



# LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

August 30–September 3, 2023

## North American Festival of Wales Gŵyl Cymru Gogledd America

WELCOME TO WYMORE  
*Welsh Capital*  
of the  
Great Plains



### Featuring the 91st National Gymanfa Ganu



# ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

For over 130 years, working to celebrate, preserve, and promote Welsh cultural heritage in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region.

## PROUD TO SUPPORT NAFOW 2023 in LINCOLN, NE



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Wales-Pennsylvania Digitization Project  
Annual Daffodil Luncheon

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Carnegie Library Welsh Collection

University of Pittsburgh Welsh Nationality Room

Visit: [stdavidssociety.org](http://stdavidssociety.org)

Facebook: [welshsociety.pittsburgh](https://www.facebook.com/welshsociety.pittsburgh)

Photo: Welsh Nationality Room in Cathedral of Learning at University of Pittsburgh



Greetings from  
the Welsh  
Society of  
Vancouver



Cyfarchion oddiwrth  
Gymdeithas Gymreig Vancouver

*Best wishes to the NAFOW 2023 festival  
Pôb dymuniad da i'r ŵyl NAFOW 2023*

The Cambrian Hall,  
215 East 17th Ave.,  
Vancouver, B.C.

[WelshSociety.com](http://WelshSociety.com)  
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## The Calgary Welsh Society Cymdeithas Gymreig Calgary



Founded by John Morris – 'Morris Bach' in 1906

Proud supporters of the Welsh North American Association

Website: [calgarywelshsociety.com](http://calgarywelshsociety.com)  
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**WELSH SOCIETY**

**Croeso i  
Nebraska**

# Croeso!

## Welcome to the North American Festival of Wales Lincoln 2023

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# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE



All events are at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel unless otherwise listed.

## Wednesday, August 30

12:00 – 5:00	Registration Desk and Banquet Table Assignment	Lower Level
5:00 – 8:00	Kick-off Open Air Event: <i>Lincoln Welsh Night</i>	Patio & 13th St
7:00 – 8:00	Book Reading: <i>The Long Field</i> with Pamela Petro	
	<i>offsite at Francie &amp; Finch Book Store, 130 S 13th St</i>	

## Thursday, August 31

8:00 – 3:00	Tour 1 (Bus 1 & 2): Wymore, GPWHC	meet in lobby at 7:45
9:00 – 4:00	Tour 1 (Bus 3): Wymore, GPWHC	meet in lobby at 8:45
9:00 – 5:30	Registration Desk & Banquet Table Assignment	Lower Level
12:00 – 5:00	Marketplace, Tea Room & Silent Auction	Lancaster
4:00 – 5:00	Opening Ceremony & Flag Raising	<i>offsite at State Capitol Building</i>
5:30 – 6:30	Pre-Concert Dinner	Ballroom ABC
7:00 – 9:00	Opening Night Concert	<i>offsite at Saint Paul United Methodist Church</i>
10:00 – 12:00	Informal Singing	Atrium

## Friday, September 1

8:00 – 9:00	First-time Attendees Welcome Coffee (& Muffin) Hour	Yankee Hill
8:30 – 6:00	Registration Desk & Banquet Table Assignment	Lower Level
9:00 – 5:00	Marketplace, Tea Room & Silent Auction	Lancaster
9:00 – 10:00	Seminar S-1: Roots – Immigration and Homestead Act of 1862	Arbor II
9:00 – 10:00	Seminar S-2: Dick Cavett	Hawthorne
9:00 – 10:00	Coffee Talk: Investments and Legacies	Garrat
10:30 – 11:30	Seminar S-3: Wales to America: The Journey of John Evans	Arbor I
10:30 – 11:30	Seminar S-5: Welsh Language I	Olive Branch
10:30 – 11:30	Theatre Production: <i>Carwyn</i>	Renaissance
12:30 – 2:00	Cinema Wales: <i>Men Who Sing</i>	Olive Branch
12:30 – 1:30	Seminar S-7: History of the Welsh Language in 10 Words	Arbor I
12:30 – 1:30	Seminar S-9: Exploring Hiraeth	Arbor II
12:30 – 1:30	Seminar S-10: Some VERY Interesting “Lords of Llaneugrad”	Hawthorne
1:45 – 3:15	Seminar S-11: Ysgol Gân	Ballroom DEF
2:00 – 3:00	Cinema Wales: <i>Efacwis – Pobol y Rhyfel – People of WWII</i>	Olive Branch
2:00 – 3:00	Seminar S-12: Heddwch Nain/Mam-gu I	Arbor II
2:00 – 3:00	Seminar S-14: Welsh Democracy in 2023 – An Insider’s View	Hawthorne
3:00 – 4:00	Cinema Wales: <i>Efacwis – Plant y Rhyfel – Children of WWII</i>	Olive Branch
3:30 – 4:30	Seminar S-4: Welsh Experience on Great Plains and Beyond	Arbor I
3:30 – 4:30	Seminar S-15: <i>Rachie</i> and Composer Caradog Roberts	Hawthorne
3:30 – 4:30	Seminar S-16: Folk Dancing	Ballroom DEF
4:00 – 5:00	Cinema Wales: <i>The Valley that Won the Lottery</i>	Olive Branch
4:30 – 5:30	Meeting: Pennsylvania Group: Preserving Welsh Heritage N America	Arbor II
4:30 – 5:30	Penderyn Masterclass Welsh Whisky Tasting	Yankee Hill
5:00 – 6:00	Book Signing: <i>Braids of Song</i> with Mari Morgan	Lower Foyer
5:00 – 6:00	Say Something in Welsh Meetup	Garrat

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE



6:00 – 7:00	Pre-Banquet Social Hour	Atrium
7:00 – 10:00	Grand Banquet	Ballroom
	<i>Attire is semi-formal, preregistration &amp; reserved seating is necessary</i>	
10:00 – 12:00	Informal Singing	Atrium

## Saturday, September 2

8:30 – 9:30	WNAA Annual General Meeting	Arbor II
9:00 – 5:00	Marketplace, Tea Room & Silent Auction	Lancaster
9:00 – 4:30	Registration Desk	Lower Level
9:30 – 10:30	Seminar S-4: Welsh Experience on Great Plains and Beyond	Arbor I
9:30 – 10:30	Seminar S-7: The History of the Welsh Language in 10 Words	Hawthorne
11:00 – 12:30	Seminar S-6: Welsh Language II	Olive Branch
11:00 – 12:00	Seminar S-10: Some VERY Interesting “Lords of Llaneugrad”	Arbor I
11:00 – 12:00	Theatre Production: <i>Carwyn</i>	Renaissance
12:00	Silent Auction bidding ends	
12:00	Limerick Submission Deadline	Registration table
12:00 – 1:00	Meeting of Affiliated Welsh Organizations (bring own lunch)	Garrat
12:00 – 12:30	Eisteddfod Competition: Welsh Language Recitation	Ballroom DEF
12:30 – 1:00	Eisteddfod Competition: English Language Recitation	Ballroom DEF
12:30 – 2:00	Cinema Wales: <i>Men Who Sing</i>	Olive Branch
1:00 – 2:00	Seminar S-1: Roots – Immigration and Homestead Act of 1862	Arbor II
1:00 – 2:00	Seminar S-3: Wales to America: The Journey of John Evans	Arbor I
1:00 – 2:00	Seminar S-13: Heddwch Nain/Mam-gu II	Hawthorne
1:00 – 3:00	North America Wales Foundation (NAWF) Meeting	Garrat
1:30 – 2:30	Eisteddfod Competition: Hymn Singing (solo)	Ballroom DEF
2:00 – 3:00	Cinema Wales: <i>Efacwis – Pobol y Rhyfel – People of WWII</i>	Olive Branch
2:30 – 3:30	Seminar S-8: Heddwch Wyn (1887-1917) and the Black Chair	Hawthorne
2:30 – 3:30	Seminar S-14: Welsh Democracy in 2023 – An Insider’s View	Arbor I
2:30 – 3:30	Eisteddfod Competition: Solo Voice/Semi-Professional	Ballroom DEF
3:00 – 4:00	Cinema Wales: <i>Efacwis – Plant y Rhyfel – Children of WWII</i>	Olive Branch
3:00 – 5:00	Silent Auction items available for pickup at Registration Desk	
3:30 – 5:30	Meet and Greet Welsh Corgis with the Omaha Corgi Crew	Patio
3:30 – 4:30	Theatre Production: <i>Grav</i>	Renaissance
4:00	Visual Arts Voting Deadline	Lancaster
4:00 – 5:00	Cinema Wales: <i>The Valley that Won the Lottery</i>	Olive Branch
4:00 – 5:00	Say Something in Welsh Meetup	Garrat
4:00 – 5:00	Eisteddfod Winners Concert	Ballroom DEF
5:30 – 7:00	Pre-Concert Dinner	Ballroom ABC
7:00 – 9:00	Grand Concert: Robat Arwyn, Gwawr Edwards, Emyr Lloyd Jones, Rhys Meirion, <i>Triano</i>	<i>offsite at Saint Paul United Methodist Church</i>
10:00 – 12:00	Informal Singing	Atrium

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

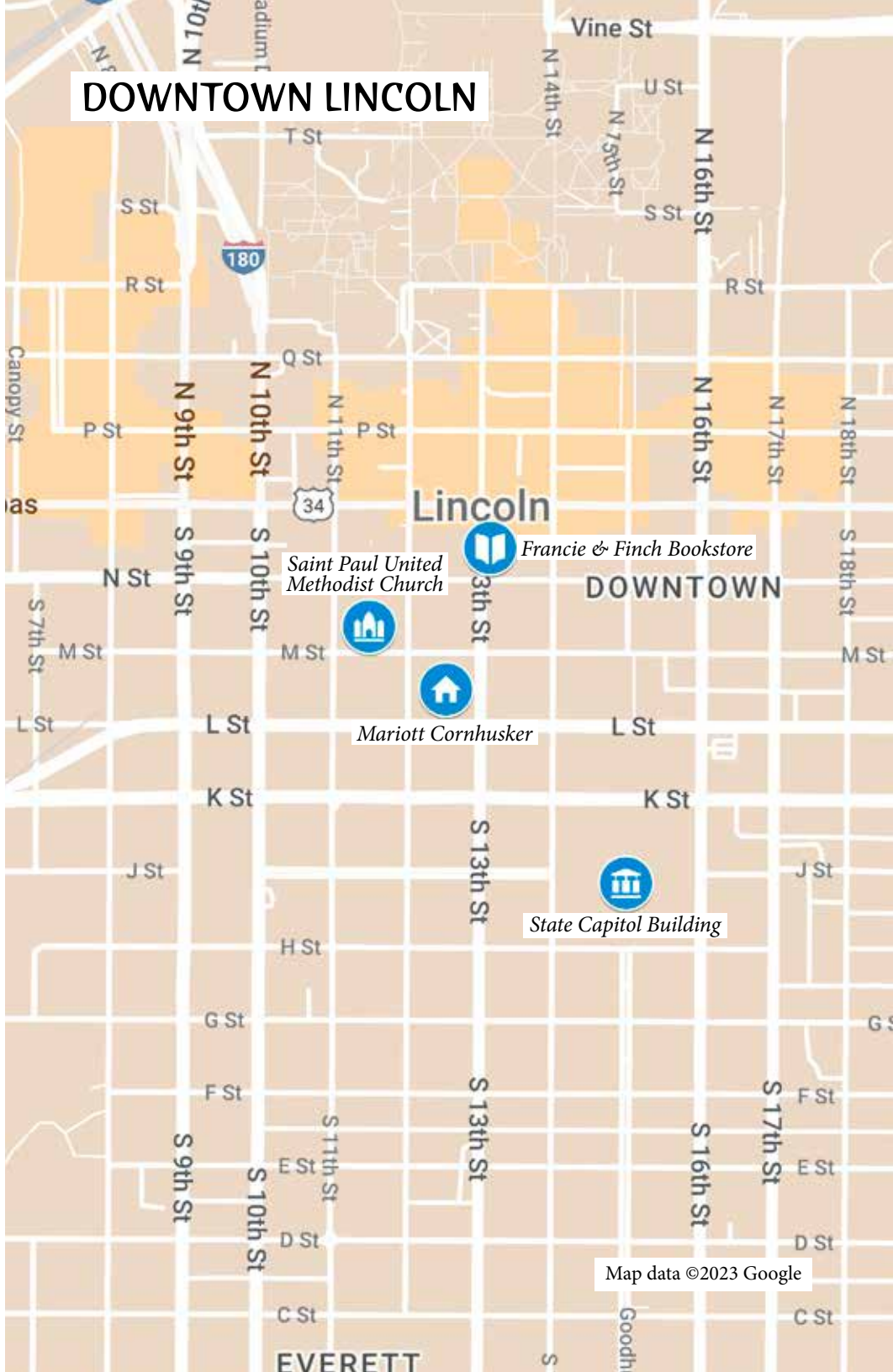


## Sunday, September 3

- 9:00 – 1:00 Marketplace & Tea Room Lancaster
- 10:30 – 11:30 Worship Service, in English & Welsh Ballroom DEF
- 2:00 – 3:30 Gymanfa Ganu Session I *offsite at Saint Paul United Methodist Church*  
☛ *Bring your Hymnals* ☜
- 3:30 – 4:30 Complementary Afternoon Tea at the Cornhusker Hotel Atrium
- 4:30 – 6:00 Gymanfa Ganu Session II *offsite at Saint Paul United Methodist Church*  
Closing Ceremony (at the conclusion of the Gymanfa)
- 6:30 – 7:30 Sunday Evening Meal Ballroom ABC
- 8:00 – 10:00 Noson Lawen with Karen Wojahn, sing folk songs and enjoy short  
open-mic performances by festival attendees. Ballroom DEF

## Monday, September 4

- 8:30 Tour 2: Overnight tour to Arvonia and Emporia, Kansas  
(Returns to Lincoln approx. 4pm Tuesday, September 5)



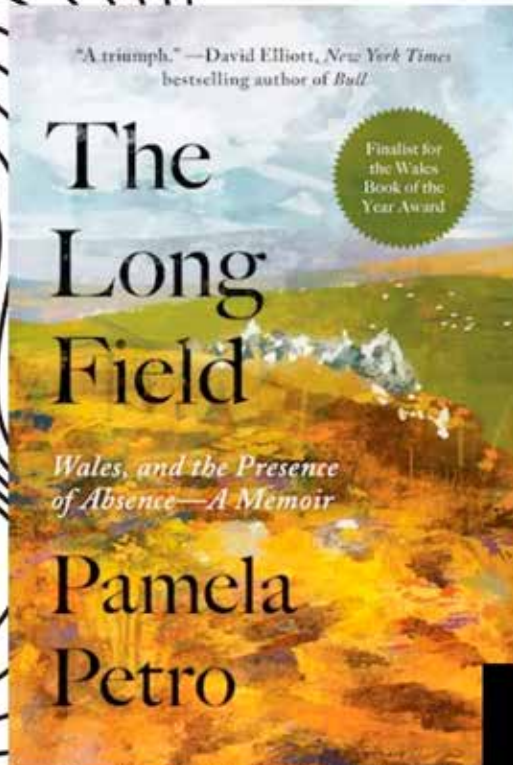
Planning a visit to, or living in the Ottawa (Ontario) area?  
Please see our website for all our news, membership details,  
events and activities.

