre-Eisteddfod or during the Festival week itself.

Competition day passes and concert tickets: available on request for those featuring Llangollen Festival.

Please contact the Mr Producer Office. Tel: 02920 916667 / 07815 902015. Email: llangollen@mrproducer.co.uk

Festival Overview:

For one week, in one town, over fifty countries gather for one of Wales’ most unique experiences. This July over 50,000 performers and festival goers from all over the world will visit Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in the picturesque Dee Valley, North Wales. This cool and cultural event, considered as 'Wales’ gift to the World' was established in 1947 to promote peace and goodwill between nations through music and dance. Still thriving today Llangollen Eisteddfod has become one of the world’s most colourful festivals. During each themed day the festival field is a hive of activity with main stage competitions, outside stage performances, workshops, and impromptu singing and dancing from every corner of the world, in national and regional costume. The evening Gala concerts over the years have attracted some of show-business’ biggest names such as Pavarotti, Michael Ball, Elaine Page, Domingo, Katherine Jenkins and Dame Shirley Bassey. This year is no exception with concerts by Faryl Smith, Barbara Dickson, Sir Willard White, Blake, Natasha Marsh, and even The Music of James Bond, with guest stars including Honor Blackman, aka Pussy Galore! What a cocktail...Prepare to be shaken and stirred! Join the rest of the world, join the party. For more information, telephone 01978 862001 or visit the website at www.llangollen2009.com

At a Glance Festival Schedule and Listings

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Please contact the Mr Producer Office. Tel: 02920 916667 / 07815 902015. Email: llangollen@mrproducer.co.uk
Competitors
Each July 4,000 musicians, singers and dancers from around the globe come to Llangollen to perform at one of the world’s most colourful festivals with its unique spirit of Peace and Goodwill. Dancers, Instrumentalists, Choirs, Soloists... there’s a competition for everyone at the Eisteddfod, with around 50 countries represented each year.

And the Llangollen experience isn’t limited to the stage - competitors take part in a spectacular street parade and join the festival atmosphere on the Eisteddfod Field, and International performers are invited to perform in magnificent concerts featuring World Class artists.

Pre-Concert Talks are scheduled in the Marquee of the Friends of Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod (FLIME) on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 6.15pm.

Outside Stages
The Festival has three outside stages which are used every day for scheduled and impromptu performances by visiting groups and specially booked acts as part of the World Music@SIX series.

Full Festival competition and schedule detail available on www.llangollen2009.com. Please find below a small selection of the 2009 Festival Highlights which may be of interest to you.

2009 Festival Highlights:

Monday 6th July
Evening Host: Sian Lloyd
Evening Performer: Faryl Smith
Evening Performer: Mark Evans

7:45pm - Evening Concert: Opening Gala Concert (Rehearsal 4:30pm)

This year’s Festival sees the exciting addition of a new Opening Gala concert to take place on Monday 6th July. The Opening Gala has a star line-up including young singing sensation Faryl Smith, BBC One’s ‘Your Country Needs You’ finalist Mark Evans and the award-winning Fron Male Voice Choir, who formed specifically to compete in the first International Eisteddfod of 1947 and have since gone from strength to strength reaching album-success with their ‘Voices of the Valley’.

Also performing will be reigning Llangollen Male Choir champions Côr Godre’r Aran, male-voice choir Cantorion Colin Jones and young tenor, Alexei Kalvecs. The concert will support Llangollen’s ‘Competitor Bursary Appeal Fund’ which aims to offer financial support to competitor groups who travel from all over the world. A donation from the Gala’s proceeds will also go to Wrexham’s Nightingale House Hospice, in association with Côr Godre’r Aran.

Faryl Smith: “I’m really looking forward to going back to Llangollen, I have great memories of competing at the Eisteddfod, it was my first taste of performing on an international stage and gave me the confidence to follow my dream”.....“I’m so excited, I’m following in the footsteps of my heroes Pavarotti, Domingo and Katherine Jenkins. To be singing at the opening concert at Llangollen is a dream come true!”

