

More exiles flock to call of American gymanfa ganu

TODAY is exiles day at the National Eisteddfod in Bangor. In this article the public relations director of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association of the United States and Canada looks ahead to next month's great North American gathering of Welsh exiles in Salt Lake City.

FOR 40 years now the Welsh in America have been responding in amazing numbers to the appealing tones of "Deuwch, canwn i'r Arglwydd," the psalmic call of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association of the United States and Canada.

And, with the introduction of novel and expanded public relations, indications are already that the response this summer will exceed those of former years for the 40th Annual Gymanfa Ganu from September 2 to 5 at Salt Lake City, Utah.

Veteran singers of the first National Gymanfa 40 years ago at Goat Island, Niagara Falls, New York, remember that occasion for its spiritual enthusiasm through singing together.

Then they never imagined that out from the desire of many people for singing Welsh hymn tunes by the cool waters there would develop a

From
JOHN O. MORGANS
in America

festival of national significance with international interest and participation.

From the modest beginning at Niagara the famed hymn tunes of Wales have since been heard and enjoyed on festival dimensions in most of the major cities of the United States and twice at Toronto.

The National Gymanfa returns to Salt Lake City for the third time. It was held there previously in 1949 and 1955. Enthusiasm and concern for the reception and comfort of thousands of Welsh-American visitors are apparent in the advanced preparations for the September festival.

The gymanfa singing sessions will be held in the famous Salt Lake City Tabernacle, the spiritual home of the nation's Mormons. On Sunday morning, September 5, the Welsh singers will participate in a world-wide radio broadcast that will include the Tabernacle choir.

Mr. Clarence Giles, president, and Dr. Moyer D. Thomas, general chair-

man, are leaders of local committee members who have secured the magnificent Utah Hotel for the four-day festival. Dr. Thomas is supported by his wife, Ann Davies Thomas, from Abergynolwyn, who has toured Wales and Europe on several occasions with her Welsh-American choir.

The involvement of the Welsh-American Youth movement (WAY), which was introduced at Milwaukee last year, will be continued with added features at Salt Lake City.

The hotel facilities will contain the Noson Lawen, WAY activities, national committee sessions and various innovations, for the enjoyment of the guests. Outdoor diversions include tours of the city and neighboring scenic spots, with a civic welcome.

Mr. Emlyn Lloyd, national president, and currently president of the Detroit Gymanfa Ganu Association, prominent leader in community and civic group projects and vice-president of the Chrysler Corporation, views with optimism the future of the National Gymanfa. A native of Penycae near Wrexham, he has served the national organization in several capacities.

Mr. Jack Meadows, of Youngstown, Ohio (Llanbradach), who succeeded Mr. George Bundy (Garnant) as national secretary, demonstrates a dedication to his duties that has been characteristic of the organization's executive officers.



Foreground, Ivy Morris and Clarence Giles, and in rear, John Musgrove, Jeff Thomas, Byron Bul-

lough, David Giles, Carol Jones rehearse songs for Welsh Conference to be held in Salt Lake this week.

Welsh make tuneful pitch for Gymanfa Ganu fest

There's an old saying — when two Welshmen get together they form a chorus.

In the tradition of that adage, the 40th annual National Gymanfa Ganu (guh-man-vah gan-ee) Convention will be held in Salt Lake City Thursday through Sunday.

More than 5,000 native Welshmen and their descendants are expected to attend the festival for singing, dancing and renewing old acquaintances.

The Gymanfa Ganu or sacred song festival, long a tradition to the Welsh people, consists of laymen singing in harmony with a counter melody often played by a harp, the national instrument of Wales.

Headquarters for the convention will be Hotel Utah with programs also being conducted in the Salt Lake City Tabernacle.

A Welsh gardens will be dedicated Friday at 11 a.m. at

the International Peace Gardens. A banquet that evening will feature several local, national and international Welsh performers.

Native folk dances will be taught Saturday afternoon and the evening will be filled with the Noson Lawen, Night of Merry Making, with participants from Britain and the United States comprising the program in Hotel Utah. The Welsh American Youth (WAY) will also present a play on the origin of the Welsh National Anthem.

The conclusion of the festival on Sunday will be highlighted by the General Gymanfa Ganu Sacred Song Assembly from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Tabernacle.

The public is invited to attend the festivities. For further information contact the National Gymanfa Ganu Association, General Secretary Mrs. Ann Davies Thomas, 1474 Beaverton Dr., Salt Lake City.

Welsh Singers To Attend Fest

By HAROLD LUNDSTROM
Deseret News Music Editor

Fifteen hundred Welsh singers from across the nation and also from Wales are expected to attend the national Gymanfa Ganu in Salt Lake City Thursday through Sunday.

The "Gymanfa Ganu" is a festival of religious songs sung by everyone as compared with the other well-known Welsh institution, the "Eisteddfod," which is a festival with competitions in literature, music, and the fine arts.

BEGINS THURSDAY

Directing the first national Gymanfa Ganu to be held in Salt Lake City since 1955 is Clarence L. Giles, president of the Utah Gymanfa Ganu Association.

The conference will begin Thursday with guests and delegates attending the weekly rehearsal of the Tabernacle choir from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

LECTURE ON WALES

Following this, W. Emalyn Jones, Ystradgynlais, South Wales, will present an illustrated lecture on Wales.

National officers and trustees will conduct their meetings Friday while the delegates go sightseeing. In the evening a banquet will be held in the Lafayette Ballroom of Hotel Utah.

