

Mark of genius



Mark Simpson is the BBC Young Musician of the Year

A YOUNG Liverpool music maestro has the world at his feet after scooping one of the most prestigious prizes in his field.

Clarinetist, Mark Simpson, from West Derby, is preparing for a career as a top international performer, after winning the 2006 BBC Young Musician of the Year award.

Mark, 17, won the coveted Waterford Crystal trophy after a stunning performance of Nielsen's Clarinet Concerto at the final in Gateshead.

He said: "It was an unbelievable feeling to win the award. Performing in front of so many cameras, important people, friends and family was the most nerve-racking experience of my life – like doing a bungee-jump!

But a big

part of being a musician is overcoming nerves and dealing with adrenaline."

Mark first discovered music at the age of nine, when he received recorder lessons. But his love of the clarinet didn't come until later, when he heard George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue for the first time.

Naming Gyorgy Ligeti, James Macmillan and Mark Anthony Turnage as some of your heroes are quite extraordinary choices for a 17 year-old. But then Mark is quite an extraordinary young man.

The King David High School student composes his own music – some of which has even been performed by the New York Sinfonietta – plays the piano and violin and dedicates his spare time to supporting the school's senior choir and young music groups.

And all this while studying for his A-Levels! King David School, Childwall, has a strong music heritage, nurturing and developing the talents of musicians, and helping them achieve both academic and musical excellence. More than a third of the school's pupils are musicians.

Staff at the school are very proud of Mark, having seen him develop over the years into one of the country's finest young musicians. Music teacher, Anne Needham, said: "I've been very

privileged to teach Mark for the last six years. His talent, hard work and passion is helping our young musicians thrive."

Head of Music for the past 10 years, Neil Holroyd, agrees. He said: "Within six months of meeting Mark, I knew he was a phenomenal talent. And he is a real inspiration to others. Since he came back with the trophy, we've had year 7 pupils asking questions about how they can reach that level. His passion for music is really rubbing-off on them."

Mark was quick to thank the people who have helped him, including his family, music teachers and the school. He said: "Many of the musicians I competed against attend specialist music schools, but I'm very glad to attend a state school like King David – which fully supports your music, but also helps you become a well-rounded individual."

He added: "I also can't forget to thank the city's Music Support Service. If they hadn't provided lessons and a clarinet for free, I wouldn't be where I am now."

Mark's future ambitions are simply to be "successful in my career" and to bring "classical music to a wider audience" through his performing and composing, which he loves equally.

But whatever the future holds for this super-talented, yet down-to-earth musician, at 17, he has already made his mark on the world of music.

"We are all very proud of Mark. He has a special gift, but makes the most of it through hard work and dedication."

BRIGID SMITH, HEADTEACHER,
KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL



CAPITAL OF

International festival is streets ahead

FESTIVAL fever is sweeping through Liverpool, as the city gears-up for Brouhaha.

Performers from across the globe are converging on Liverpool for the international street festival - and the city centre is about to come to life with carnivals, performances, community art and culture.

It's the perfect summer boost for the Liverpool Performs 2006 celebrations.

Liverpool City Council Leader, Warren Bradley, said: "Brouhaha is one of Liverpool's most colourful, vibrant and diverse cultural celebrations

"To see so many people, from so many communities, getting involved in activities from dance to costume-making, and from music to carnival parades, really captures what Capital of Culture is all about – creativity, inclusion and participation."

Established in 1991, Brouhaha is now one of Liverpool's most exciting cultural treats. The festival, which runs from 15th July - 6th August, opens with a spectacular ceremony at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

During the festival, music groups from Morocco and hip hop performers from

Palestine will perform at World Museum Liverpool, and dancers from South Asia will mesmerise audiences with the 'Bollywood Steps' event on the steps of the Metropolitan Cathedral.

More than 200 artists and performers from 20 countries will entertain city centre shoppers, teach children how to dance, run drumming workshops and work with community groups and schools on a huge range of creative cultural projects.