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digwyddiadau a gweithgareddau.

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[www.ottawawelsh.org](http://www.ottawawelsh.org) or on Facebook





## Visiting Author:

Pamela Petro

Shortlisted for the 2022 Wales Book of the Year Award

One of 6 Best Travel Books of 2021! — The Financial Times

One of the 8 Best Travel Books of the Year! — The Telegraph



August 30,  
7:00 PM

## WELCOME FROM THE VENUE CHAIRS



Croeso! For the first time in its 100-year history, Nebraska and Lincoln are excited to host the North American Festival of Wales. It is truly a privilege to highlight our state and share the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project and the Arvonian Historic Preservation Society with North America's Welsh community.

We take immense pride in the story of Welsh immigration to the Great Plains. Thanks to the Homestead Act of 1862, many of our ancestors were able to achieve their dreams of farming their own land, much more than they ever could have cultivated in their native Wales.

Our Welsh ancestors brought with them a spirit of perseverance and worked together with neighbors from other ethnic groups to build successful communities. Here, we also recognize and honor the Native nations who were the first to live on the Great Plains.

We hope you can visit the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre, the Archive for Welsh America, our historic one-room school, and Bethel Cemetery—our ancestors' final resting place—all located in Wymore, Nebraska. On your trip to Arvonian, you will travel through the beautiful Flint Hills of Kansas.

The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project is honored to be awarded the Heritage Medallion for 2023. This dream of starting a museum and archive began in 2001, and we have come a long way thanks to the support of many in the USA, Canada, and Wales, by way of memberships, donations, and gifts of unique artifacts. As we move into a new era for our organization, our future is bright.

*Gwenith Closs-Colgrove*

Gwenith Closs-Colgrove  
President

Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, Wymore, NE

*Susan Evans Atchison*

Susan Evans Atchison  
Chairperson

Arvonian Historic Preservation Society, Arvonian, KS

## FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



**KICK-OFF OPEN AIR EVENT – LINCOLN WELSH NIGHT.** Wednesday 5:00–8:00 outside the hotel. Something new, an outdoor event with Welsh-themed entertainment, food, and much more. (See page 24.)

**OPENING CEREMONY AND FLAG RAISING.** Thursday at 4:00 at the State Capitol Building. After a short program in the rotunda, the Welsh flag will be raised.

**OPENING NIGHT CONCERT.** Thursday 7:00–9:00 at Saint Paul United Methodist Church. Dylan Morris and four members of the URDD perform. (See page 26.)

**GRAND BANQUET.** Friday evening, 7:00 in the Ballroom. Co-hosted by the North America Wales Foundation and the Welsh North American Association, the evening includes entertainment by soprano Lisa Dafydd and the presentation of the NAWF Heritage Medallion to the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project. Table reservations must be made in advance at the Registration Desk. (See page 28.)

**GRAND CONCERT.** Saturday evening, 7:00 at Saint Paul United Methodist Church. Welsh artists Robat Arwyn, Gwawr Edwards, Emyr Lloyd Jones, Rhys Meirion, joined by sister trio *Triano*. Tickets available at the Registration Desk. (See page 30.)

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE.** Sunday morning, 10:30 in Ballroom DEF, with Rev. Joseph G. Corbin. (See page 33.)

**91ST WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU.** Two sessions, Sunday afternoon, 2:00 and 4:30 at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, across the street from the hotel. Traditional hymn singing in parts with verses in both Welsh and English, conducted by Robat Arwyn with Steven Jensen at the organ. Attendance is included in the Festival Pass or Sunday Pass. Don't forget to bring your WNAA hymnal! (See pages 34–35).

**SEMINARS.** Lectures on a variety of topics, focusing on Welsh culture and history as well as current events. (See pages 15–22 for seminar descriptions.)

**SPECIAL EVENTS.** Special offerings include a Saturday Coffee Talk with WNAA Treasurer David Allen to chat about new savings on US income tax; meet-ups for those interested in *Say Something in Welsh*, the on-line conversational Welsh course; Penderyn Masterclass whisky tasting; and an opportunity to meet and greet corgis with the Omaha Corgi Crew. (See pages 22–23 for event descriptions.)

**CINEMA FROM WALES.** Friday and Saturday afternoons in Olive Branch. Full-length and short films by Welsh film producers. (See page 37 for film descriptions and show times.)

**THEATER PRESENTATIONS.** We have two theater presentations about notable Welshmen: *Carwyn* about Carwyn James, and *Grav* about Ray Gravell. (See pages 38–39).

## FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS continued



**EISTEDDFOD.** A traditional Welsh event: adjudicated competitions in singing, recitation, poetry, and fine arts, Saturday. Competitors must register in advance. Festival Pass holders may attend the competitions. Be sure to visit the Visual Arts competition to cast your vote, Saturday 10:00–4:00 in the Marketplace in Lancaster. Be sure to catch the winner's concert, Saturday at 4:00 in Ballroom DEF. You are encouraged to enter the Limerick Contest; pick up instructions (with starting lines) and entry forms at the registration desk; turn in your entries by noon on Saturday; vote for the best limerick at the Noson Lawen. (See pages 40-41.)

**MARKETPLACE.** The Marketplace in Lancaster has vendors from Wales and across North America selling Welsh and other Celtic items such as clothing, jewelry, trinkets, music, books, tours, and educational packages.

**TEA ROOM.** Open daily in Lancaster, Welsh tea and *pice ar a maen* (Welshcakes), and an opportunity to socialize with friends new and old. *The Tea Room is sponsored by Arvon Historic Preservation Society, Morgansbrew and Bryn Seion Welsh Church.*

**AFFILIATED WELSH ORGANIZATIONS ROUND TABLE.** BYO lunch, Saturday, 12:00–1:00 in Garrat. This annual meeting is your opportunity to share ideas with representatives from other Welsh organizations.

**LATE NIGHT SINGING.** Thursday through Saturday in the Atrium following the scheduled events. Bring your hymnal and gather around the piano to sing the old familiar hymns in parts under the direction of volunteer conductors. Accompanist for the informal singing is the talented Karen Jones Wojahn. (More about Karen on page 19.)

**SUNDAY NOSON LAWEN.** With accompanist Karen Jones Wojahn, Sunday evening in Ballroom DEF. Join in for a relaxed evening to end the weekend's festivities. We will sing folk songs and enjoy short, open-mic performances by festival attendees. And vote for the winning Limerick!

**BOOK SIGNINGS.** Meet the authors and show your support. Pamela Petro reads from her book *The Long Field* at Francie & Finch Bookshop, 130 S 13th Street, 7:00–8:00 on Wednesday evening (also see Seminar S-9). Mari Morgan will sign her book *Braids of Song* in the Lower Foyer, 5:00–6:00 Friday afternoon.

**TOURS.** All tours are priced individually and are not included in the Festival Pass. More information at the Registration Desk.

Tour 1: Thursday, 8:00–3:00 (Bus 1, 2), 9:00–4:00 (Bus 3), *Nebraska Welsh Heritage Tour.* Visit Homestead National Monument in Beatrice, then on to Wymore, home of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre.

Tour 2: Monday 8:30 a.m., overnight, return Tuesday 4:00 p.m. *Kansas Welsh Heritage Tour.* Visit Arvon and see restored Arvon School and Welsh Calvinist Methodist Church, stay overnight in Emporia, Howe House and Welsh farmstead for breakfast, visit Osage County Museum if time permits, lunch and back to Lincoln.



**WNAA** WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
CYMDEITHAS CYMRU GOGLEDD AMERICA



Annwyl Members and Friends of WNAA,

Welcome to Lincoln, Nebraska, for the 2023 North American Festival of Wales, the first time in our history we have located the festival in this beautiful state. The officers and trustees of the WNAA take great pleasure in welcoming you to Lincoln, giving everyone the opportunity to explore all the area has to offer.

Welsh immigrants arrived in Nebraska in the mid-nineteenth century, among the many settlers and homesteaders who sought a new life on the Great Plains. Like other immigrants, the Welsh brought their own language, deeply-rooted faith and cultural traditions. The imprint of their lives is still visible on the landscape of the area, especially in nearby Wymore, the home of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center and the Archives for Welsh America, hosts for this year's festival. In recognition of their distinguished contributions to Welsh American life, the North America Wales Foundation is honoring the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center with its highest honor, the Heritage Medallion, at Friday's Grand Banquet. The WNAA joins the NAWF in congratulating the Center for this well-deserved award.

A new event at this year's festival is the Wednesday evening kick-off with an Open-Air Welsh Fair, featuring the Many Moccasins Dance Troupe and triplet sisters from Wales performing as Triano. This is just the start of the outstanding performances and events we have planned for you to make every minute special. Don't miss the opening ceremony and flag raising at the unique Nebraska State Capitol Building on Thursday afternoon. We have excellent seminar presenters, Welsh films in Cinema Wales, and Welsh folk dancing and corgis are back! A stellar line-up of musical performers from Wales are ready to entertain you. The Eisteddfod Winner's Concert is also not to be missed. The highlight on Sunday is the 91st National Gymanfa Ganu under the direction of Robat Arwyn.

A huge diolch yn fawr iawn to the board of the Welsh North American Association along with Executive Secretary Megan Williams for their dedication and hard work to provide you with an outstanding festival. And we all thank you for continuing to support us with your attendance. Pittsburgh, PA, will host the 2024 NAFOW, so mark your calendars now!

Cofion Gorau i bawb / Best wishes to all,

*Jeanne Jones Jindra*

Jeanne Jones Jindra, President, WNAA



Looking forward to a wonderful festival in the heartland from your friends in the Midwest.

**Llongyfarchiadau!**

*Many congratulations from Chicago's oldest Welsh society, serving Chicago's Welsh American community since 1853.*

[chicagowelshcambrian.org](http://chicagowelshcambrian.org)

## Welsh Society of Western New England

**Culture, Language, History, Genealogy, Music, Luncheons, Poets, & more...**



Learn more at [www.WelshWNE.org](http://www.WelshWNE.org) or request a copy of our newsletter by email [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com)





# EXPLORE Gage County

## Hidden Gems

### *Yesterday's Lady*

Step back in time at Yesterday's Lady in Historic Downtown Beatrice. Located in the award-winning Schmuck building, you can browse Nebraska's largest collection of vintage clothing.

### *Cedar Creek Pottery*

Nestled in an old country church just outside of Beatrice you'll find Ervin Dixon's pottery display at Cedar Creek Pottery. Browse handcrafted tableware, vases, and more. One of his beautiful mugs would make the perfect souvenir!

### *The Black Crow*

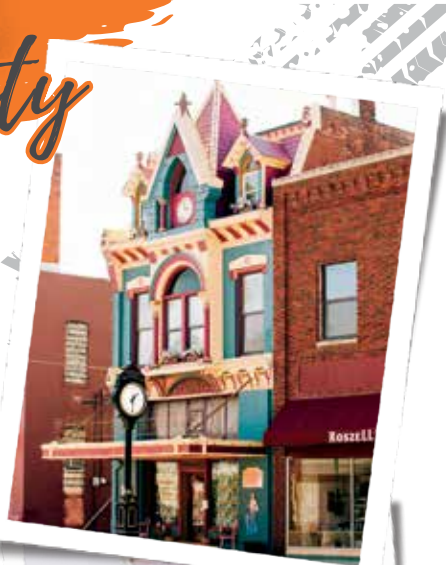
Experience fine dining in downtown Beatrice at The Black Crow. Serving steaks, fresh seafood, dessert and fine wine, you will leave knowing why guests travel from hours away to eat at The Black Crow.

### DISCOVER MORE HIDDEN GEMS:

📍 218 N. 5th St. | Beatrice, NE

☎ 402-205-3292

🌐 [visitbeatrice.com](http://visitbeatrice.com)



## SEMINARS



### S-1: The Roots Beneath Your Feet – Immigration and the Homestead Act of 1862

Friday 9:00–10:00, Saturday 1:00–2:00 in Arbor II

This program gives a focused look on doing genealogical research with land records of those who settled in the midwestern and western United States under the Homestead Act. The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed individuals to claim 160 acres of American public domain land for free, as long as they lived and farmed on it for five years. From 1863 through 1986, millions of individuals from across the world staked their claim to “the American Dream” under this law. Many immigrant groups established communities organized around a shared ethnic or religious identity. Because of the requirements to file claims, extensive vital, immigration, military service, and legal records were kept for every single one of these homestead claims. This session will teach attendees about the role the Homestead Act played in immigration, provide information about ethnic and religious homesteading settlement communities, and how to find and utilize Homestead Land Entry Case files and the General Land Office Records. The program will explore records and sources to contextualize group settlement and promote cluster research of rural communities, including the General Land Office Records, Homestead Land Entry Case Files, and Tract Books.

