

# Digital sounds of future

By IFAN PAYNE

## REVIEW

THE concert at St David's Hall on Wednesday evening in aid of the Urdd Eisteddfod Fund represented the established of the newer hopefuls of the Welsh rock scene.

Ffenestri's first album *Tymore* is due out soon and if the group's performance, which opened the show, is anything to go by, it should be a great success.

Ffenestri is a heavily-digital group and if they don't have quite the drive of Tangerine Dream or the avant garde inventiveness of Kraftwerk they did put together an enjoyable set of songs.

They included the powerful sequence of *Cymru* an effective fusion of a traditional melodic basis with rock sound which drew spontaneous clapping from an audience which responded eagerly to this anthem for Wales.

The boppy, uptempo *Dawns y Syfarnog* brought the crowd dancing to its feet.

Lyricist, composer and performer Geraint Jarman who took up the

second half of the concert is by now long a part of the Welsh rock establishment.

Jarman and the Cyn-ganeddwyr sang songs from the older albums, like *Gwesty Cymru* and *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau* to the newer Mabinogi-based *Diwrnod I'r Brenin*.

For one whose diction is all but impenetrable on both record and in concert, Geraint Jarman has a suprisingly-effective stage delivery created by modulating the dynamics of his voice.

For one whose stage presence is seemingly so uninvolved, he also managed to create a strikingly dramatic presentation.

When it all comes together as in the Welsh Rastafarian, full-blown reggae *Ffordd Isiah* and the no-holds-barred funk of *Dim Lle I Droi* it is a powerful experience.

The explosion in Welsh pop music over the past decade has been among the more important

elements which have strengthened the Welsh language and culture in recent years.

Watching the packed area in front of the stage, filled with dancing bodies, it was clear that the future of Welsh music is secure, though its course may not be along the path of perpetual *Myfanwy*.