Acclaimed artist Maurice Agis will showcase 'Dreamscape' at the Metropolitan Cathedral. The large-scale public art installation consists of 109 units which are linked together to create a huge labyrinth of colour and sound.

And in early August, the Liverpool International Carnival hits the streets. More than 25,000 people are expected at what is now the region's largest multicultural parade and one of the UK's largest pieces of moving art.

With more than 1,800 costumes created by Notting Hill Carnival designer Ray Mahabir, the parade will bring together performers from Liverpool, Latin America,

the Caribbean, Italy and many more countries.

And events aren't just confined to Liverpool. The festival now spills-out across the UK. During July and August, cultural events take place under the Brouhaha banner in London, Manchester, Southport and Wigan.

Festival Director Giles Agis said: "In Brouhaha, we have a festival that continues to grow and grow, and is really putting Liverpool on the map.

"A huge range of community projects are giving thousands of people in Liverpool and beyond the chance to work with performers from all over the world and develop new skills.

"And our international street carnival is one of the country's best outside London – an explosion of colour, music and spectacular performance. It really is Liverpool's answer to the Notting Hill Carnival."

For further information on the events, please call 0151 709 3334 or log-on to www.brouhaha.uk.com

"Brouhaha is the only carnival in the UK to involve so many international artists."

RAY MAHABIR, INTERNATIONAL COSTUME DESIGNER



CARNIVAL!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

17th June–16th July:

DREAMSCAPE: Metropolitan Cathedral.

12noon–6pm. £5 adults, £3 children/concessions.

15th–16th July:

ARABIC ARTS FESTIVAL: Liverpool World Museum. 12 noon. Free.

21st July:

GRAND OPENING CEREMONY: Liverpool Philharmonic Concert Hall. 7.30pm Free.

22nd July:

GREATER MANCHESTER CARNIVAL ARTS SHOWCASE: Manchester Town Hall, Exchange Square/Urbis Centre. 1pm. Free.

22nd July:

LIVERPOOL NYLON SOUNDZ: Liverpool Carling Academy. Music from South Asian percussionist Karsh Kale and Underground Asian music group State of Bengal. 8pm. £5, £3 concessions.

22nd–23rd July:

SOUTHPORT INTERNATIONAL STREET FESTIVAL: Two days of street arts performances outside Southport Arts Centre. 12 noon–5pm. Free.

25th–28th July:

UNITY THEATRE INTERNATIONAL WEEK: £6 (£4 concessions).

29th–30th July:

BOLLYWOOD STEPS PERFORMANCE: Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. 8pm. Free.

5th August:

LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL STREET CARNIVAL: Starts Liverpool Community College, Myrtle Street. 12 noon. Free.

5th August:

THE WORLD IN PRINCES PARK: Carnival proceeds to Princes Park where there will be local and international performances, food stalls and children's shows. 1pm–7pm. Free.

5th August:

LIVERPOOL MELA: Princes Park - performances by local and national South Asian groups, Princes Park. 1pm–7pm. Free.

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th August:

STREET ARTS PERFORMANCES IN LIVERPOOL: (City Centre, Queens Square and Mathew Street) 5pm–8pm. Free.



It's out with the old and in with the new at the Town Hall. Sarah Langworthy meets Liver

"I'm sure the suspense and excitement of the coming year will rival the best Agatha Christie."

LORD MAYOR, JOAN LANG

MAYOR-DER SHE WROTE!

Literature lover Joan Lang has taken the civic helm

SHE loves nothing more than dipping-in to an Agatha Christie classic, and she'll be combining her 80th birthday celebrations with Liverpool's 800th – meet Liverpool's new Lord Mayor, Joan Lang.

A born and bred scouser, Joan has donned the mayoral robes and become Liverpool's Lord Mayor. Her banker son Graham is her Consort.

Joan has been with the council for more than 16 years representing the Warbreck Ward and was Chair of the Tourism and Culture Select Committee, which she really enjoyed.

So, what's Joan looking forward to in the forthcoming year?

"I can't wait to meet lots of new people. I'm going to be attending many events, mixing with people from all walks of life which will be really interesting.