Mark Evans: “To be asked to sing at an international festival that happens to be so close to home is such an honour and music to my ears”.

Sian Lloyd: “Through my travel writing I have visited some of the most beautiful places in the world but can honestly say that Llangollen is up there with the best of them; the area has such an outstanding natural beauty. I’m particularly thrilled to be an Ambassador for the Llangollen International Eisteddfod this year which attracts so many people from across the globe to visit this beautiful part of Wales”.

**Tuesday 7th July**

Ambassador: Sian Lloyd  
Evening Performer: Barbara Dickson

**Day Session: International Children’s Day**

10:30am, 12:00pm and 13:30pm - Message of Peace and Goodwill (Pavilion Stage)  
5000 children will be on the Festival field on International Children’s Day. Also the traditional **Message of Peace and Goodwill** will be performed on the Pavilion Stage by local school children. This will be performed three times during the day at 10:30, 12:00 and 13:30, all lasting approximately 45 minutes. (Opportunity for press to attend a rehearsal of this before the day).

4:30pm - Parade of Nations  
Each year the colour and excitement of the Festival spreads into the streets of Llangollen town with the vibrant **Parade of Nations**. International performers in their traditional costumes parade through the picturesque town of Llangollen and over the famous bridge – just as they have done for the past 60 years. Weather permitting, the parade leaves the Festival ground on Tuesday 7th July at 4.30pm.

**World Music @ SIX (Outdoor Stage):** Sarah Savoy and the Cajuns - Music from Louisiana

7:45pm - Evening Concert: Barbara Dickson - Live at Llangollen (Rehearsal 4:45pm)

Singing a selection of her classic hits and folk-inspired songs, Barbara Dickson blend the old with the new including songs such as *I know him so well*. One of Britain's most versatile actresses and singers, the multimillion selling recording artist and Olivier Award winner comes to Llangollen with her own inimitable style, unparalleled in the music business.

Barbara Dickson: “*I haven’t performed in North Wales for some time so am looking forward to visiting Llangollen. It’s a beautiful, cultural area and to be part of a festival that celebrates music internationally is very exciting. As a Celt, music has always been fundamental to me and therefore I’m delighted to be singing in the Land of Song once more*.”
Wednesday 8th July

Day President: Shan Cothi
LIME President and Host of Peace Concert: Terry Waite CBE
Evening Performer: Brian Kay

Day Session: International Song and Dance

The competition finals start in earnest and range from children’s choirs to traditional folk dance. A day of unique colour, wonderful variety, and incredible standards.

10:00am - Launch of the ‘Tree of Peace’ (opposite the Floral Tent)
To celebrate the founding vision of the Festival, Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod will launch the Tree of Peace where people can, in exchange for a small donation, dedicate their own messages to the concept of peace thereby ensuring that the founders’ vision is safeguarded for future generations. Virginia Barrett will be performing her song ‘One Voice’, composed especially about the Eisteddfod’s involvement with peace. The launch will also be attended by some of the Officers of the Eisteddfod.

The Tree of Peace will allow people, for a donation of anything from 50 pence upwards, to capture a message for peace that will be pinned on the tree. These messages will then be collected at the end of the Festival and recorded in a booklet available for people to purchase and be inspired. Proceeds from the Tree of Peace will allow Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod to continue its work in bringing the nations of the world together and to be a beacon for peace. The tree has been designed and built by Bob Attenburrow, celebrating 50 years as a volunteer with the Eisteddfod, and Rob Edwards, a young man introduced to the Eisteddfod by his Father who has helped to construct the backstage facilities for nearly 40 years.

11:00am - Soroptimist International Presentation (on the grass bank near Soroptimist Tent)
To commemorate their long association with Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, Soroptimist International have commissioned a wooden bench to be presented on the Festival field.

