

MOD GOLD MEDALLIST: WILLIE JOHN MACAULAY

Willie John Macaulay was born and brought up in Grosebay, Harris and as a native of these parts, his first language was Gaelic. He began to show an interest in music while studying at Inverness Technical College, but it was only when he moved to Dundee in 1964 to serve an engineering apprenticeship that he decided to sing in his native tongue.

In his spare time, he took private tuition at Dundee School of Music. Then, from 1971 onwards, he made a weekly trip to Glasgow to study under leading singing teacher John A MacRae, who has coached thirteen Mod Gold medallists. The years of hard work paid off, for, in 1975, he won the Gold Medal at the National Gaelic Mod in East Kilbride.

Willie John's Mod triumph brought him handsome dividends, with the sale of his first LP "Lewis to Lochindaal", in addition to TV and radio appearances. He became the top entertainer on the Gaelic circuit.

Sadly, Willie John Macaulay died on the 8th July 2006 at the age of 58.

We can be truly proud of his achievements and he richly deserves to be recognised as a famous MacAulay.

Hector MacAulay, Clan Chief

