



Steve Balsamo, Tesni Jones and Ynyr Roberts, winners of the Càn i Gymru 2011 competition – who will succeed them in 2012?

Seeking a 2012 Song for Wales

S4C CONTEST LAUNCHES

By **HYWEL TREWYN**

COMPOSERS are being invited to send in their songs for the Càn i Gymru 2012 songwriting competition and the first prize of £7,500.

Songwriters from Wales and beyond will compete for the honour of representing Wales in the Pan Celtic Festival in Carlow, Ireland next year.

Musicians Ynyr Roberts, originally from Llanrug, and Steve Balsamo, from Swansea, were last year's winners of the S4C competition with the song Rhywun yn Rhywle (Someone Somewhere) sung by Mochdre singer Tesni Jones.

Ynyr, one half of a duo called Brigyn with his younger brother Eung, 27, encouraged musicians to compete because the experience had greatly boosted his career.

Ynyr, 31, living in Cardiff with wife Gwenllian and five-month-old son Deio, said: "I would recommend that people try the competition.

"It's been great for my career as a songwriter since it's given me the chance to write for other artists and been a good way to develop contacts with the press and other writers and performers."

He said winning the competition had been a lifetime ambition.

Ynyr said: "I've always wanted to win Càn i Gymru.

"I've been a fan of the com-

petition since the 80s and I will definitely be following the events again this year."

Following its success in Càn i Gymru, Rhywun yn Rhywle went on to win Best International Song at the Pan Celtic Festival in Ireland.

Ynyr and Steve have been working on a new CD for Tesni which will be launched after this year's Càn i Gymru. Brigyn have a gig in Trawsfynydd on Saturday, November 19.

Last year's competition received more entries than ever and the organisers are hoping for an even better response this year. The closing date is Monday, January 9.

Entries can be on CD, cassette or mp3 and must be accompanied by an entry form, which is available, along with full competition details, at the Càn i Gymru website: s4c.co.uk/canigyrmu.

The minimum age for entry is 16.

Eight songs will be selected for a shortlist by a jury of experts, chaired by Owen Powell, formerly of Catatonia.

The eight songs will compete in a live programme from the Bont Pavilion, Pontrhydfendigaid on March 4, 2012.

There are also prizes of £2,000 for second and £1,000 for third.

● For further information call programme producers Avanti on 02920 838 149 or canigyrmu2012@avantimedia.tv.

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