Soroptimist International is a worldwide organization for women in management and professions, working through service projects to advance human rights and the status of women. In September 2008, the organization launched their “Where have all the chairs gone?” campaign which came as part of the Soroptimist International Cheshire, North Wales and Wirral Regional Project Launch 2008. The "Where have all the Chairs gone?" campaign calls for more benches in public spaces and chairs in shops. The project has been set up to aid the elderly and immobile who find it difficult to leave the house because there are not enough places to sit and rest on their journey. Soroptimist International sees the campaign as a ‘social-inclusion project’ which is not only targeted at helping the elderly but also young disability sufferers and pregnant women, who all need to take regular breaks when walking distances.

World Music @ SIX (Outdoor Stage): Soothsayers - Afro-Beat

7:45pm - Evening Concert: The Llangollen Peace Concert (Rehearsal 6:00pm)

The Llangollen Peace Concert is a unique experience that brings together folk dancers and choirs from around the world in the spirit of peace and goodwill between nations. The Eisteddfod’s official Welcoming Ceremony concert will be hosted by Eisteddfod President Terry Waite CBE. Featuring a parade onto stage by representatives of each country from which performers will compete during the weeks, and a fanfare of trumpets. Brian Kay, former “King’s Singer”, will conduct of choir of young people from 10 countries sing together with one voice.

Brian Kay: ”There's nothing remotely like the Eisteddfod: after being proudly involved for nearly 30 years as television presenter and stage presenter of this unique annual event, and indeed, President of the Friends for a time and still a Vice President of the Eisteddfod, it's hard to remember a time when Llangollen was not writ large in my life. The tireless efforts of so many willing people continue to make it an absolute highlight of the year for so many, and certainly for me. Thanks, and roll on July!”
Thursday 9th July

Day President: Mike Peters
Guest of Honour: Alex Pascal (Founder of Notting Hill Carnival and Human Rights Champion)
Evening Performer and LIME Vice President: Sir Willard White

Day Session: International Youth Day

‘One World, One Vision, One Youth’
As part of ‘One World, One Vision, One Youth’ on International Youth Day, celebrating the best of Youth from around the world, and sharing the vision of a world connected through music and dance, comes a new and exciting addition to the Festival this year ‘Sound of Silence’.

11:50am - ‘Sound of Silence’ – (Outside the Pavilion)
‘Sound of Silence’ will be a main feature of International Youth Day and of particular interest for its strong visual symbolic message. All children from each participating nation will encircle the main pavilion and link arms for a minute’s silence, sending out a powerful message of peace and solidarity to the world.

Preceding ‘Sound of Silence’, Alex Pasley, a Year 11 pupil from Dinas Bran School will be reading his winning Peace Message entitled "A Beautiful, Brilliant Word". Alex will be officially acknowledged on the Eisteddfod stage by Terry Waite CBE, who is currently President of the Eisteddfod.

11:15am–11:50pm - National Assembly for Wales Inflatable Stand
National Assembly for Wales’ European & External Affairs Committee - Opportunity for Eisteddfod visitors and competitors to meet with the Committee Chair and members. Mervyn Cousins and Terry Waite will attend and meet with Committee Members. Assembly Members attending: Sandy Mewies (Delyn), Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr) and Mike German (South Wales East). Also attending will be Janet Ryder AM, Chair of the Wales branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This relatively informal event is an opportunity for visitors to find out more about the Assembly Committee's role in engaging at the European and international level.

World Music @ SIX (Outdoor Stage): Etran Finatawa – The Music of the Desert

7:45pm - Evening Concert: Sir Willard White - Robeson Re-Explored (Rehearsal 6:15pm)

Eisteddfod favourite Sir Willard White returns to Llangollen and explores the life and music of Paul Robeson, icon of equality and human rights. Unforgettable spirituals, jazz and folk, including Steal Away, Ain’t Necessarily So and Ol’ Man River.