**Jonathan Fairchild** is a Doctoral Candidate in United States History at the University of Houston, and the Historian at Homestead National Historical Park. His dissertation, *They Intend to Conduct Us Out of Their Country*, is on the Trail of Tears and examines the history of the Choctaw Nation from the eighteenth century to the present. His responsibilities as Historian for the National Park Service include providing research and reference assistance, preserving and protecting park cultural resources, and interpreting the significance of the Homestead Act on United States history. *Sponsored by Iowa Welsh Society.*



### S-2: Famous Nebraskan Dick Cavett via Zoom

Friday 9:00–10:00 in Hawthorne

**Dick Cavett** was born in Gibbon, Nebraska and moved to Lincoln where he graduated from Lincoln High School. One of Dick's proudest moments was when he won the state pommel horse championship when he was a senior. After graduation, Dick attended Yale University and moved to New York City to work on the staff of The Tonight Show, where he worked for Jack Paar and Johnny Carson.



Throughout his career, Mr. Cavett performed in movies, in Broadway and off-Broadway plays and musicals, and has been spotted in countless television specials and documentaries. He is best known for The Dick Cavett Show that ran on several networks from 1968 to 1996, usually in a format of interviewing famous guests. Dick was nominated for thirteen Emmys and won three.

Mr. Cavett's maternal grandfather, Rev. R. R. Richards, was from Carmarthen, Wales. He will present his recollections from interviews with famous celebrities, many of them of Welsh descent.

*Sponsored by Betsi Teti.*



### S-3: From Wales to the Heart of America: The Journey of John Evans

Friday 10:30–11:30, Saturday 1:00–2:00 in Arbor I

In 1792, a young man named John Evans set off on a remarkable journey from his home in rural Wales to the very center of North America, a land almost entirely unknown to Europeans and colonial settlers. His eccentric mission was to contact a tribe of so-called “Welsh Indians,” relics of a legendary settlement of America by a medieval Welsh prince, Madog. While Evans would ultimately admit his attempt to find the “Madogwys” was a failure, his mission became entwined with the aims of the Spanish government of Louisiana, which wished to develop its fur trading empire among the native peoples of the northern plains. Along with the Scottish-born James Mackay, Evans led an expedition from St. Louis to the upper reaches of the Missouri River and even acquired information about what lay beyond as far as the Pacific Ocean. Evans and Mackay’s map of the region was indispensable to Lewis and Clark, and thanks to his experiences among indigenous peoples, Evans was among the first to dispute the legend of Madog. While the Mackay-Evans expedition is largely overshadowed by that of Lewis and Clark, it ultimately helped shape the West in the following century.

### S-4: The Welsh Experience on the Great Plains and Beyond

Friday 3:30–4:30, Saturday 9:30–10:30 in Arbor I

From the mid-nineteenth century, the Welsh, like many others, were drawn to settle on lands west of the Mississippi, from Minnesota and the Dakotas in the north to Nebraska and Kansas further south, with some venturing further afield, to the Rocky Mountains and beyond. Attracted by the prospect of land and economic opportunity, they nevertheless faced great challenges in their new environment. While relatively small in number, the Welsh created many successful communities where their language and culture thrived and they left their mark on the history of the region. Digging into primary sources, many in the Welsh language, this seminar reveals the lives of these Welsh men and women, including their reasons for going west, the difficulties they overcame, the communities they built and their encounters with other ethnic groups and the native peoples of the plains.

**Robert Humphries** is a native of Wales and a second-language Welsh speaker. He holds an MA in Celtic Studies from the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, and is a board member of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project in Wymore, Nebraska. He is an independent scholar with an interest in the Welsh experience in North America, and has translated many historical documents, including periodical articles and letters from Welsh. Robert has also published articles on Welsh-American history in the *North American Journal of Welsh Studies*, the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, and *Ninnau*, the North American Welsh newspaper. He has presented his research at academic conferences at Harvard University, at the University of Bangor in Wales, and in Vancouver, Canada. He is also a frequent lecturer at the North American Festival of Wales and other Welsh-American events. In 2017, Robert coproduced, with the late Martha Davies, the mini-documentary film *Pobl y Paith/People of the Prairie: The Welsh in Nebraska*, as part of the state’s sesquicentennial celebration. This film is available to the public on YouTube and was also broadcast on public television in Nebraska. Major support for the film was provided by the Cooper Foundation and Humanities Nebraska.

*Sponsored by Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center, Iowa Welsh Society.*



### S-5: Welsh Language I

Friday 10:30–11:30 in Olive Branch

Welsh I, *Absolute Beginners*, emphasizes the structure of the spoken language of Welsh. This level is for anyone who needs a comfortable environment to begin learning Welsh. Friday’s session is for absolute beginners with an emphasis on speaking.

### S-6: Welsh Language II

Saturday 11:00–12:30 in Olive Branch

Welsh II, *Next Steps in Welsh*, is suitable for those with some knowledge of the language who want to practice and improve. This class will follow on from *Absolute Beginners* and you are encouraged to attend both, but it is not a requirement.



**Dan Rowbotham** is originally from Llangeitho in Ceredigion, Wales, and has been a Welsh tutor since 2018. Dan started his tutor career during his tenure as Davis Intern at the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College in Ohio, where he also obtained his Master’s in education. Dan teaches a weekly Welsh class with Côr Cymry Gogledd America, and until recently oversaw the administration and teaching of extracurricular Welsh language classes at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) and was Coordinator of their Community Welsh Learning Centre, Yr Atom. He currently lives in Carmarthen, where he works for UWTSD as their branch officer of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. Dan is an ex-president

of the Urdd and received the prestigious Merèd memorial award at the National Eisteddfod in 2016.

*Sponsored by Madog Center for Welsh Studies, and in memory of Jane Lewis Fox & Robert W Fox.*



### S-7: A History of the Welsh Language in Ten Words

Friday 12:30–1:30 in Arbor I, Saturday 9:30–10:30 in Hawthorne

Based on a popular radio series that ran for three years on Welsh national radio, poet and presenter Ifor ap Glyn will offer a fascinating analysis of how Welsh works, what languages have we borrowed from, and why do we mutate?! No prior knowledge of the language is necessary.

### S-8: Hedd Wyn (1887–1917) and the Black Chair

Saturday 2:30–3:30 in Hawthorne

Despite having little formal education, this talented young poet achieved his lifelong ambition in 1917 of winning the chair at the National Eisteddfod—but tragically he never knew, as he’d been killed in battle in Belgium a few weeks before. In Wales, he became a symbol for all the lost talent of that generation, and his home at Yr Ysgwrn is a place of pilgrimage to this day. It’s a great story (Hedd Wyn’s biopic was the first Welsh language film to be nominated for an Oscar) and poet and broadcaster Ifor ap Glyn will bring it to life once more at NAFOW.



**Ifor ap Glyn** was raised in a Welsh-speaking family in London and studied the language at the University of Wales, Cardiff. He has published ten books, including a history of the Welsh language in 50 short chapters. He has produced and presented a documentary for the BBC on the life and work of Hedd Wyn; he edited a collection of poems commemorating his life; and he was also responsible for producing the interpretative films for the permanent exhibition at Yr Ysgwrn when it was refurbished in 2017.

*Sponsored by Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, Bob & Cindy Roser.*



### S-9: Exploring Hiraeth

Friday 12:30–1:30 in Arbor II

This seminar presents a new reading of Welsh hiraeth as both an acute awareness of the presence of absence and an impulse to fill the absences in our lives with creative invention. It draws on my new book, *The Long Field*, to look at the hiraeth we experience as individuals as well as the national hiraeth stories of Wales, and cites hiraeth as the genius of Welsh culture—indeed, the wellspring of creativity itself.

**Pam Petro** is an author, artist, and educator living in Northampton, Massachusetts. She was recently made an honorary Fellow of the University of Wales, and has received both literary and visual arts residencies and fellowships from Grand Canyon National Park, the MacDowell Colony, the Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature and the Written Word, and the Black Rock Arts Foundation. She went to Brown University as an undergrad, and to the University of Wales, Trinity St. David for her Masters Degree in Word and Image Studies. She also studied at the Sorbonne, Paris I, and the Ecole du Louvre in Paris, France. She has spent years studying both French and Welsh but can't speak either one very well. In high school Pamela's teachers told her she'd have to choose between visual art and writing, and she balked. She wanted to do both. And she's been trying to combine words and images ever since. Her words bleed into images, and images into words. Long may the two be more powerful together!

*Sponsored by Mary Lynne Evans.*



### S-10: Some VERY Interesting “Lords of Llaneugrad” Anglesey

Friday 12:30–1:30 in Hawthorne, Saturday 11:00–12:00 in Arbor I

Llaneugrad parish is rare and perhaps unique, in that the whole parish was owned by a single individual from the late 1200s until the 1900s when many farms were sold off to pay the bills as the centuries-old, landed gentry model in Britain collapsed. Among the various owners are some very interesting men: a turncoat, the “golden peacock” of Penrhyn, the Beaumaris Bulkeley empire founder, a (now) ghost on horseback, a Barbados sugar plantation owner and pirate of Bardsey Island, “Mad” Tom Hervey, the Copper Kings of Parys Mountain, and the Williams of Bodelwyddan. All of these men also owned much

more extensive lands in Anglesey and North Wales, so their stories extend way beyond the tiny Llaneugrad parish of my youth, although that is what caused me to research them in the first place. In telling their stories I include many historically and culturally interesting aspects of life in Wales, which is broadly applicable to all regions of Wales, not just to this small parish. There are many humorous aspects of the history and some sad and poignant moments. I believe that the topic would appeal broadly to NAFOW attendees regardless of the location of their ancestral origins.

**Gillian Hodgkinson** was born in Burnley Lancashire but grew up in Anglesey, the birthplace of her mother and countless generations of ancestors. Her father was born in Burnley, but his maternal family have roots in the Holywell area in North Wales, so she considers herself “mostly Welsh.” She is a pharmacist who spent 38 years working in clinical research for Abbott/Abbvie in Kent, England, and then Chicago, Illinois. Now that she has retired, she spends much of her time researching the history of the area she grew up in and its people and their families and writing books to document and preserve the memories for future generations. Her four books to date cover the stories of the men from her parish who sacrificed their lives in WWI, the owners of the parish lands over time, the story of the evolution of the village of Marianglas and its main shops and some properties, and the history of the churches of St. Eugrad and St. Gallgo. Sharing the stories and keeping memories thriving is her motivation.

*Sponsored by Hywel & Mari Davies.*



### S-11: Ysgol Gân

Friday 1:45–3:15 in Ballroom DEF

This is an informal singing practice session where you can learn some of the hymns we will sing on Sunday afternoon at the gymnfa. This is your opportunity to hear some Welsh verses pronounced and to practice your part, whatever it may be, with joyful abandon. Fun and enlightening.



**Karen Jones Wojahn** is a retired Teacher, Director of Music, Organist and Choir Director from Windom, Minnesota. She is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Welsh North American Association, a member of the St. David's Society of Minnesota and a Newsletter Editor for the Minnesota Welsh Association. She has been the organist for the annual Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival for many years and plays the harp in her spare time. During the North American Festival of Wales, you will see Karen at the ysgol gân, late night singing and the Noson Lawen. Her family includes husband Michael, three grown children and six grandchildren, which include two sets of twins.

*Sponsored by Karen Jones Wojahn, Myfanwy Davies, Evans Paschal, St David's Welsh Society of Greater Kansas City.*





**S-12: Heddwch Nain/Mam-gu – Our Grandmothers’ Peace I**

Friday 2:00–3:00 in Arbor II

A hidden history from Wales: a century ago, a delegation of three Welsh women brought a peace appeal to the women of America, together with signatures from almost 390,000 Welsh women. Come and learn their story, who were these women and why did this happen?

**S-13: Heddwch Nain/Mam-gu – Our Grandmothers’ Peace II**

Saturday 1:00–2:00 in Hawthorne

A hidden history from Wales: plus what have we discovered? We’ll share with you our exciting finds; where is the chest now; can we see the petition’s signatures and hear about planned events to celebrate this 100 year old history.

**Ann Griffith** is a native Welsh speaker raised in Aberystwyth. Prior to moving to the USA 14 years ago, she and her American husband Steve lived internationally for 22 years. She is the Vice-President of the Washington DC St. David’s Society. Ann maintains strong connections with family and friends in Wales, and her voice is often heard on Radio Cymru. Ann has been involved in Heddwch Nain/Mam-gu for over three years, and has family connections to the project. She is excited to do work on this peace project that has already started developing links between Cymru and the USA.



**Susan Davies Sit**, born in North Wales and now living in CT, was in the Hospitality Management business in Wales and overseas. In retirement, she is President of the Welsh Society of Western New England. She is a member of the Heddwch Nain/Mam-gu Gogledd America publicity and research team, whose mission is to uncover more of the history of the 1923–24 Welsh women’s peace appeal and petition.

*Sponsored by Diane Owen.*

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**S-14: Welsh Democracy in 2023 – An Insider’s View**

Friday 2:00–3:00 in Hawthorne, Saturday 2:30–3:30 in Arbor I

It is an exciting time for Welsh democracy. The Welsh Parliament (Senedd) and devolution process has come of age. In a post-Brexit, post-COVID environment with full law making powers, plans for Senedd reform already in motion, and a growing grassroots movement calling for independence from the UK Government, what is next for Welsh democracy? This seminar will talk you through some highlights of the last two decades of Welsh devolution, explain how it all fits together with the UK Government in England, and give you a view of what the future might hold for one of Europe’s youngest parliaments. From a current Member of Senedd, this truly will be an insider’s guide to Welsh democracy.



**Peredur Owen-Griffiths** is a Member of Senedd for the region of South Wales East. Elected to the Senedd (Welsh Parliament) in May 2021, Mr. Owen-Griffiths represents the political party Plaid Cymru (The Party of Wales), and has been party spokesperson on a number of policy areas, including communities, social care and veterans. Considered a great achievement for a new Member of Senedd, Peredur was elected Chair of the Senedd Finance Committee in June 2021. This is the committee responsible for scrutinising the Welsh Government, Senedd Commission, Audit Wales and the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales as part of the annual budget cycle. Peredur’s work across numerous Senedd committees, and his

earlier career in the charity sector and corporate finance, gives him a unique perspective on Welsh democracy. Peredur, or “Pred” to his friends, originally hails from the north of Wales, but as the son of a minister, has lived in many different parts of Wales, including Anglesey, the Vale of Clwyd, and Carmarthenshire. He currently resides in Caerphilly with his wife Angela. A keen singer, Pred has had the privilege of attending past festivals: He first attended Chicago, IL, in 2008 as part of the choir CF1, and then at the 2012 festival in Scranton, PA, as part of Côr Godre’r Garth. He still sings with both choirs when he can.