"And of course I'll be Lord Mayor during the first part of Liverpool's 800th birthday so it will be wonderful to play a part in those celebrations."

In her spare time Joan loves to unwind with a bit of murder mystery and turns super-sleuth when she tunes into the latest Poirot or Agatha Christie instalment.

But, although Joan is looking forward to her year, there is someone else who she would have loved to have seen become Lord Mayor.

"My husband Joe who sadly died in 1998 was set to become Lord Mayor, so I'm really doing this for him.

"I'm sure he's looking down on me and is very proud that I'm the Lord Mayor of such a wonderful city."



JOAN AND SON GRAHAM

Liverpool's new First Citizen and looks back at an eventful year for the outgoing Lord Mayor



SHARING A JOKE AT A SPECIAL LUNCH IN HONOUR OF LIVERPOOL'S LEGENDARY COMEDIANS



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SUFFERED IN THE HOLOCAUST

It's Dean nice knowing you...

Councillor Alan Dean reflects on his 'proud' year as Lord mayor

AFTER a year consisting of two victory homecoming parades by LFC, royal visits and a 'gag'le of comedians descending on him at the Town Hall, Alan Dean is hanging up his chain.

When asked about his highlights, there are too many for Alan to mention.

"The one thing that's been amazing for the Lady Mayoress (my daughter) Helen and I is discovering just how much people in Liverpool put back into their community – there are so many unsung heroes and heroines throughout this city who give up their time selflessly to help others. My eyes have really been opened and I'm even more proud of this city than ever before."

At the beginning of his term the former Lord Mayor had promised to attend as many events, and get out and meet as

many diverse communities as possible. He has done just that.

"It was worthwhile attending so many different events, big and small, and I met hundreds of interesting people who really added something special to my year."

With his busy schedule in mind, Alan's advice to the new Lord Mayor is to make sure she gets plenty of sleep, and most importantly, enjoys herself.

"Helen and I had a fabulous year and we're so pleased that we were given the chance to be ambassadors for this great city.

"I'm positive that Joan and her son Graham will have a ball."



WITH THE LADY MAYORESS IN THE STANDS NEXT TO CHELSEA OWNER ROMAN ABRAMOVICH AND FOOTBALL LEGEND MARK HUGHES



You've been framed, Ma'am

Crowning glory for Town Hall collection

A STUNNING portrait of the Queen to celebrate her 80th birthday is the latest addition to the Town Hall gallery.

Local artist Vivienne Churney was one of the finalists in a national competition to find a portrait of Elizabeth II.

Out of 8,000 entries, Vivienne came in the top 18, and decided to present the city council with her painting.

The beautiful watercolour is the latest addition to a proud collection of royal portraits at the Town Hall.

Entitled 'The Coronation', it depicts the Queen's accession to the throne back in 1953. It took Vivienne, who is a teacher at King David High School, Childwall, a week to paint the picture.

Vivienne, aged 54, said: "I really wanted to capture Her Majesty's youth, beauty and innocence just as she took on a role of such enormity.

"I thought it would be a nice gesture to give something back to the city that has given me so much – I live and work here and went to university in Liverpool, so it felt right that the city council should have the painting.

"It was a privilege to enter the competition and I was honoured that my work received a great deal of praise and did so well.

"It's lovely to think that visitors to the Town Hall will be able to see my work and I hope they get as much pleasure out of it as I did painting it."



Raising a glass to Liverpool's heritage

SOME of Liverpool's rarest artefacts could be going on display at a city museum.

Thousands of beautiful pieces of china and glassware, which have been in storage for the last 16 years at Croxteth Hall, have been cleaned-up and could be part of a special collection if talks between the city council's curator of collections and National Museums Liverpool are successful.

Several pieces of glass date back to 1805, and even though some of the artefacts are damaged, their historical value is so high that the museums are keen to conserve them.