Sir Willard White: “As Vice President of the Llangollen Festival I am looking forward very much to returning to this fantastic music extravaganza. I know I’ll get a fantastic Welsh and international welcome in this beautiful part of North Wales. I am amazed at the diversity of the performers and competitors who travel from all over the world to perform at the Eisteddfod. My tribute to Paul Robeson on the Thursday night of the Festival is a labour of love, and I do hope that the audience will enjoy themselves as much as I have enjoyed putting the concert together”. 
Friday 10th July

Day President: Dr Karl Jenkins
Evening Performer: Blake
Evening Performer: Natasha Marsh

Day Session: International Celtic & Folk Day

Choirs and Celts fill the Pavilion with great sounds and huge talent. An array of choral performances unrivalled in world festivals – Folk Song, Chamber and Mixed Choirs, plus pipes, fiddles and drums in the Pavilion and on the field.

11:15am and 3:00pm - ‘All the World, One Smile’ – S4C Outside Stage
The award-winning project ‘All the World, One Smile’ that saw Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod Musical awarded the London 2012 Olympic Inspire Mark, will add even more colour and inspiration to the International Celtic and Folk Day. With support from the Arts Council of Wales, it will showcase the talents and abilities of disadvantaged and disabled people in performances during the Festival.

‘All the World, One Smile’ will add to the excitement at the Festival in the build-up to Friday evening’s concert, where Brit Award-winning Blake will be joined by sensational soprano Natasha Marsh in an exciting evening of music spanning opera, the classics and popular music. Blake and Natasha Marsh will also be present to watch the afternoon performance (3pm) of ‘All the World, One Smile’ where they will meet the performers involved and through this be able to inspire them to achieve even higher artistic personal bests in the future. The participants will receive a certificate and sing the specially composed song ‘All the World, One Smile’, composed by the Eisteddfod’s Executive Director Mervyn Cousins. (Opportunity for press to attend a rehearsal of this before the day).

A recording of one of the groups singing the ‘All the World, One Smile’ song will be done before the day, i.e. in rehearsal and/or of the whole group singing it on the day. It is hoped that the Festival will be able to follow up on the ‘All the World, One Smile’ project by putting the recording of the song on sale for charity or fund-raising purposes.

Blake sent their best wishes to the Festival on becoming one of the first organisations in Wales to achieve the prized London 2012 Olympic Inspire Mark - awarded for innovative, cutting-edge ideas and projects recognised as exciting by, and inspired by, London 2012. Blake: “Congratulations to Llangollen on being awarded the ‘Inspire Mark’, we're proud to be associated with the Festival as they receive this very special accolade and that we will be part of the ‘All the World, One Smile’ project on the day now too”.

‘All the World, One Smile’ performers:

- Open Arts Community Choir (from Northern Ireland, reached finals of ‘Last Choir Standing’, Bev White, Director)
- Susan Hedges (blind singer-songwriter from the Wirral)
- Rhosymedre Primary School (Roz Harrison, Headteacher)
- Dynamics (Wrexham)
- Philippino Community of North Wales
- Kids Fun Club (Rhyl)
- Action for Children Young Carers Group (different areas of North Wales)

World Music @ SIX (Outdoor Stage): Spiro and Fiona Mackenzie – Sounds of the North

7:45pm - Evening Concert: Blake & Natasha Marsh (Rehearsal 6:05pm)

Brit Award-winning Blake will be joined by sensational soprano Natasha Marsh in an exciting evening of music spanning opera, the classics and popular music. Blake’s self-titled number one album, released in 2007, became only the second debut album to win ‘Album of the Year’ at the Classical Brit Awards. Having performed at venues including the Royal Albert Hall, Wembley and Twickenham, Blake (baritones Stephen Bowman and Jules Knight, and tenors Ollie Baines and Humphrey Barney) are preparing to take to the Eisteddfod stage with their unique sound. Brecon born Natasha Marsh has been described as ‘the new voice of romance’. As well as her wonderful album Amour, credits include acclaimed operatic appearances and the music for ITV’s Euro 2008 football coverage.
**Saturday 11th July**

Day President: **Dr Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales**

**12:00-5:00pm - Alun Ffred Jones, Minister for Heritage** visits the Festival and has a tour by Executive Director, Mervyn Cousins.