*Sponsored by Beth & Bill Landmesser, Bob & Cindy Roser.*

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**S-15: Rachie and Composer Caradog Roberts**

Friday 3:30–4:30 in Hawthorne

Based on the article in the May/June 2022 *Ninnau*, *Notes on a Hymn Page*, about the hymn *Rachie*, we will learn the interesting stories behind this famous hymn and its composer, Caradog Roberts.

**Michael Hieber** is retired emeriti faculty from Miami University (Ohio). He has been a regular participant at various local cymanfoedd canu across the U.S since 2001. Passionate about singing and learning about Welsh hymns, he is a WNAA member and has attended every NAFOW since Cincinnati in 2006, except for 2010, when he went to the Welsh National Eisteddfod in Ebbw Valle. He started writing a regular article column in *Ninnau* called *Notes on a Hymn Page* beginning with the March/April 2022 issue.

*Sponsored by Ninnau & Y Drych.*



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## S-16: Welsh Folk Dancing

Friday 3:30–4:30 in Ballroom DEF

Welsh folk dancing, led by a caller and supported by musicians, returns to NAFOW. Laurel Bradshaw, a certified Welsh folk dance instructor, will lead dancers through the steps and Danny Proud will lead the band. This session will leave you with a smile on your face and endorphin-charged liveliness to your day.



**Laurel Bradshaw**, a certified Welsh folk dance instructor, has been teaching and leading dance groups since 1988. She founded and directed Traed y Ddraig, a performance group in Minnesota (1990 to 2015), and has led folk dance sessions at NAFOW, GPWHP (Welsh center in Wymore, Nebraska), Welsh Heritage Week, and at the Cornish Gathering in Mineral Point, Wisconsin. Laurel has taught Welsh language classes in Minneapolis since 1994 and is active in the Saint David's Society of Minnesota.



**Danny Proud**, Madison, Wisconsin, is a former long-time member of the Traed y Ddraig dance group in Minnesota, and has been dancing and accompanying dancing at Welsh Heritage Week for two decades. Danny leads Welsh folk dancing for the general public at various festivals, retreats, and courses as opportunities arise. *Sponsored by Welsh Folk Dance Society of Kansas City.*

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## SPECIAL EVENTS



### An Informal Discussion & Coffee: Tax Breaks for Investors—Investing in your Favorite Charities

Friday 9:00–10:00 in Garrat

Significant permanent changes in the tax law have major implications for US taxpayers over the age of 70 who have any kind of retirement account. Only a very few financial advisors and accountants are alerting their clients to these changes. Taking advantage of them could benefit both you and your heirs very significantly. These changes affect everyone who gives any kind of contributions to charity or who plans on leaving some of their estate to a charity. It will be worth your while to take the time to attend this session presented by our Treasurer, David Allen.



**David Allen**, Treasurer of WNAA, lives in Owego, New York. He earned his PhD from Columbia University and was a Fulbright Scholar to Belgium and a Danforth Graduate Fellow. David is a Professor Emeritus at City University of New York, where he taught a variety of courses in economics and American government. *Sponsored by Welsh North American Association.*

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## Penderyn Masterclass Welsh Whisky Tasting

Friday 4:30–5:30 in Yankee Hill

Exercise your taste buds with a variety of Penderyn's best. \$30.00 ticket includes tasting and light hors-doeuvres.

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## Say Something In Welsh Meet-ups

Friday 5:00–6:00, Saturday 4:00–5:00 in Garrat

Do you speak Welsh or want to learn yr hen iaith? Speakers and learners of all levels of Welsh are welcome to stop by our table and say “sut mae!” We will host two informal Welsh chat sessions for learners and speakers of any level on Friday and Saturday. Say Something in Welsh is a free online course based entirely on speaking. Created from the belief that language acquisition is a natural process at which anyone can succeed, it has no reading or writing components. Rather, through built-in revision, each lesson builds and expands on the spoken language skills taught in the previous lessons. Northern and southern dialect versions available! Use it online or download it to your favorite device, and make sure to spend time on the friendly forum where learners can get help and encouragement from each other: [www.saysomethinginwelsh.com](http://www.saysomethinginwelsh.com).



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## Meet and Greet Welsh Corgis with the Omaha Corgi Crew

Saturday 3:30–5:30 in Patio

Our community of passionate, caring animal people, some 2,900 strong (as of early 2023), enjoys gathering together for philanthropic and fundraising missions directed toward small local rescues. Each year, we select local small-base rescues to support through various events and fundraising merchandise throughout the year. These rescues are often underfunded and overlooked by “big” donors, so we work our booties off to give them some extra love. As corgis are a short-legged breed, we relate to being overlooked due to our size.



At its inception in December 2011, the **Omaha Corgi Crew** was not much more than a group of friends who all shared a love of vertically-challenged herding dogs with big hearts. Now, we are much more! We are not a rescue, nor a breeder, but we advocate and assist in the purchase, adoption, and responsible re-homing of our favorite breed. If there is a corgi or mix in our area in need of a loving home, we're happy to step in and help out.

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# WEDNESDAY EVENING KICK-OFF



Wednesday August 30, 5:00–8:00 p.m., Patio & 13th Street  
Lincoln Welsh Night

This year you get something extra, for free! Join us for an open air concert on Wednesday night where Lincoln welcomes Wales. This concert features award-winning young vocalists **Triano!** You will also hear from some of our other headline performers who will give full concerts later in the weekend. We will enjoy music by Celtic band **Paddywhack** and pay homage to Nebraska's history as we enjoy a performance by Native American dance troupe **Many Moccasins**. Do a little shopping and enjoy food and beverage with a Welsh twist!



Triano with Menna

**Triano**, formed during the pandemic in 2020, is made up of triplet sisters Charlotte, Jessica and Emily, who play the piano and love to perform. Triano has performed with singers such as Bryn Fon, Dafydd Iwan, Rhys Meirion, Gwawr Edwards and Robyn Lyn. They have also had the opportunity to accompany Gwawr and Robyn on the piano, and play a duet with Rhys Taylor, whilst he played the clarinet. Triano's debut performance for Haka Entertainment was at The

Courtyard, in Aberystwyth with Gwawr Edwards and other local talent. In 2022 they performed live on stage at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Denbigh. They have supported Ceredigion Music Services through performing at a Ukraine Fundraising event at Aberystwyth Arts Centre. This year they performed at the National Eisteddfod in Tregaron, in two stage shows with Theatr Felifach, a choir performing in the Daniel Owen Award Ceremony.

Ganwyd **Menna Rhys** yng nghanolbarth Ceredigion, lle mae'n dal i fyw ar un o'r ffermydd teuluol ym Methania, ger Tregaron. Bu'n ddisgybl yn Ysgol Gynradd Penuwch, ac yna cael ei haddysg Uwchradd yn Ysgol Uwchradd Tregaron. Aeth ymlaen i astudio cwrs perfformio ar y delyn a'r piano yng Ngholeg Brenhinol Cerdd a Drama yng Nghaerdydd. Mae Menna yn gyfeilyddes brofiadol iawn—dechreuodd gyfeilio i'w thad mewn cyngherddau pan yn 13 mlwydd oed, ac erbyn hyn mae galw mawr amdani i gyfeilio i unawdwr a chorau mewn cyngherddau ar draws y byd. Mae Menna hefyd yn aelod o dîm Gwasanaeth Cerdd Cerdigion, ac wrth ei bodd yn cydweithio a rhoi gwersi piano a chanu i ddisgyblion ysgol y Sir.



**Menna Rhys** was born in Bethania, near Tregaron in mid Wales, where she still lives on one of the family farms. She is an experienced and accomplished accompanist and has been a regular accompanist since her early teens. She studied the harp and piano performance and accompaniment in the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff. She is regularly in demand as an accompanist for soloists and choirs in concerts across the UK and abroad. Menna also works for the Ceredigion Music Service, where she gives piano and vocal tuition.



**Nel Edward-Philips** was born into a very musical family, with her mother Gwawr a classical soprano, her father a trained musician, her Aunt Menna a concert accompanist, and grandfather Dafydd Edwards a classical tenor, who has toured America since the 70s, including the North American Festival of Wales on numerous occasions. The last time the family took part in the North American festival of Wales was in 2015 in Columbus Ohio, when Nel's parents also made the documentary programme, *Gwawr Edwards yn Ohio*, tracing in the family tree those who emigrated to the States in the 1800s. That was Nel's first time in Ohio, a 5 month old baby at the time. It is wonderful that now, at just

8 years old, Nel gets to take part in the festival, an event that's been very close to the Edwards family for many years. Nel has already started competing in eisteddfodau and taking part in a few local concerts. Her love for music is clear and it's a privilege for her to be taking part in the festival here in Nebraska.

**Paddywhack** is a Lincoln based group that has performed folk music from the British Isles and North America since 1978. The band currently consists of Chris Sayre, Dave Marsh, and Terry Keefe, three of the original members. Over the years they have maintained their distinct sound and unique flavor. The group plays a variety of jigs, hornpipes, polkas, and reels on a multitude of instruments and mix them up with precise vocal harmonies while singing sea shanties, ballads, and sing a-longs. They have performed all across the Great Plains and are members of the Nebraska Arts Council touring program. One of the highlights of their careers came On February 3, 2001, when they appeared on the Lied Center stage in Lincoln with the Chieftains, who invited them up to play the last set of tunes. An evening with Paddywhack is likely to include haunting tunes on Northumbrian bagpipes, soulful songs on the English concertina and Irish fiddle, delightful melodies on the musical saw, and intricate rhythms on the Irish drum—the bodhran.



The **Many Moccasins Dance Troupe** is an ensemble of professional Native American performers who utilize traditional Native American dance to entertain, educate and uplift audiences around the world. The dance troupe has performed in Canada, Germany, Lithuania, Denmark, South Korea, Russia, and the most recent, Saudi Arabia. They are known for their new and more contemporary approach to Native American theater

and have specialized in Native entertainment for many years. Founded in 2001, and based out of Winnebago Nebraska, the Many Moccasins Dance Troupe was originally created to give audiences exposure to a wide range of Native American dance and education.

Sponsored by Arvon Historic Preservation Society, Undeb Cymry a'r Byd, Welsh Government, Susan & Rob Atchison, Bill Thomas.



# OPENING NIGHT CONCERT



**Thursday August 31, 7:00 p.m., Saint Paul United Methodist Church**  
**Dylan Morris and members of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru Singers**



**Dylan Morris** was born and raised in Pwllheli on the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales, where he now lives with his wife Sera and their children, Tomos (16), Aron (12) and Cari (9). Dylan has worked for a Chartered Accountant firm for the last 25 years as an IT Manager, in marketing and as an Admin Manager. Dylan has always had a love for music, with his parents and grandparents sharing music with him throughout his childhood. It was performing at a regular monthly open mic night in 2019 that highlighted his love for performing in a more formal setting. The pandemic ended the opportunity to perform in person but the Côr-ona facebook page gave Dylan a new platform to continue singing and share his music with 1000s of people online. He became a singing sensation, which led to opportunities to pursue his dream of performing, recording, and working alongside musicians he had admired for so long, including Arfon Wyn, who has been extremely supportive of Dylan's new musical career. In October, 2020, Dylan released his first EP, *Haul Ar Fryn*, with recording company Sain. In October, 2021, he followed this with his first album, *Da Ni Ar Yr Un Lôn*, featuring nine Welsh songs and two English songs. The album was a trigger for Dylan to write lyrics for the first time and also features duets with both his daughter, Cari, and his sister, Sian. He now performs regularly in pubs and clubs around the North Wales area and has appeared three times on the S4C show *Noson Lawen*.

Merch ffarm ifanc o Fannau Brycheiniog yn Ne Cymru yw **Sophie Jones**. Yn 20ain mlwyddyn oed mae Sophie yn astudio Meddygaeth yn yr Ysgol Feddygol yng Nghaerdydd, ac yn mwynhau bob eiliad! Ond ers yn iau mae'r canu yn sicr wedi mynd a'i fryd. O gystadlu ers yn chwech mlwydd oed ar lwyfannau Cenedlaethol yr Urdd, i gael y cyfle i ganu'n fyd eang yn Cape Town South Africa, St Petersburg Rwssia ac Alabama UDA, mae'r cyfleuodd wedi bod yn rhai i'w gofio. Mae Sophie yn mwynhau bob math o ganu, o Alaw Werin i Gerdd Dant ac i Unawdau Clasur. Ond yn Eisteddfod yr Urdd Llanymddyfri eleni yr Alaw Werin a'r Cerdd Dant aeth a hi wrth i Sophie fod yn ffodus i ennill y ddwy gystadleuaeth o dan 25ain. Mae Sophie yn edrych ymlaen yn arw i ddiddanu ei chleifion ar wardiau'r ysbytai rhywddydd, gan mae cerddoriaeth yn sicr yw'r feddyginiaeth orau!



**Sophie Jones** is a young farmer's daughter from the Brecon Beacons in South Wales. At 20 years old, Sophie is studying Medicine at Cardiff University School of Medicine, and enjoying every moment! But from a very young age singing has certainly been her delight. From competing since the age of six on the National Urdd stages, to having the opportunity to sing internationally in Cape Town, South Africa; St Petersburg, Russia; and Alabama, USA, the opportunities have been ones to remember. Sophie enjoys all kinds of singing, from Folk Singing to Cerdd Dant and Classical Solos. But at this year's Urdd Eisteddfod in Llandoverly the Folk Singing and Cerdd Dant were the competitions that shone as Sophie was lucky to win both competitions under 25. Sophie is really looking forward to entertaining her patients on the hospital wards one day, as music is certainly the best medicine!



