

Song winners will fly the flag for Wales

STEVE Balsamo and Ynyr Roberts have won S4C's 2011 Càn i Gymru (Song for Wales) competition with the song Rhywun yn Rhywle.

Steve and Ynyr won the main prize of £7,500, and will represent Wales at the Pan Celtic Festival in Ireland later this year. Tesni Jones, a young singer from Mochdre performed the winning song.

Ynyr, originally from Penisarwaun near Caernarfon, said: "We're grateful to everyone who picked up the phone and

voted for us and for the positive reception to Rhywun yn Rhywle. The Càn i Gymru competition means a lot to me personally and winning has been an ambition of mine for a long time.

"Working with someone of Steve's ability has been great too. I think we brought out the best in each other. The song's main message is to keep chasing your dreams and keep the faith."

It was a case of third time lucky in the competition for Ynyr – a

singer with the group, Brigyn.

Swansea singer and songwriter Steve adds: "Because of Tesni's powerful voice, it added an extra challenge for Ynyr and myself to create something bigger and more exciting. Without a doubt, she was the best person to sing and promote the song."

Steve is probably best known for the lead role in the West End production of Jesus Christ Superstar and supporting Elton John on two European tours with

the band, The Storys.

It promises to be a hectic few months for the new song-writing team. The three are already planning to work on other musical projects and in April they will travel to Kerry in Ireland where Rhywun yn Rhywle will compete in the Pan Celtic Festival.

In second place and winning £2,000 was Osian Rhys Roberts with the song Cofia am y Cariad. Gai Tomas came third winning £1,000 with his song, Clywch.