Saturday morning the delegates will participate in the dedication of the Welsh Peace Garden in Jordan Park. A special concert in their honor



Preparing for national Gymanfa Ganu are, from left, Elizabeth Ballard, Clarence Giles and W. Emlyn Jones, Welsh author.

will be presented by the Mormon Youth Orchestra and Chorus, directed by Dr. Jay Welch, with Roy M. Darley, Tabernacle organist, in the Tabernacle at 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT DRAMA

In the evening Noson Lawsen and the drama, "Gland Rhondda," the genesis of

"Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau," by Enid Beaupre, will be represented by the Utah members of WAY. This will conclude with a "Welsh tea" and a "Sing" in the lobby of Hotel Utah.

The delegates will attend the nationwide Tabernacle choir broadcast at 9:30 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m. a bilingual

Morning Worship will be conducted in the Tabernacle by Clarence Giles with Rev. John Owen, New York City, and Rev. Aelwyn Hughes, Detroit, guest ministers. Roy Darley, Tabernacle organist, and Ada D. Thomas, pianist, will accompany the combined chorus and soloists.

At 2 p.m. Dr. Llewellyn

Robert, director from Pasadena, with Roy Darley and Mrs. Estelle R. Schubert as accompanists, will accompany the WAY Chorus. Mrs. Jean Steinlein, soprano, and Bruce Wursten, tenor, will be the soloists.

The 2 p.m. session will be televised and recorded by the BBC of London under the direction of KSL.

The evening and final session of the Gymanfa Ganu will begin in the Tabernacle at 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY SINGING

Community singing, in one form or another, has been a traditional pastime of the Welsh for centuries. One ancient form, going back to the Middle monastic days of the Middle Ages, can still be heard in some of the remote villages of Wales. This is the Gymanfa Bwnc, a form of intoning in small groups.

Toward the end of the 19th Century, when Welsh Non-conformity had reached its zenith and religious fervor went out hand-in-hand with industrial prosperity, the crowded chapels popularized community singing, and the Gymanfa Ganu well-rehearsed festival of massed choruses singing in harmony, became an eagerly awaited annual event.

The religious revivals in Wales at the turn of the century gave the Gymanfa Ganu an inspiring impetus.

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MUSICAL WHIRL

Master Classes In Hymn Singing

By HAROLD LUNDSTROM
Deseret News Music Critic

HYMNS & MELODIES — To call the 40th national Gymanfa Ganu a convention or conference would be telling only half the story. The four-day meet with 1,500 or more delegates from every state, every Canadian province, and guests from Wales was a master class in congregational hymn singing.



And it wasn't just confined to the Gymanfa Ganu's official concert hall — i.e., the Tabernacle on Temple Square.

Following the Sunday afternoon session in the Tabernacle, for example, many of the out-of-town and in-town members of the Gymanfa had dinner in the Coffee Shop in Hotel Utah.

And—wow!—before you knew it, one table of singers started to sing, and before anyone could lift a baton, the entire Coffee Shop was ablaze with song.

Sunday evening, the final session, the singers programmed 16 hymns and hymn-tunes, plus the national anthem of the United States, Canada, England and Wales. But they weren't satisfied with singing only the verses as announced by the competent conductor Dr. Llewellyn Roberts. Even when he signaled the final release as big and as plain as the side of an airplane hanger, some of them wanted more. And so back to either the verse or chorus they would go and sing it through again.

Fortunately, both the singers and Dr. Roberts had an accompanist who is also a Welshman, (Evan) Roy M. Darley, Tabernacle organist, who knew not only the hymns they were singing but also what they were doing to them. It was fascinating for one listener, though I'm sure it was sometimes bewildering to Mr. Darley.

After every four hymns, they would stop for a few announcements or introductions, or, most rewarding for this department, to hear two soloists.

One was a dramatic soprano, Mrs. Jean W. Steinlein, mother of seven children from Chicago, who sang the familiar, "O Divine Redeemer" by Gounod. She has a warm, large, and expertly rounded voice that was happiest when let loose, but she was also impressive with gorgeous pianissimo phrases. She was also the soloist in the afternoon session.

From Richfield came the other excel-

lent soloist, Bruce Wursten, whose singing of Adams "The Holy City" was ideal with his lyric voice of beautiful quality and significant control.

A musical highlight of the four-day meet was the concert sung and performed not by the members of Gymanfa Ganu but FOR them. The concert in their honor was given Saturday afternoon by the Mormon Youth Symphony and Chorus, and as conducted by Dr. Jay Welsh and Dr. Had Gunderson.

When Dr. Welch asked all the members of the Youth Chorus to stand who had some Welsh ancestry, it was obvious why the chorus is so outstanding — nearly two-thirds of the singers stood up.

The 40th national conference also included the dedicating of a Welsh Garden in the Jordan Park Peace Garden.

Giving direction to programmed concerts, the several spontaneous sing-alongs, banquets, and many other activities close to the hearts of Welshmen were Emllyn Lloyd, national president; Clarence L. Giles, Utah president; M.D. Thomas, chairman Utah Sponsoring Committee, and a host of 50 other hard-working singers. . . .

Attention, All of
Welsh Descent



**40th annual international
Gymanfa Ganu**

**(Festival for Sacred Songs)
will be held in**

Salt Lake City, Sept. 3-5
Most events in Salt Lake Tabernacle.
Noson Lawen, Banquet, Peace Gar-
dens, "Glan Rhondda" Drama.

**Send \$2 registration today for details
to:**

**Mrs. Elizabeth Ballard,
1159 Elgin Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah 84106**