



JEM HAMMOND - Player and Purveyor of Flutes and Whistles

Jem Hammond won the inaugural Celtic instrumental solo at the 2005 Llangollen International Eisteddfod. When he won first prize at Llangollen playing the flute, it was the first time this century that anyone from Wrexham had won a competition at the Eisteddfod.



English by birth and brought up in the West Country of England, Jem has lived in Wales since going to University in Cardiff (to read Archaeology) in 1977. Since 1991 he has lived near Wrexham. He grew up listening chiefly to classical music and is influenced by it, especially the period performance movement. He took up the flute at 17 years of age and at University he fell in with people playing traditional music, helped form a band,

and has been involved in the traditional music scene in Wales ever since, specialising in Celtic music.

In the early 1980's he transferred from modern metal flute to "simple system" wooden instruments and he also plays whistles, recorders and pibgorn as well as bodhrán (Irish drum). His main instrument is a Rudall & Rose Patent Head 8-key flute made in c1843. As a flautist, his main influences are Jean-Michel Veillon (Breton), Matt Molloy (Irish) and Stephen Preston (Baroque/period).