**Day Session: International Family Day**

Wall to wall musical entertainment, with Male and Female choirs, classical and close-harmony – including Barbershop and Songs from the Shows, and fabulous folk dance groups. There will also be an abundance of Family Entertainment on the Field including Drop-In Crafts, Mosaics and Songs.

**Mary Mestecky book signing and reading - 'Adventure at Dinas Brân’**

1:00pm – Denbighshire Country Council Stand

Author Mary Mestecky will be reading from her children's novel ‘Adventure at Dinas Brân’ - which tells the story of a group of dragons who visit the Llangollen area and are inspired by the International Festival, and will also be signing copies of her book as part of International Family Day.

**(time tbc) - New Photographic Competition (Pavilion Stage)**

The Festival have this year introduced a brand new Photographic Competition which will involve all competitors - overseas, UK and soloists, and will be centred on the theme of ‘Peace’. Entrants have been invited to submit one original photograph (colour/black and white) by Wednesday 8th July. The entries from a shortlist of 10, will be judged by Andrew Gale and Peter Evans, two local professional photographers and the Rev Andrew Sully one of LIME's volunteers, on **Friday 10th July**. The winner will be announced on the Pavilion Stage on **Saturday 11th July** (time tbc) and the prize of 100 euros presented directly afterwards. The winning entry plus the other nine short-listed photographs and any other selected ones will be displayed at various locations throughout the Festival grounds and will also appear on the website [www.llangollen2009.com](http://www.llangollen2009.com)

**World Music @ SIX (Outdoor Stage): Music from South America**

**7:45pm - Evening Concert: Choir of the World – The Pavarotti Trophy**  (Rehearsal 6:45pm)

Simply the most prestigious choir competition in the world.....Winning choirs from the five major choral competitions sing in the Grand Final. The winner is awarded the famous Pavarotti Trophy, named for the great Italian tenor who competed on the Eisteddfod stage in 1955 when his choir from Modena won the Men's Choir competition. In 2005 Luciano Pavarotti added his name to the Choir of the World competition. The evening begins with a breathtaking dance show.
**Sunday 12th July**

Evening Host: **Honor Blackman**  
Guest of Honour: **David Pender Richards** – Chairman of Aston Martin

**Day Session: NEW programme of music and events**

This year, for the first time ever, Llangollen will include an extra day of activities on the Sunday, bringing the festival to a full SIX days of activities, day and evening. Working closely with the local community, the Eisteddfod will offer an array of artists performing on the field and in the town of Llangollen during this additional day.

**6:15pm - Bonus Early Evening Concert (Outdoor Stage): The Naked Violin**  
World-famous and award-winning solo violinist, Tamsin Little, in concert on the Eisteddfod field

**7:45pm - Evening Concert: ‘Licensed to Thrill’ (Rehearsal 2:45-5:45pm)**

The spectacular ‘Licensed to Thrill’ concert on Sunday 12th July will see **The Music of James Bond** performed by the **Orchestra of Welsh National Opera**, conducted by **Carl Davis** and hosted by **Bond Girl Honor Blackman** a.k.a Pussy Galore. Introducing two of the most talented singers from the West End stage and television, the concert will also include performances by **Mary Carewe** and **Simon Bowman**. The audience will be treated to a glittering evening of fabulous orchestral sounds and favourite melodies including *Goldfinger*, *You Only Live Twice*, and the iconic *Bond Theme*. The concert will culminate in a spectacular firework display which will be the finale to the Festival. There will also be **2 Aston Martins** on the Festival field throughout Sunday afternoon and evening (provided by Stratstone of Wimslow) and Guest of Honour at the ‘Licensed to Thrill’ concert will be David Pender Richards - Chairman of Aston Martin.
Miscellaneous:

Llangollen Festival Merchandise
This year the Festival have launched a new range of merchandise consisting of sweatshirts, t-shirts and polo shirts all bearing the Eisteddfod logo. There is also a range of 99p items for children. All items will be available to buy from the Eisteddfod shop or by mail order from the website www.llangollen2009.com

Recordings of the competitions are also available for purchase - often within one hour of the end of the competition. There is also a special new line of ‘Llangollen Gold’ including DVDs of Dance and Barbershop, and the ‘Music Director’s Choice’ CD of favourites from the last five years.