**Mae Eiriana Jones-Campbell** yn soprano ifanc a fydd yn cychwyn ar ei chwrs cerddoriaeth israddedig yng Ngholeg Brenhinol Cerdd a Drama yn yr hydref. Yn ystod Pasg 2022, teithiodd Eiriana i Alabama ac Atlanta fel rhan o Gôr yr Urdd oedd newydd ei ffurfio, lle bu'n ffodus i berfformio unawd gyda chôr gospel. Mae wedi bod yn cystadlu yn yr Eisteddfodau ers yn ifanc ac wedi cael llwyddiant yn Eisteddfod yr Urdd, yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol a'r Wyl Gerdd Dant. Yn ystod yr haf llynedd enillodd yr unawd Glasur i Ferched dros 16 a dan 18 yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Mae Eiriana yn aelod y gôr Merched Plastaf a fe teithion nhw i Rhufain i ganu yn y Pantheon ac Eglwys Basilica San Vitale. Yn ystod y trip cafodd Eiriana cyfle i befformio deuwadau ac unawdau. Yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf cafodd Eiriana'r ffrind o ganu'r cywydd goeso ar gyfer gwyl cerdd dant 2023.

**Eiriana Jones-Campbell** is a young soprano who will be starting her undergraduate music course at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in the autumn. During April, 2022, Eiriana travelled to Alabama and Atlanta as part of a newly formed Urdd Choir, where she was fortunate to perform a solo with a gospel choir. She has been competing in the Eisteddfods since a young age and has had success at the Urdd Eisteddfod, the National Eisteddfod and the Cerdd Dant Festival. Last summer she won the Girls Classical solo over 16 and under 18 in the National Eisteddfod. Eiriana is a member of Merched Plastaf choir and in april 2023 she travelled to Rome to sing in the Pantheon and the Basilica of San Vitale. During the trip Eiriana had the opportunity to perform duets and solos. In recent months she's had the privilege of singing the welcome song for the 2023 cerdd dant festival.

**Nansi Rhys Adams** is 19 years old and is from Cardiff. She has been competing in the Eisteddfod since a young age and has had success at the Urdd and National Eisteddfod through the years. In 2022 she won a scholarship at the Urdd Eisteddfod for the most promising performer under 19 after winning both the monologue and the Solo from a Musical. She was also fortunate to be part of the Urdd Choir that toured to Alabama in partnership with the UAB Gospel Choir. This year, Nansi was thrilled to compete and win the solo from a musical under 25 at the Urdd Eisteddfod and she is grateful for all the opportunities the Urdd has given her. She hopes to pursue a career on the musical stage and as an actress. She is currently studying Drama at Mountview Academy of Theatre in London.



**Mae Ffion Thomas** yn soprano sydd ar fin dechrau ei blwyddyn olaf yn astudio llais yng Ngholeg Brenhinol Cerdd a Drama Cymru, o dan arweiniad Suzanne Murphy. Mae'n canu gyda Chantorion John S Davies, ac yn ddiweddar bu'n chwarae rhan Papagena yng nghynhyrchiad Rhosygilwen o'r opera *Magic Flute*. Mae'n ddiolchgar iawn i'r Urdd am y cyfle i berfformio yn yr wyl arbennig yma.

**Ffion Thomas** is a soprano who is about to commence her final year of undergraduate study under the guidance of Suzanne Murphy at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She also sings with the John S. Davies Singers. Ffion recently played the role of Papagena in Rhosygilwen's production of the opera *The Magic Flute*. Ffion is delighted to be a part of this festival and is very grateful to the Urdd for this special opportunity.

# GRAND BANQUET



Friday, September 1, 7:00 p.m., Ballroom

This annual gala evening is co-sponsored by the **North America Wales Foundation (NAWF)** and the **Welsh North American Association (WNAA)**, and will honor the 2023 recipient of the NAWF Welsh Heritage Medallion, the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project. Following the award presentation, we will have entertainment by Lisa Dafydd, the 2022 recipient of the coveted Osborne Roberts Blue Riband Memorial Award at the National Eisteddfod in Wales.

Established in 1980, the North America Wales Foundation was the initiative of several individuals, inspired by the late Jack K. Evans, a native of Wales. The Foundation has a commitment to preserve, share and promote the common culture and traditions of Wales and North America. The NAWF has distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in awards over the years and runs an annual scholarship and grant program.

The **Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project** is the only cultural resource in the United States dedicated to interpreting the cultural legacy of Welsh immigrants on the Great Plains. We reveal this history as told by the settlers themselves through their own words, images and artifacts.

**Lisa Dafydd** is a native of Ruthin, North Wales, and grew up singing with local community choirs. As she grew older, she decided to move to Manchester to study for an undergraduate degree in vocal studies at the Royal Northern College of Music. This experience provided Lisa with many opportunities to perform in operas, concerts, and recitals. Lisa is currently a master's student at the Royal Academy of Music under the guidance of her tutors, Mary Nelson and Iain Ledingham.



Most recently, Lisa performed in the world premiere of *Gelert*, an opera by Paul Mealer, in which she played one of the lead roles, Siwan. She also recently participated in an evening of opera scenes with the Royal Academy Opera, playing the roles of Dalinda in *Ariodante* by George Frideric Handel, and Second Niece in Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes*. In October, 2022, she was a soloist in a concert along with students from Juilliard, performing Maurice Delage's *Quatre poèmes hindous*, conducted by Barbara Hanningan. During her undergraduate studies at the Royal Northern Colleg, Lisa was a chorus member in the 2019 production of *The Pilgrim's Progress* by Ralph Vaughan Williams. She also later covered the roles of Pepik and Frog in the 2020 production of *The Cunning Little Vixen* by Leoš Janáček. Oratorio performances include the Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart *Requiem*, Johann Sebastian Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with the Royal Academy Bach Consort, as well as numerous Bach cantatas, Joseph Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, Mozart's *Solemn Vespers* and Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

Last year at the National Eisteddfod, Lisa was awarded the highly prestigious Osborne Roberts Blue Riband Memorial Award and the Violet Mary Lewis Scholarship for the most promising soprano.

Lisa is now preparing the role of Norina from Gaetano Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* for an evening of opera scenes at the Royal Academy. In March, she made her debut as a soloist with the London Sinfonietta, performing *Fields of Sorrow* by Harrison Birtwistle at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Table reservations for the Grand Banquet must be made in advance at the Registration Desk.  
Sponsored by the North America Wales Foundation and the Welsh North American Association.



## NORTH AMERICA WALES FOUNDATION SEFYDLIAD CYMRU GOGLEDD AMERICA

*Serving Welsh North America for 43 years*

*Foundation Directors in Wales and North America  
are delighted that we will present its highest honor*

*The Heritage Medallion – Y Medaliwn Treftadaeth*

*to*

## The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project

*at the North American Festival of Wales in Lincoln  
on September 1, 2023*

# GRAND CONCERT



Saturday, September 2, 7:00 p.m., Saint Paul United Methodist Church

Menna Rhys: Accompanist

Star-Spangled Banner

O Canada

Y Cymro Emyr Lloyd Jones Meirion Williams  
Hai gia vinto la causa *The Marriage of Figaro*, Mozart

Because Gwawr Edwards Guy D'hardelot  
Medli o ganeuon Cymraeg

La ci darem Gwawr Edwards & Emyr Lloyd Jones *Don Giovanni*, Mozart

Ave Maria, maddau i mi Robat Arwyn Robat Arwyn  
Yfory Robat Arwyn, Geraint Eckley

Fel hyn am byth Rhys Meirion Robat Arwyn, Hywel Gwynfryn

Anfonaf Angel Rhys Meirion & Triano Robat Arwyn, Hywel Gwynfryn

Hywel! Be t'i'n geisio yma? Rhys Meirion & Gwawr Edwards *Hywel a Blodwen*,  
Joseph Parry

## Intermission

Brad Dynrafon Emyr Lloyd Jones D. Pughe Evans  
Gwisgoedd nef Dilys Elwyn Edwards

Benedictus Emyr Lloyd Jones & Rhys Meirion Robat Arwyn

Piano medli: In the Mood, Triano  
Edelweiss, Rock around the clock

Merch y Plas Gwawr Edwards Robat Arwyn, Ceri Wyn Jones  
Il Bacio Luigi Arditi

Dy garu o bell Robat Arwyn Robat Arwyn, Derec Williams,  
Penri Roberts

Cana o dy Galon Robat Arwyn, Robin Llwyd ab Owain

Parla piu piano Rhys Meirion Nino Rota  
Tell my father Frank Wildhorn

Calon Lân *The Rose*, Amanda McBroom

Hen wlad fy nhadau

Sponsored by David & Janet Allen, Myfanwy Davies, Bill Thomas, Women's Welsh Clubs of America.

# GRAND CONCERT



Please see page 36 for photo and biography of **Robat Arwyn**.

Please see page 24 for information about **Menna Rhys** and **Triano**.

**Gwawr Edwards** is a well known singer throughout the UK and further afield. At 17 she was offered a scholarship to study singing at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff, before gaining a first class Masters degree from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London.

She has performed at the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Cadogan Hall, Birmingham Symphony Hall, Manchester Bridgewater Hall, and the Millennium Centre, Cardiff, to name a few, accompanied by the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the BBC Concert Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and the National Orchestra of Wales.

In opera, she has sung the roles of Paquette in Bernstein's *Candide*, Rossina in Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Melpomene in Gluck's *Il Parnaso confuso*, Euridice in Charpentier's *La descente d'Orphée aux Enfers*, Zerlina in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Virtu in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, and Donna in Handel's *Rinaldo*, for companies such as Glyndebourne Festival and Tour, Opera de Lorraine, Bampton, and Opera Cymru.

Gwawr has traveled the world entertaining audiences in Asia, Europe, North and South America, and also occasionally presents for S4C and BBC Radio Cymru. Gwawr has two albums out called *Gwawr Edwards* and *Alleluia* and one children's book and CD called *Mali*.



**Emyr Lloyd Jones** is a baritone from Caernarfon, North Wales. He holds BMus and MMus degrees from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and is currently studying on the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Emyr was the 2022 winner of the Pendine International Voice of the Future at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, where he was dubbed the next Bryn Terfel.

At the RNCM, Emyr is the winner of the Betty Bannerman French Song Prize, the English Song Prize, the Joyce and Michael Kennedy Award for the singing of Strauss (2021), the Alexander Young Prize (2019), the James Martin Oncken Song Prize (2018), the Elsie Thurston Prize (2017) as well as the Joyce Budd prize for second place in the Kathleen Ferrier Society Bursary for Young Singers (2017). Emyr has also had multiple successes at the National Eisteddfod of Wales over recent years, including winning the Baritone Solo, Folk Solo and the Opera Duet competitions.

Emyr's operatic highlights include Ekbert in Judith Weir's *Blond Ekbert* (GSMD), Hugh Evans in Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Sir John in Love* (BYO), *Il Conte di*



## GRAND CONCERT continued



Almaviva in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* (RNCM), Musiklehrer in Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* (RNCM) and Forester in Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* (RNCM). Emyr has performed at many prominent venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, the Bridgewater Hall, Festival Hall, Manchester Arena, the King Edward Theatre, Grieghallen, the Wales Millennium Centre, and most recently in Tŷ Gwyn, Patagonia. Aside from singing, Emyr enjoys following Liverpool Football Club and watching car rallies. He is thrilled to be making his North American debut!

Welsh tenor **Rhys Meirion** has enjoyed international success in opera and recording and national success in broadcasting. After two years on the Opera Course at the Guild Hall of Music and Drama in London, he joined the English National Opera Jerwood Young Singers Programme and was subsequently a Company Principal before becoming a freelance performer. His roles include Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Pinkerton in *Madam Butterfly*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Nadir in *The Pearl Fishers*, Marcello in Leoncavallo's *La Bohème*, Duke in *Rigoletto*, Tebaldo in *Capuletti e Montecchi*, Tamino in *The Magic Flute*, Ernani, Sailor in *Tristan und Isolde*, Faust, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*, Italian Singer in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Froh in *Das Rheingold*, Zinovy in *Lady Macbeth of Mtzensk*, Fenton in *Falstaff* and more.



Concert highlights include The Karl Jenkins 70th Birthday Celebrations Concert at Carnegie Hall in New York, a gala concert at the Royal Albert Hall with Bryn Terfel, his BBC Prom debut at the opening night of the BBC Proms (televised on BBC 2), Desert Island Discs Anniversary Concert at London's Royal Festival Hall, a live BBC recording of Beethoven's 9th Symphony conducted by Richard Hickox, and Verdi's *Requiem* at the Royal Albert Hall.

Rhys Meirion has an extensive catalogue of recording work, including a duet album with Bryn Terfel (*Benedictus* on the SAIN label), which was nominated for a Classical Brit Award. He has also released two albums for the Australian label Stanza AV, *Bluebird of Happiness* and *Awesome Wonder*, and five solo CD recordings for the SAIN label, the most recent being *In Verita*. He has also released two albums with The Three Welsh Tenors.

Rhys Meirion is a regular presenter on television and radio in Wales. TV series on S4C include *Deuawdau Rhys Meirion*, *Corau Rhys Meirion* and *Canu Gyda Fy Arwr*. Rhys also presents the iconic series *Ar Eich Cais* on BBC Radio Cymru.

His charity work has included three 200-mile walks to support the Wales Air Ambulance, for whom he is an Ambassador, and a Lap of Wales Challenge for Organ Donation Awareness and Elen's Fund, [www.facebook.com/cronfaelen'sfund](http://www.facebook.com/cronfaelen'sfund). His autobiography for Welsh publishers Y Lolfa was published in November 2014 and became the No. 1 Best selling book in Wales.

## OEDFA'R BORE/MORNING WORSHIP



Dydd Sul, 3 Medi / Sunday, 3 September, 10:30 a.m., Ballroom DEF

*Arghwyddi, frodyr a chwirydd. Byddwch lawen, a chadwch eich ffydd a'ch credo, a gwnewch y pethau bychain a welsoch ac a glywsoch gennyf i.*

Dewi Sant

*Lords, brothers and sisters, be joyful, and keep your faith and belief, and do the little things which you have heard and seen with me.*

St. David

The Festival Sunday Morning Worship Service this year will be led by the Rev. Joseph G. Corbin. The traditional "In Memoriam" of our Festival will be celebrated as part of the service as we remember those members of the Welsh North American Association who have died since the 2022 North American Festival of Wales.

No NAFOW pass is required to attend the Sunday Worship service, all are welcome.



