

Pianists get the 85th Eisteddfod under way

by Helen Devonshire

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PIANISTS took to the stage yesterday for the first class of this year's Eisteddfod.

The 85th festival began with the music section, which has had more than 600 entries across the classes.

General secretary Barbara Minta said it was great fun to sit through and enjoy the different events going on.

For adjudicator Ian Hytch, it was his first time in Guernsey.

'I am very much looking forward to such a variety,' he said. 'From beginner cellos to the barbershop quartet to the corporate entertainment as a finale which is very exciting, and it is a lovely venue.'

The first class was piano sonata, under 18 for the Whiteley Cup.

For Elizabeth College Year 12 pupil Jack Colley, it was particularly special as he was the first participant of the event to take to the stage.

'I have never been first before and it is a really great opportunity and hopefully I will set the standard from a good start.'

Marie-Claire Benoist, 14, was also taking part in the class and has been playing the piano since she was five.

The Ladies' College pupil also plays the harp.

'I find the most nerve-wracking part is being called up but my favourite part is getting on stage and it goes okay after all.'

Fellow Elizabeth College student Jude Wegerer has taken part in the event before, also in the drama section. The 15-year-old was looking forward to taking to the stage.



This year's first performer, pianist Jack Colley, plays an extract from Schubert's Sonata in A Minor in the piano sonata class for under 18s, the opening section of this 85th Eisteddfod, which started yesterday. (Picture by Tom Tardif, 7394935)