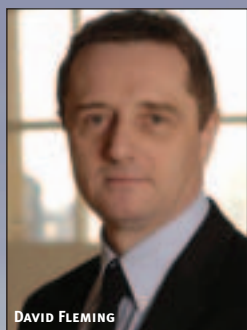
Some highlights of the display include a porcelain dinner service painted in red enamel and gold which bears the city's coat of arms and dates back to 1806, and 19th century port glasses which were specifically manufactured for the Town Hall.



TOWN HALL WORKER
PAMELA RAMAN BLOWS THE
DUST OFF A RARE PIECE

Museum of the future

Work to begin on spectacular new museum of Liverpool



DAVID FLEMING

THE new Museum of Liverpool has been given a £32.7m boost.

The funding from the NWDA, which follows a successful planning application in December, means the museum now

has the green light to proceed.

The Museum of Liverpool, with a budget of £65m, is set to be one of the world's leading city history museums, reflecting Liverpool's global significance through its unique geography, history and culture.

Building on the success of the Museum of Liverpool Life, the new museum, located on Liverpool's waterfront, will provide a showcase for social history and popular

culture. It will draw on National Museums Liverpool's wealth of collections, many of which have never been on public display. David Fleming, Director of National Museums Liverpool says: "The Northwest Regional Development Agency decision means this new museum is now in business and Liverpool is about to get one of the world's best museums right in the heart of the city. It will attract people from far and wide and will be a brilliant learning and recreational resource for local people.

"There are still hurdles to overcome but this museum is now becoming a reality."

In the run-up to the new museum opening two major exhibitions about Liverpool will be staged at the Merseyside Maritime Museum. In 2007 a large-scale exhibition will explore Liverpool's history over the last 800 years, told through the lives of ordinary people, the famous and the infamous.

A major, multi-sensory exhibition in 2008 will celebrate Liverpool as the capital of pop and rock, exploring Liverpool's popular music heritage from 1945 to the present.

The new museum will provide 5,000 square metres of exhibition space and focus on four main themes: Port City, Global City, My Liverpool and Expressive City.

Highlights will include a 200-capacity theatre featuring shows created by Liverpool film makers, writers and artists; and a history hub – a 'one-stop shop' for exploring Liverpool and Merseyside's archaeology and social history.

There will also be the model of the proposed Liverpool Catholic Cathedral by world-famous architect Edwin Lutyens which was never built; and a gallery exploring why this city has produced such an amazing roll call of writers, performers, comedians and sportsmen.



PETER WITH COLLEAGUE
GEORGE McKELLEN

"I'm delighted for Peter. It's a pleasure to work with him – he's a true professional."

GEORGE McKELLEN, COLLEAGUE



LIVERPOOL BOYS UNDER
15S CELEBRATE WITH PETER

ROO ARE THE CHAMPION!

Heroic groundsman scores a hat-trick

THE England football team, led by a number of Liverpool-born stars, are currently doing their best to win the World Cup in Germany.

But back in Liverpool, a very special groundsman is helping keep the next generation of potential international footballers on winning form!

Liverpool City Council's Peter Conroy, who maintains the football pitch where Wayne Rooney's brother, John, and his team mates train, has been named the North West and West Midlands Groundsman of the Year by the Football Association (FA) – for the third time.

His meticulous upkeep of the pitches in Walton helped John Rooney and the rest of his under-15 team scoop the English National football trophy in May.

Peter who first won the honour in 2002, and again in 2005 has worked at Walton Sports and Soccer Centre

since it opened in 1999.

He said: "I'm really pleased that I've won the title again, although I don't want to take all the credit for it, as it's a team effort."

It is the groundsman's responsibilities to maintain the five grass pitches at Walton Soccer Centre which includes cutting the grass to the right length, planting new seeds, fertilising the pitch, ensuring that health and safety rules are adhered to and being responsible for the overall management of the pitches.

Liverpool Boys under-15s competed with more than 300 young players and 202 schools throughout the tournament which resulted in the team facing Swansea in the final at Anfield. The Liverpool team beat the Welsh challengers 1-0.

Manager of the team Tom Wyatt said: "Other teams are really envious of the facilities we have at Walton Soccer Centre and it has reached the point where they are willing to give up home advantage just to play on our pitch!"