**Rev. Joseph G. Corbin** retired after 41 years serving in church-related work and, as of 2020, 28 years as an ordained pastor. He now serves as a stated supply pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Weyauwega, WI. Joe received his formal training at the University of Wisconsin School of Music, where he studied vocal performance. He earned a B.A. in Music and a M. Div. degree from the University of Dubuque, Iowa. Joe is well-known for directing cymanfaoedd canu and St. David's Day festivities throughout Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. He has also helped lead many of the late-night informal sings at NAFOW gatherings.

Please see page 36 for photo and biography of accompanist **Steven Jensen**.

# 91st NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU



## First Session

Sunday, September 3, 2:00 p.m., Saint Paul United Methodist Church

Organ Prelude		Steven Jensen
Welcome	Jeanne Jones Jindra, WNAA President	
Invocation	Rev. Joseph G. Corbin	
Conductor	Robat Arwyn	
Hymns	Rachie	1
	Sirioldeb	52
	Calon Lân	66
	Llef	56
Special Music	Gwenith Closs-Colgrove	
Hymns	Hyfrydol	16 (J15)
	Builth	73
	Crimond	77 (J76)
Special Music	Gwawr Edwards and Rhys Meirion	
Hymns	Tydi a roddaist	110 (J109)
	Milwaukee	6
	Mawlgan	106 (J109)
	Arwelfa	87 (J86)
Benediction	Rev. Joseph G. Corbin	
Organ Postlude	Steven Jensen	

Note: Hymn numbers beginning with J refer to the older "Jubilee" edition of the hymnal.

*The Gymanfa Ganu is sponsored in memory of the parents of Franklin Haydn Williams, by the Joyce McCullough family bequest, Paula & David Evans, Kay Thomas, in memory of Martha A. Davies of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, who did so much for the Welsh in America, in memory of Phillips G. Davies, in memory of Berwyn Jones, and by the daughters of Maglona Morris Moore.*

# 91st NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU



## Second Session

Sunday, September 3, 4:30 p.m., Saint Paul United Methodist Church

Organ Prelude		Steven Jensen
Welcome	Jeanne Jones Jindra, WNAA President	
Invocation	Rev. Joseph G. Corbin	
Conductor	Robat Arwyn	
Hymns	Blaenwern	75
	Godre'r Coed	12
	Diadem	14 (J13)
	Penpark	26
Special Music	Triano	
Hymns	Diolch i ti	34
	Sanctus	30
	Mae d'isiau di bob awr	62
Special Music	Triano	
Special Music	Passing the Flag to the 2024 Local Venue Chair	
Hymns	Bryn Myrddin	23
	Rhys	89
	Arglwydd, dyma fi / Gwahoddiad	96
	Cwm Rhondda	40
Benediction	Rev. Joseph G. Corbin	
Closing Remarks	Jeanne Jones Jindra, WNAA President	
Anthem	Hen wlad fy nhadau	Page X, front of hymnal
Hymn	God Be With You	117, or words to both page 66 this booklet
Organ Postlude	Steven Jensen	

## ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIES



Composer, choral director, radio presenter and eisteddfod adjudicator, **Robat Arwyn's** choral works and songs are much performed across Wales and beyond by renowned artists such as Sir Bryn Terfel, Rhys Meirion, The Priests, Shan Cothi and Aled Jones.

Born in the village of Talysarn, in Gwynedd, North Wales, he attended the local primary school and Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle before graduating in Music from Cardiff University in 1980, subsequently moving on to Aberystwyth University where he received his Diploma in Librarianship in 1981.

He joined Côr Rhuthun in 1981, became their accompanist in 1987, married one of the altos (Mari) in the same year, and became their Musical Director in 2008.

He has published eleven volumes of songs, as well as numerous individual choral pieces, and amongst his six commissions for the National Eisteddfod are *Atgof o'r Sêr* (2001), *Er Hwyllo'r Haul* (2005) and *Hwn yw fy Mrawd* (2018), all three written specifically for Sir Bryn Terfel and supporting cast.

Over 150 of his songs have been commercially recorded, and three collections of his songs have been released on CD by Sain Records. *Anfonaf Angel* (Guardian Angel), was commissioned by Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle in 2008, and is forever linked with the Wales Air Ambulance campaign since its first release as a charity single by its patron, Sir Bryn Terfel in 2011.

One of Robat Arwyn's most internationally performed song is *Benedictus*, initially released by Rhys Meirion and Bryn Terfel in 2005, and subsequently recorded by The Priests for their 2008 classical album which reached No.1 in Ireland and Norway, as well as the Top 10 in numerous countries across Europe and beyond.

Recent commissions have come from the Welsh North American Association, the Dewi Sant Welsh United Church (Toronto, Canada), Ensemble Sottovoce (Paris), the Barry Male Voice Choir (Wales) and the St. Helen's U3A Mixed Choir (England).

Organist **Steven Jensen** will play for the Sunday Morning Worship and both sessions of the 91st National Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday afternoon.

Steve Jensen began playing the piano and organ at the age of nine. He had his first regular church job at the age of thirteen. During grades 9–12 he studied at Lawrence Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wisconsin. He continued his organ study during college at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

His first cymanfa ganu was in 1977 in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. The conductor was Lyn Harry of Canada. Mr. Harry requested that Mr. Jensen play the following year at the National Gymanfa Ganu in Minneapolis in 1978. Since then Steve has played for many local, state and national cymanfaoedd.

Mr. Jensen is currently employed as a consultant for Froedtert Health and serves as Organist at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



## CINEMA FROM WALES

**Friday, September 1, and Saturday, September 2, 2023, Olive Branch**

12:30 – 2:00 *Men Who Sing*

2:00 – 3:00 *Efacwis – Pobol y Rhyfel – People of World War II*

3:00 – 4:00 *Efacwis – Plant y Rhyfel – Children of World War II*

4:00 – 5:00 *The Valley that Won the Lottery*

*Sponsored by the Welsh Society of Philadelphia.*

***Men Who Sing*** – 77 mins, documentary

Directed by Dylan Williams, this humorous and melancholic portrait of a male voice choir begins when the filmmaker's father, widower Ed, 90, sells the family home and arranges his own funeral. His only remaining solace is Tuesday night practice, but with an average age of 74 and suffering a haemorrhaging of the bass section his beloved choir is facing a crisis of its own. They must act or face extinction. So the hunt begins to find 'brown haired men' in their 40s and 50s who can take the choir forward. As their search intensifies we come closer to them. Whilst Ed finds new meaning, Merf deals with his own bad news by focusing on the choir's revival and Gwyn laughs at his prostate cancer diagnosis and walks on the wing of a plane to raise money. Finally, they raise themselves and travel to Northern Ireland to perform for the first time in 20 years.

*Thanks to Dylan Williams, shown courtesy of Backflip Media, Cwmni Da, S4C.*

***Efacwis.***– Documentary, Welsh and English with subtitles

What happened to Wales during WWII? This fascinating documentary shows how life changed for Welsh people during the war. It also tells the story of English children who were sent to Wales to be safe during the war years, and we hear from several of them today, recalling their time and experiences in Wales

***Pobol y Rhyfel*** – 52 mins, documentary

The People of World War II, number one in the series looks at the experience of evacuees in Wales, and its history as a country that has offered shelter to people who are homeless due to war.

***Plant y Ryfel*** – 52 mins, documentary

The Children of World War II, number three in the series follows eight children who leave their modern life in the city and travel to Llanuwchllyn in 1939, living the experience of an evacuee in Wales during the Second World War.

*Shown courtesy of Wildflame Productions, S4C.*

***The Welsh Valley that Won the Lottery*** – 47 mins, documentary

In May 2022 more than 400 people in the south Wales valley of Rhymney shared a lottery win of 3.7 million pounds. At a time of dire economic crisis, the windfall was utterly transformative. From Betty, who won £3,984, to retired steel-worker Ted, who won £370,000, the money has been a godsend, and the impact on this tight-knit community is huge. For some the money is life changing, for others it is lifesaving. For mother of seven Mary, who has taken to growing her own fruit and veg to feed her family, the win means a trip to Devon for the first family holiday in 14 years. Former DJ John Price fulfills a lifelong dream as he tears up the valley in his new quad bike. In a place where people have always struggled to make ends meet, what happens when they share a multi-million pound prize? Narrated by Cerys Matthews.

*Shown courtesy of Firecrest Films.*

# THEATER PRODUCTIONS



## Theater Production: *Carwyn*

Friday 10:30–11:30, Saturday 11:00–12:00 in Renaissance

*Carwyn* is a brand-new one-man show starring Simon Nehan that attempts to unravel the enigma of a multi-layered man. A man ahead of his time. A man who was alone in a crowd. A man uncomfortable in his own skin. A man of whom it is said very few truly knew him, knew what made his heart beat and his mind tick. In his 53 years Carwyn James made an incredible, indelible impact on the country of his birth. A man who adored sport, culture and politics, a man who adored Wales. A man of contradictions, with a career that took in teaching, broadcasting, coaching, and espionage.

Throughout his life the beauty of the words of the ancient poets and playwrights were as important to him as the ebb and flow of the rugby ball. A man whose crowning achievement was delivering, to this day, the only Series victory against New Zealand for the British and Irish Lions in 1971.

Carwyn James died alone in an Amsterdam hotel room in January 1983. This play returns to this room and allows this unique man to have one final opportunity to look back over his short but eventful life. Carwyn James deserves to have his story told on stage. Writer Owen Thomas and Director Gareth John Bale, the writer and star of *Grav*, will remind Wales of one of her lost sons who contributed enormously to our sporting, cultural, political and intellectual life.

## Theater Production: *Grav*

Saturday 3:30–4:30 in Renaissance

In October 2007 Ray Gravell, a man who for many embodied what it is to be Welsh, passed away after succumbing to complications resulting from contracting diabetes. He was 56 years old. Known to millions for his legendary exploits on the rugby field, *Grav* was and is so much more than that. An actor, a cultural icon, a father, a husband, a man with a life packed full of stories that deserve to be heard once more.



Gareth John Bale is *Grav* in this remarkable one-man show exploring the life and times of one of Wales' most loved sons, Ray Gravell, written by Owen Thomas. With the blessing of Mari, Ray's widow, and contributions from his Welsh and British Lions team mates, this one man show will explore the life of a man who was as fascinating away from the rugby field as he was on it. Whether you are a Rugby fan or not, only the hardest of hearts would fail to enjoy this production.



Actor **Simon Nehan** trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. He is an Associate Artist of Theatr Clwyd where his credits include: *Curtain Up*, *Under Milk Wood*, *Rape of the Fair Country*, *Bruised*, and *Memory* (which toured to New York in Spring 2007). Other theatre credits include: *Carwyn* (Torch Theatre), *We're Still Here* (National Theatre Wales), *This Incredible Life* (Ffwrnes Llanelli), *Routes* (Wales Millennium Centre), *Blasted* (The Other Room, Cardiff), *The Merchant of Venice* (PAC theatres), *Robin Hood* (Riverfront Arts Centre), *Cardboard Dad*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Deluge* (Sherman Theatre), *Pinocchio* (Pukka Theatre Company), *The Seagull*, *Kebab Shags* (Bristol Old Vic), *A Child's Christmas in Wales* (Theatr na nOg), *The Canterbury Tales*, *As You Like It* (Mappa

Mundi), *Acqua Nero* (Sgript Cymru), *Cinderella*, *Aladdin & Dick Whittington* (Regent Theatre, Stoke), and *Sleeping Beauty* (New Victoria, Woking).

Writer **Owen Thomas** is an award-winning playwright whose previous plays include *The Wood* and *Grav* for the Torch Theatre, Milford Haven, where he is also proud to be an Associate Artist. *Grav* has toured widely, enjoying successful runs in London, Washington, New York, Edinburgh, and a special showing for the Welsh National Rugby team prior to their Six Nations game against England in February 2019. The film version of *Grav*, based on his screenplay and directed by Marc Evans, won the BAFTA Cymru Award for Best Film. His breakthrough play 'Richard Parker' was critically acclaimed at the Edinburgh Festival, going on to win 'Best International Show' at the Hollywood Fringe Festival, Los Angeles in 2012.



**Gareth John Bale** is an experienced actor and director. He trained at the Welsh College of Music and Drama. As a director, Gareth has directed *Carwyn* for the Torch Theatre. He has worked as director for Bale and Thomas on *West*, *The Night Porter*, *Benny*, *Richard Parker* and *Robert Golding*. He has directed *Miss Julie*, *Dau* (an adaption of Jim Cartwright's *Two*) and two Welsh language pantomimes for RCT Theatres.

He was Artistic Director of Cwmni Theatr 3-D directing *Epa yn y Parlwr Cefn*, *Abigail's Party*, *Richard Parker*, and *Don't Dress for Dinner*, among others. Gareth has been an assistant director on numerous productions for BlackRat Productions and RCT Theatres. He has also lectured and directed at several colleges in South Wales.

*Theater Productions are sponsored by Dilys Rana, Barbara Jones, Sue Stealey & Marion Hoffman.*





# EISTEDDFOD SCHEDULE



## Poetry Composition Competitions

Adjudicators, Welsh: Menna Elfyn, Eurig Salisbury.

Adjudicators, English: Robert Dayton, Pat Edwards.

David Llewelyn Williams Award: \$250 grand prize in each language.

There are two poetry composition competitions this year, one in Welsh and one in English, each on the theme of “Roots/Gwreiddiau.” Poems were due by July 30, and any winners will be announced at the festival and poems recited at the Winners Concert on Saturday. (See pages 42–43 following.)

The prizes honor David Llewelyn Williams of Vancouver, BC, Canada (1937–2021), a great friend and former Trustee of the North American Festival of Wales and a longtime member of its Eisteddfod Committee. Originally from Prestatyn, Wales, he was highly knowledgeable of Welsh poets and poetry, and entered and adjudicated numerous competitions (composition and recitation) in North America and Wales alike. He was highly instrumental and influential in establishing these very competitions.

