

**Appreciations of the  
Sri Lanka Festival of Music, Dance & Speech  
Speech & Drama Adjudicator 2022**

**Timothy McCarthy**

*MA, HDE, FTCL, LGSMD, FLCM, ALAM, PGCA*

What a wonderfully exciting and delightful Speech Festival we had again in 2022. While the form was not what was originally hoped or wished for, nonetheless given the many difficult circumstances of the year, the IIMSD again gave us the opportunity to participate in a Speech Festival. Many home Festivals did not take place in 2022, and of those that did, they were greatly reduced. I first of all thank the Director and staff at IIMSD for their courage, strength and belief in this wonderful event; for facilitating the students with the opportunity to participate in a Festival. It is only organisations with focus and drive that all things are possible.

As we come out of the pandemic era, things have changed and yet some things remain the same. While our mode of operation is different, nonetheless standards, skills needed and acquired are still changeless. Students still have to study, learn and practice in order to develop their abilities and techniques. Though we did not have a live audience for the local Festival, there was an audience through the camera and your performance was assessed and enjoyed as much as before. I looked forward each morning to the day's programme. I laughed and cried with you. I wished you to succeed and I admired your achievements. I hope that I encouraged you and that you learned from your performances and your reports.

The particular delight for me this year was the live finals. I so enjoyed those days, because despite everything, live performance is what our Festivals are about. It is in the actual moment of performance that students have to garner all their skills, knowledge and experience to cope with the pressure and expectations of that moment. It was wonderful to tune in for each and every session; to watch the students master their skills and give very worthy presentations. I so missed being with you but I also commend you for your work and commitment to the performing arts. Thank you to all the performers for your many varied, creative and focused performances.

Finally thank you so much to your great teachers and parents for all they did to help, support and encourage your worthy endeavours. As we move in to another new year of performance my wish is that you continue with your studies and that you all stay safe and well.

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**Music Adjudicator 2022**

**Richard Deering**

*FTCL, GTCL, LRAM, ARCM, PGCA*

The 2022 Festival was an enormous success, considering all the difficulties that were encountered along the way that threatened to derail the organising of the event. Although not an ideal way of hearing performances the video submissions for the preliminary round were well labelled and generally of good quality and the selection of finalists was made. The 6 days of Finals were live events and viewed on Zoom, which again, was not ideal but the organisation and technical support was excellent, and the performances passed off with little problem. The only inconvenience was the time difference, meaning that I had to start my working day at 04.30!

Our immense gratitude must be directed towards the team at IIMSD for their incredible efforts and skills to allow this all to pass off so successfully. On a performance note, I must also congratulate all the performers and teachers for their participation under these unusual conditions and, having been associated with the festival intermittently over the past 20 years, I was particularly pleased to see and hear how high the standard of performance was this year, which bodes very well for the future of music in Sri Lanka. I look forward to meeting you all again sometime soon.

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**Music Adjudicator 2022**

**Benjamin Costello**

*BMus PGDip MA FRSA FISM*

The last few months have seen, pleasingly, some post-Covid recovery for the performing arts. The indomitable spirit that exists within the Sri Lanka Festival burns brightly, and Shanika and her team continue to fly the flag for music, dance, and speech throughout the Island.

I have had the pleasure and privilege to visit Sri Lanka twice now to adjudicate in 2015 and 2019 and have fond memories of both trips. It was a pleasure to adjudicate online in 2021, and this year too, with the Finals pleasingly done 'live'. Online adjudication allows at least some continuity in these difficult times, and performers and teachers have once again risen to the occasion admirably.

As usual there was a healthy diversity of musical styles and genres, and at every centre I saw and heard some inspiring performances. Some fine and dedicated teaching is clearly going on, and the fruits of this and the students' passion and commitment to their studies pays dividends. I only hope I have complemented and supported all this in my typed comments to you all.

I have said this before, but the Festival's importance as a major cultural event in Sri Lanka cannot be overemphasised, with its success down not only to the participants and teachers, but to the hard-working team of organisers. I hope that it continues to go from strength to strength, and I look forward to returning to adjudicate in person before too long.

I wish all performers the very best with their musical endeavours and hope that you all have a prosperous and safe 2023.

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**Dance Adjudicator 2022**

**Patricia Snowdon**

*BPhil(Hons),DipLCDD,LISTD(Dip),CDE*

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