Eisteddfod Stage
2009 sees the launch of a new and exciting stage design for the Main Pavilion.

The Competitors Club
Throughout the week of the Festival, The Competitors Club is open to all competitors. It is a fantastic spectacle of impromptu performance and song from around the world. Press photographers and interviews available. The Competitors Club is reliant on donations from local companies, which allows it to continue giving competitors an unique welcome throughout the week of the Festival.

‘Miscellany Medley’
The Competitors Club have produced a book entitled ‘Miscellany Medley’ which incorporates stories from 6 years of ‘Miscellany’ newsletters, with many of the articles written by the Eisteddfod’s committed volunteers.

39 extra First Aid ‘Appointed Persons’
A total of 39 extra volunteers have been trained to the ‘Appointed Person’ standard (An HSE recognised qualification) who will be on site during the week of the Festival. They were trained by the Eisteddfod Chairman who is a qualified First Aid Instructor through Shorecliffe Training of Denbigh.

Celebrities/VIP guests available for interview both pre-Eisteddfod and during the week of the Festival itself:

Monday 6th July:
Faryl Smith - Performer
Mark Evans - Performer
Sian Lloyd - Host

Tuesday 7th July:
Barbara Dixon - Performer
Sian Lloyd - Ambassador

Wednesday 8th July:
Terry Waite - LIME President and Host of Peace Concert
Brian Kay - Performer - Peace Concert
Shan Cothi – Day President

Thursday 9th July:
Sir Willard White - Performer and LIME Vice President
Mike Peters - Day President
Alex Pascal - Guest of Honour (Founder of Notting Hill Carnival and Human Rights Champion)

Friday 10th July:
Blake - Performer
Natasha Marsh - Performer
Karl Jenkins - Day President

Saturday 11th July:
Dr Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales – Day President

Sunday 12th July:
Honor Blackman – Host of ‘Licensed to Thrill’ Bond Concert
Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod: General Information

- The International Eisteddfod provides a platform for people of all nations to meet and communicate through the international languages of music and dance, thereby promoting peace, harmony and a greater understanding of world culture.
- The festival has very strong links to the United Nations and was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.
- The International Eisteddfod’s Patron is H.R.H. Prince Charles and Terry Waite CBE is the current President.
- Established in 1947 by volunteers to promote peace and goodwill between nations through music and dance, Llangollen International Eisteddfod has become one of the world’s great festivals.
- Its professional evening concerts and daily premier competitions are now combined with innovative field activities and outreach work.
- Based in the beautiful Dee Valley in the county of Denbighshire, North Wales.
- Many of the world’s greatest stars have sung at Llangollen with some beginning their careers on the North Wales stage. The late Luciano Pavarotti was a competition winner in 1955 and returned as the world’s most famous tenor to perform in an evening concert in 1995.
- The festival field is filled with colour and sound, with outside stage performances, workshops, and impromptu singing and dancing from every corner of the world.
- 50 countries competed in the Eisteddfod last year.
- Just fewer than 4000 competitors appeared on the Pavilion stage in 2008.

For tickets and/or further information call 01978 862001 or visit www.llangollen2009.com

Ticket prices:
Day Sessions ranging from £12 to £19
Evening Concerts ranging from £10 to £39

- Reduced price ticket available for Monday concert for those booking other concerts or day sessions
- Children only £2 on Wednesday evening – an ideal introduction to the unique colours of the Eisteddfod
- Family Ticket for Saturday (2 adults and up to 3 children) only £20 – a reduction on 2008 prices

Additional Info: Full Season Ticket holders can choose one of the best seats in the house to enjoy the Eisteddfod competitions and concerts from Wednesday through Saturday for just £125 - an amazing 23% discount. Plus, claim an exclusive discount on tickets for Tuesday evening’s concert - purchase a £35 ticket for £30. Season Ticket holders also receive a free Eisteddfod Souvenir Programme.