*Sponsored by Robert Dayton, Patricia Morris and the Calgary Welsh Society.*

# EISTEDDFOD SCHEDULE (continued)

## Saturday, September 2

- 4:00 **Visual Arts Competition Deadline** Lancaster  
Visual art on the theme of “Roots/Gwreiddiau.” Entries for the Visual Arts Competition will be accepted at the Visual Arts table in Lancaster. They will remain on display through Sunday. Festival attendees will vote for the winners by secret ballot at the Visual Arts table. Viewing and voting is open to all. Voting closes on Saturday at 4:00.  
Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Assn. of Wisconsin Award: 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25. Winners will be announced at the Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday.
- 12:00 **Limerick Composition Deadline** Registration Table  
A fun competition open to everyone in attendance! Pick up guidelines, including first lines and entry forms, at the Registration table. Submissions are due by noon, Saturday, at the Registration table. Adjudicators will choose finalists for popular voting at the Noson Lawen Sunday evening.  
*Sponsored by Alan & Greta Upshall.*
- 12:00 – 12:30 **Welsh Language Recitation Competition** Ballroom DEF  
Adjudicators: Ifor ap Glyn, Ann Griffiths.  
WNAA Eisteddfod Committee Award: 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25.
- 12:30 – 1:00 **English Language Recitation Competition** Ballroom DEF  
Adjudicators: Ifor ap Glyn, Mari Davies.  
St. David’s Society of Minnesota Award: 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25.
- 1:30 – 2:30 **Hymn Singing (Solo)** Ballroom DEF  
Adjudicators: Pred Owen-Griffiths, Danny Proud.  
Rachel Christopher Memorial Award: 1st \$75 and invitation to sing in Sunday service, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25.  
*Sponsored by Huw Christopher.*
- 2:30 – 3:15 **Solo Voice/Semi-Professional** Ballroom DEF  
Adjudicators: Robat Arwyn, Lisa Dafydd, Rhys Meirion.  
Welsh North American Prize: Winner: US\$500, with the possibility of an additional scholarship of \$3000 for travel to compete at the 2024 National Eisteddfod of Wales. Winner is also invited to sing an appropriate piece in the NAFOW Sunday Worship Service. Runner-up \$250.  
*Sponsored by Ian K. Samways.*
- 4:00 – 5:00 **Eisteddfod Winners Concert** Ballroom DEF

# Winning Welsh Language Poem



## Angladd Goedwigol yng Nghymru

Cafodd ei eni a'i fagu yn Rhosllanerchrugog mewn teulu i löwr balch; y Capel Cymraeg, y gweiniddogion ffyrnig, Y Set Fawr, y canu, y gweddio, y Parêd Mwnci, y dillad Dydd Sul, y dynion yn codi het mewn dwrn anferth, gwragedd mewn bonet, yn siffrwd eu sgertiau, fferau main, yn aros i siarad.

Y troean ar Fynydd Rhiwabon, dros y rhosydd gwyntog, ar hyd llwybrau mwldyd, heibio ffermdai gwyngalchog, bythynnod unig, pentrefannau bach, glynnoedd coediog, mynyddoedd pell, dyffrynnoedd dwfn, llynnoedd, afonydd, rhêydr, cerrig brig, clogfeini, ysgyfaint llawn o awyr coeth fel gwin, yn bell o domennydd glo, y mwg a'r bar.

Yn 15 mlwydd oed, aeth i lawr y pwll glo, prentis mecanig. Y gwres, y llwch miniog, y syched, y twrw, y peiriannau anferth swllyd fel anghenfilod yn gweithio ar y cyd, yr ofn, y to ansad, y straen, y poen, y chwys, diffyg toiledau, dŵr tap, lle seibiant, cysuron corfforol, a hefyd y sbri, y digrifwch, y jocan, y chwerthin, y cawodydd, y cantin, y cwrw, a'r dafarn.

Ond nid oedd yn gallu ei gymryd o, ddim fel ei dad. Aeth i ffwrdd i fynd yn forwr. Cwmni Harrison, allan o Lerpwl. Awstralia, Siapan, De America, Affrica, o gwmpas y byd. Porthladdoedd, dinasoedd, a threfi. Tiroedd gwahanol, pobl wahanol, ieithoedd gwahanol, diwylliannau gwahanol; ond nid arhosodd yn nunlle yn hir. Wastad yn aflonydd. Hiraeth yn drwm yn ei enaid.

Roedd yn caru dod adref lle gorweddodd ei galon. Ag acw gynlluniodd aros. Am byth, ar ôl ei farwolaeth. Dewisodd angladd goedwigol mewn gwig ar y rhedyn ger man ei eni, o dan ael gwglyd y clogwyni calchfaen gwyn yn sgleinio wrth ymyl y nant lle bysgotodd a chwarae fel bachgen ifanc, yn cynnull berwr y dŵr o'i ymyl, a blodau o'i lannau serth.

Yn fuan, datgymalodd ei arch wiced a dechreuodd ei gorff doddi yn y tir sbyngaid; ei dir. Wedyn daeth yr hyffae ar ei ôl o, ei dentaclau hir gwrychog yn treiddio i mewn i'w gnawd, yn rhwygo yn ei galon, ei organau, ei ymennydd, gan sugno allan ei faetholion er mwyn bwydo gwreiddiau'r gerddinen uwchben, ei fwyar coch yn hongian fel gleiniau gwaed



**Dr. Stan Morton** is a Welsh-speaking coalminer's son who was born in Ruabon, North Wales in 1945. Educated at Cardiff and Aberystwyth Universities he has a B.A. in modern foreign languages (French, Spanish, Portuguese), an M.Ed. in Language Education and Bilingualism and a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics. In a long career he worked as a teacher and lecturer in several local schools and colleges. He was brought up in the intensive Eisteddfod tradition of Ruabon Grammar School, led by two archdruids, Geraint Bowen and B.M. Davies, and well-known Musical Director, Gareth Hughes. He remembers writing poetry in English, Welsh, French, Spanish and Latin throughout his teens as well as taking part in multilingual recitations and singing. "It was quite an apprenticeship," he says. He has written poetry throughout his life and published his first collection of poems *Millennium's End* in 2015. He now lives with his wife, Rita, in Ruthin, North Wales. He has a daughter Catrin, who lives nearby with her two children, Mabli and Macsen, and a son who lives and works in Manila, Philippines, with his wife Oanh and two sons Dewi and Dai.

# Winning English Language Poem



## Hiraeth (Something Lost in the Translation)

She came from Ystradgynlais / and was put in Mrs. Francis's class with me / Mam said it was an outrage / that she'd never be able to swim in the A stream / when she didn't have a word of English / but Mrs. Francis stood in the council elections / for Plaid no less and spoke Welsh / so it sort of made sense

Mrs Francis never won / and when Dad read the results / he'd say / 'that woman's twp' / he spoke Welsh you see / but only sparingly / like meat on our plates on a Sunday / Mam was from Cardiff / too posh for chopping / her only Welsh in the singing or praying / so I grew up with my bara beunyddiol / sopping in dripping and Duw

*Then I left for less greener pastures*

All these years later / sitting in a poetry workshop / I'm part of a Connecticut pastoral / all skittish deer / falling leaves / drinking an oat milk shaken espressos / as I listen to a lady read her poem / it's called Hiraeth / and although she's not Welsh / she had just come across the word in wiktionary / I feel an unsettling

The tilting way she speaks / splits the burlap / I have carefully wound around myself / her soft stretched vowels soak my bareroots / and I am planted back / in my Gran's cawl damp kitchen / with Bampi's lamp in pride of place on the mantel / and it's all yck a fi / damn oh dee / I'll be there in a minute now

*And for that longest minute I'm home*



**Adele Evershed** was born in South Wales and has lived in Hong Kong and Singapore before settling in Connecticut. Her prose and poetry have been published in over a hundred journals and anthologies such as *Every Day Fiction*, *Grey Sparrow Journal*, *Reflex Fiction*, *Shot Glass Journal*, and *A470, Poems for the Road* from Arachne Press. Adele has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net for poetry. Finishing Line Press published her debut poetry chapbook, *Turbulence in Small Places*, this year and her novella-in-flash, *Wannabe*, was published by Alien Buddha Press in May. Her second poetry collection, *The Brink of Silence*, will be available from Bottlecap Press later this year.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



WNAA gratefully acknowledges the organizations and individuals who have provided goods, in-kind and other services, and countless volunteer hours that have enhanced the quality and scope of NAFOW.

The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project and Arvon Historical Preservation Society for serving as local host societies. Special thanks to Gwenith Closs-Colgrove and Susan Evans Atchison for serving as local venue chairs.

Volunteers and Board members of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project for their dedication and hard work in providing an exceptional welcome for our Thursday tour.

Our Affiliated Welsh Organizations (AWOs) that support NAFOW throughout the year.

NINNAU Publications for providing the vehicle for general publicity.

Officers and Trustees of WNAA.

Beth Landmesser for taking NAFOW photos.

Karen Jones Wojahn and the volunteer conductors for the Informal Singing.

The advertisers whose support is essential to the publication of the Program Book. Evans Paschal for assembling the Program Book pages and preparing them for printing.

The Eisteddfod Adjudicators: Robat Arwyn, Lisa Dafydd, Mari Davies, Ann Griffith, Robert Dayton, Pat Edwards, Menna Elfyn, Ifor ap Glyn, Peredur Owen Griffiths, Danny Proud, Eurig Salisbury. All Eisteddfod competitors for their dedication to their Welsh heritage.

The Seminar and Special Event presenters: David Allen, Laurel Bradshaw, Ifor ap Glyn, Gareth Bale, Dick Cavett, Ann Griffith, Michael Hieber, Gillian Hodkinson, Robert Humphries, Peredur Owen Griffiths, Ceri James, Simon Nehan, Pamela Petro, Danny Proud, Susan Davies Sit, Owen Thomas, Karen Wojahn.

Steve Jensen and Menna Rhys for their work as accompanists throughout the weekend.

Terrence Keefe, Paddywhack, Triano, and Many Moccasins for their help in making our Opening Night Possible.

Robat Arwyn, Lisa Dafydd, Gwawr Edwards, Emyr Lloyd Jones, Rhys Meirion, Dylan Morris and our URDD winners for providing outstanding musical content for our program.

The Welsh Government for their support in planning and promoting the 2023 festival.

All the members and attendees who volunteered to help in the Registration area.

Cinema Wales Media Providers: Catrin Brace, Gerri Baker Parry, Dylan Williams (Backflip Media and Cwmni Da); Ann Atkinson; Nicole Kleeman and Clare Fraser (Firecrest Films); Jennifer Pappas (S4C); Mike Davies (Wildflame Productions).

Kerry Fein, hotel consultant, for her invaluable service.

Janis Davis, Cassi Flaherty and Dan Jones and the staff at the Cornhusker Marriott for being great partners.

Lora Sullivan and the staff at Saint Paul United Methodist Church

Roxanne Smith and the staff at the State Capitol Building for hosting our Opening Ceremony

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**Welsh Peace Petition Arrives Home**

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A handwritten peace petition signed by 12,000 people from across the United States arrived at the National Peace Petition Project office in Washington, D.C. The petition was presented to the National Peace Petition Project office by a group of Welsh Americans who had gathered in Washington, D.C. to support the petition. The petition was presented to the National Peace Petition Project office by a group of Welsh Americans who had gathered in Washington, D.C. to support the petition.

**St. David's Day Celebration in Washington, D.C.**

St. David's Day was celebrated in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, March 11, 2023. The celebration was held at the National Peace Petition Project office and was attended by a large number of Welsh Americans. The celebration included a variety of activities, including a Welsh choir performance, a Welsh dance performance, and a Welsh meal. The celebration was a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended.

**Welsh School Students Visit Chapel Rehoboth**

A group of Welsh school students from the United States visited Chapel Rehoboth in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, March 11, 2023. The students were accompanied by their teachers and were on a field trip to the chapel. The students were very interested in the chapel and its history and enjoyed the tour very much. The chapel is a beautiful building and is a great example of Welsh architecture.

**2023 Wisconsin Welsh Weekend and State Gymna**

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The 2023 Wisconsin Welsh Weekend and State Gymna was held in Wisconsin on Saturday, July 15, 2023. The event was a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended. The event included a variety of activities, including a Welsh choir performance, a Welsh dance performance, and a Welsh meal. The event was a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended.

**Welsh Historic Records Project Moves Forward**

The Welsh Historic Records Project has moved forward and is now in the final stages of completion. The project has been a great success and has resulted in the discovery of many new Welsh records. The project has been a great success and has resulted in the discovery of many new Welsh records.

**Jackson Schools Celebrates 97 Years of Welsh Tradition**

Jackson Schools celebrated 97 years of Welsh tradition on Saturday, July 15, 2023. The celebration was held at the Jackson Schools and was attended by a large number of Welsh Americans. The celebration included a variety of activities, including a Welsh choir performance, a Welsh dance performance, and a Welsh meal. The celebration was a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended.

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	<i>in memory of</i>	The Hon William R Jones, Judson, MN, and Member of the State Legislative from 1886-1869
	<i>in memory of</i>	William Powell (Gwilym Eryri), member of Heulwen's family from Beddgelert, worked as a travel agent with the St Paul-Chicago Railroad Co, and compere at Welsh Area, Chicago World Fair, 1893
Bronwyn Jones	<i>in memory of</i>	Dwight and Mary Elizabeth Jones
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1972–74	Owen C. Roberts	Montreal, QC	1935–67	George Bundy	Warren, OH
1974–76	Gwynn J. Parri	Milwaukee, WI	1968–83	Jack Meadows	Youngstown, OH
1976–78	Eluned M. Thomas	Toronto, ON	1984–98	Nelson L. Llewellyn	Warren, OH
1978–80	Dr. David L. Mandry	Ravenswood, WV	1998–03	Ellis J. Jones	St. Peter, MN
1980–82	J. Humphreys Jones	Toronto, ON	2003–08	John S. Ellis	Hartland, MI
1982–84	Norman E. Williams	Utica, NY	2008–12	Stacy A. Evans	Granville, OH
1984–86	Gwenfyl E. Jones	Vancouver, BC	2012–	Megan Williams	Trumansburg, NY
1986–88	David E. Thomas	Edina, MN			
1988–90	Paul E. Stevens	Poland, OH			
1990–92	Don Mills	Kanata, ON			

### VENUE CHAIRPERSONS

1976	Elisabeth Griffith	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
1977	Don Mills & Tal Griffiths	Ottawa, Ontario
1978	David E. Thomas	Minneapolis, Minnesota
1979	Gwyneth Crysler & Lewis Edwards	Niagara Falls, New York
1980	Gwenfyl E. Jones	Vancouver, British Columbia
1981	Robert A. Jones	Utica, New York
1982	Eluned Thomas	Toronto, Ontario
1983	Jack A. Pritchard	Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
1984	Emmaline Davies & Betty Pierce	Portland, Oregon
1985	Terry Pierce	Montreal, Quebec

**VENUE CHAIRPERSONS (continued)**

1986	Tom Brownfield	Columbus, Ohio
1987	Mae Howells Anderson	St. Paul, Minnesota
1988	Barbara A. Morgan	Baltimore, Maryland
1989	David Lewis	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
1990	Yvonne Griffiths-Evans	Victoria, British Columbia
1991	David Taliesin Richards & Jack Lewis	Cincinnati, Ohio
1992	Jack A. Nesbitt & Ann McFerrin	Kansas City, Missouri
1993	Jack A. Pritchard & Beth Landmesser	Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
1994	Alan Upshall	Bellevue, Washington
1995	Glenn Grove & Pat St. Clair	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
1996	Stephen L. Reese & Patricia C. Divers	Utica, New York
1997	David T. Williams & Arline H. Barsamian	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1998	Mary Ellen Morgan & Marietta Riggs Schumann	Columbus, Ohio
1999	Ellis J. Jones & Mary Morris Mergenthal	Minneapolis, Minnesota
2000	Ian Morris	Ottawa, Ontario
2001	Howard Thomas	San Jose, California
2002	Glenn Grove	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
2003	Alan Upshall	Richmond, British Columbia
2004	Myfanwy S. Davies	Buffalo, New York
2005	Jan Briggs & Trudy Howells	Orlando, Florida
2006	Ian Morris	Cincinnati, Ohio
2007	Hywel Davies	Washington, DC
2008	Barbara M. Jones	Chicago, Illinois
2009	Ian Morris	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2010	Janet Figini & Betty Pierce	Portland, Oregon
2011	Barbara Jones & Sue Stealey	Cleveland, Ohio
2012	Beth D. Landmesser	Scranton, Pennsylvania
2013	Betty Cullingworth	Toronto, Ontario
2014	Kay Gavin & Mary Morris Mergenthal	Minneapolis, Minnesota
2015	Laura Jenkins Gorun	Worthington, Ohio
2016	Elaine Westlake & David Matthews	Calgary, Alberta
2017	David & Janet Allen	Owego, New York
2018	Katherine De Francis & Diane Owen	Washington, DC
2019	Jan Jones Batty & Danny Evan Proud	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
2020	(The Festival was on-line during the COVID-19 pandemic)	
2021	Ted Engel & Jean Kraeger	Utica, New York
2022	Jack Williams & Taylor Williams	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**CYMANFA GANU VENUES AND DIRECTORS**

1929	Niagara Falls, New York	Prof. Isaac Prosser	Youngstown, Ohio
		Prof. Evan Harris	Buffalo, New York
1930	Niagara Falls, New York	Miss Dilys Hughes	Buffalo, New York
1931	Niagara Falls, New York	Prof. Evan Harris	Buffalo, New York
1932	Niagara Falls, New York	Prof. John T. Roberts	Utica, New York
1933	Chicago, Illinois	Prof. David Jenkins	Scranton, Pennsylvania
1934	Cleveland, Ohio	Dr. T. Hopkins Evans	Cleveland, Ohio
1935	Youngstown, Ohio	Dr. Joseph Lloyd	Youngstown, Ohio
		Rev. Rees Williams	New Castle, Pennsylvania

**CYMANFA GANU VENUES AND DIRECTORS (continued)**

1936	Atlantic City, New Jersey	W. B. Jones	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
		The Hon. Stanley Davis	Scranton, Pennsylvania
1937	Johnstown, Pennsylvania	Prof. Samuel J. Evans	Utica, New York
1938	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Dr. D. West Richard	Youngstown, Ohio
1939	Buffalo, New York	Rev. George Middleton	Rochester, New York
		Rev. Canon John Samuels	Hamilton, Ontario
1940	Detroit, Michigan	Evan R. Edwards	Rome, New York
1941	New Castle, Pennsylvania	Dr. Griffith J. Jones	Cleveland, Ohio
1942	Utica, New York	Lewis Thomas	Chicago, Illinois
	(The Gymanfa Ganu was suspended during the War)		
1946	Akron, Ohio	Prof. William A. Hughes	Cleveland, Ohio
1947	Akron, Ohio	William R. Hughes	Scranton, Pennsylvania
1948	Detroit, Michigan	Prof. John T. Roberts	Utica, New York
1949	Salt Lake City, Utah	Prof. William A. Hughes	Cleveland, Ohio
1950	Canton, Ohio	T. Herbert Davies	Cleveland, Ohio
1951	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	David J. Pritchard	Seattle, Washington
1952	Columbus, Ohio	Prof. Hywel C. Rowland	Grand Forks, North Dakota
		Ann Davies Thomas	Salt Lake City, Utah
1953	Rochester, New York	Meredydd Evans	Princeton, New Jersey
		E. J. Hughes	Caernarfon, Wales
1954	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	E. J. Hughes	Caernarfon, Wales
1955	Salt Lake City, Utah	Ann Davies Thomas	Salt Lake City, Utah
1956	Cleveland, Ohio	Prof. William A. Hughes	Cleveland, Ohio
1957	Washington, DC	Prof. William A. Hughes	Cleveland, Ohio
1958	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Prof. William A. Hughes	Cleveland, Ohio
1959	Toronto, Ontario	Ann Davies Thomas	Salt Lake City, Utah
1960	San Francisco, California	Albert T. Davies	Detroit, Michigan
1961	Chicago, Illinois	Mansell Thomas	Cardiff, Wales
1962	Utica, New York	Prof. William A. Hughes	Cleveland, Ohio
1963	Detroit, Michigan	Albert T. Davies	Detroit, Michigan
1964	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Dr. Leslie Wynne Evans	Cardiff, Wales
1965	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Morris Wrench	Youngstown, Ohio
1966	Los Angeles, California	Dr. Terry James	Cardiff, Wales
1967	Toronto, Ontario	Alun John	Pontycymer, Wales
1968	Buffalo, New York	Alun John	Pontycymer, Wales
1969	Cardiff, Wales	Dr. Terry James	Cardiff, Wales
	Cleveland, Ohio	Morris Wrench	Youngstown, Ohio
1970	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Alun John	Pontycymer, Wales
1971	Salt Lake City, Utah	Dr. Llewellyn Roberts	Los Angeles, California
1972	Chicago, Illinois	Miss Frances Williams	New York, New York
1973	Toronto, Ontario	Helen Evans	Cardiff, Wales
1974	Swansea, Wales	Alun John	Pontycymer, Wales
	Cleveland, Ohio	Ann Davies Thomas	Salt Lake City, Utah
1975	New York, New York	Dr. Terry James	London, England
1976	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Lyn Harry	Hamilton, Ontario
1977	Ottawa, Ontario	Noel Gwyn Davies	Gorseinon, Wales
1978	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Lyn Harry	Hamilton, Ontario
1979	Niagara Falls, New York	Alun John	Pontycymer, Wales
1980	Vancouver, BC	D. Eifion Thomas	Llanelli, Wales

CYMANFA GANU VENUES AND DIRECTORS (continued)

1981	Utica, New York	Iwan Edwards	Lachine, Quebec
1982	Toronto, Ontario	Noel John	Llandeilo, Wales
1983	Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania	Alun Guy	Cardiff, Wales
1984	Portland, Oregon	Noel John	Llandeilo, Wales
1985	Montreal, Quebec	Iwan Edwards	Lachine, Quebec
1986	Columbus, Ohio	Colin Jones	Rhosllanerchrugog, Wales
		John Tudor Davies	Rhosllanerchrugog, Wales
1987	St. Paul Minnesota	Iwan Edwards	Lachine, Quebec
1988	Baltimore, Maryland	Dr. Carlton Jones Lake	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
1989	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	T. Gwynn Jones	Llanfairfechan, Wales
1990	Victoria, British Columbia	D. Eifion Thomas	Llanelli, Wales
1991	Cincinnati, Ohio	Delyth Hopkins Evans	Pontrhydygroes, Wales
1992	Kansas City, Missouri	Hywel Thomas	Fort Worth, Texas
1993	Wilkes-Barre, Penna.	Alun Guy	Cardiff, Wales
1994	Bellevue, Washington	Mary Morris Mergenthal	St. Paul, Minnesota
		D. Eifion Thomas	Llanelli, Wales
1995	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	Glynne Jones	Merthyr Tydfil, Wales
1996	Utica, New York	Iwan Edwards	Montreal, Quebec
1997	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Geraint Wilkes	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1998	Columbus, Ohio	Lloyd Savage	Chillicothe, Ohio
		W. Tudor Jones	Rhosllanerchrugog, Wales
1999	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Meirwyn I. Walters	Hamilton, Massachusetts
2000	Ottawa, Ontario	Roy Morris	Ottawa, Ontario
2001	San Jose, California	Rhiannon Evans Acree	Los Angeles, California
		D. Eifion Thomas	Llanelli, Wales
2002	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	Donald Boothman	Hardwicke, Massachusetts
		Rev. Gareth Thomas	Swansea, Wales
2003	Richmond, BC	Haydn James	London, England
2004	Buffalo, New York	Meirwyn I. Walters	Hamilton, Massachusetts
2005	Orlando, Florida	Haydn James	London, England
2006	Cincinnati, Ohio	Roy Morris	Kanata, Ontario
2007	Washington, DC	Trystan Lewis	Degannwy, Wales
2008	Chicago, Illinois	Mari Morgan	Scotch Plains, New Jersey
2009	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Eilir Owen-Griffiths	Taffs Well, Cardiff, Wales
2010	Portland, Oregon	Eirian Owen	Dolgellau, Wales
		Rhiannon Evans Acree	Long Beach, California
2011	Cleveland, Ohio	Ilid Anne Jones	Talysarn, Wales
2012	Scranton, Pennsylvania	Gareth Hughes Jones	Llandudno, Wales
2013	Toronto, Ontario	Clive Phillips	Murton, Wales
2014	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Meirwyn I. Walters	Hamilton, Massachusetts
2015	Columbus, Ohio	Owain Arwel Davies	Bethesda, Wales
2016	Calgary, Alberta	Tudur Eames	Tremeirchion, Wales
2017	Rochester, New York	Meirwyn I. Walters	Hamilton, Massachusetts
2018	Alexandria, Virginia	Eilir Owen-Griffiths	Taffs Well, Cardiff, Wales
2019	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Dr. Mari Morgan	Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania
	(The Gymanfa Ganu was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic)		
2021	Utica, New York	Meirwyn I. Walters	Hamilton, Massachusetts
2022	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Mike Williams	London, England



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**VISITING CONDUCTOR**  
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## ADDITIONAL FESTIVAL ITEMS



**REGISTRATION DESK** Wednesday 12:00–5:00, Thursday 9:00–5:30, Friday 8:30–6:00, Saturday 9:00–4:30 in Lower Level. Make the Registration Desk your first stop at the festival. If you have pre-registered, pick up your pre-registration packet containing your name tag, program book and tickets for the weekend's events. If you are attending Friday evening's Grand Banquet, sign up for reserved seating. If you haven't pre-registered, we are happy to register you for the festival and answer any questions you may have. Circle back at 3:00 on Saturday to pick up any Silent Auction items you may win.

**SILENT AUCTION** Thursday 12:00–5:00, Friday 9:00–5:00, Saturday 9:00–12:00 in Lancaster. Be sure to stop by the Silent Auction tables in the Marketplace. There are many treasures to be had! One-of-a kind collectibles, books, and many other donated Welsh-related items. Enter your bids on the signup sheets. Bidding ends at noon on Saturday. Your treasures will be ready for pickup at 3:00 at the Registration Desk.

**MARKETPLACE AND TEA ROOM** Thursday 12:00–5:00, Friday 9:00–5:00, Saturday 9:00–5:00, Sunday 9:00–1:00 in Lancaster. Take in the Welsh Marketplace and shop the variety of Welsh items for sale—books, clothing, jewelry and more. Talk to representatives from other Welsh organizations at their display tables. When you need a break, stop by the Welsh Tea Room and purchase tea and Welsh teacakes. A great opportunity to rest and meet other festival attendees. *The Tea Room is sponsored by the Arvon Historic Preservation Society Morgansbrew and Bryn Seion Welsh Church.*

**FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES GATHERING** Friday 8:00–9:00 in Yankee Hill. If this is your first time at a North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW), please come to the first-time attendees gathering! Members of the Welsh North American Association (WNAA) board will be on-hand to greet you and answer any questions. Complementary coffee and muffins will be served.

**BOOK SIGNING** Friday 5:00–6:00 in Lower Foyer. Author Dr. Mari Morgan will be on hand to sign her new book, *Braids of Song*, a mixed-genre collection of stories that acknowledges the preciousness of culture; in particular, the music, which is both able to cross different linguistic boundaries and to breach those between melody and language itself.

**WNAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** Saturday 8:30–9:30 in Arbor II. Annual General Meeting of the Welsh North American Association (WNAA). All WNAA members are welcome.

**NAWF MEETING** Saturday 1:00–3:00 in Garrat. Meeting of the North American Wales Foundation board.



# NOTES



# CELEBRITY AUTOGRAPHS



# NATIONAL ANTHEMS



## O Canada!

O Canada! Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all of us command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise  
The True North strong and free;  
From far and wide, O Canada,  
We stand on guard for thee.  
God keep our land glorious and free!  
O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.

## The Star-Spangled Banner

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh, say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

## Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau

Mae hen wlad fy nhadau yn annwyl i mi,  
Gwlad beirdd a chantorion, enwogion o fri;  
Ei gwrol ryfelwyr, gwlad garwyr tra môd,  
Tros ryddid gollasant eu gwaed,  
Gwlad, Gwlad, pleidiol wyf i'm gwlad,  
Tra môr yn fur i'r bur hoff bau,  
O bydded i'r hen iaith barhau.

## Closing Hymn

### God Be With You

God be with you till we meet again,  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.

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# North American Festival of Wales *Gŵyl Cymru Gogledd America*



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
August 28–September 1, 2024

*Featuring the 92nd  
National Gymanfa Ganu*



Photo: Russell Sekeet, Wikimedia

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