



HWYL

The Newsletter of the Welsh National
Gymanfa Ganu Association

2011 NAFOW COMES TO CLEVELAND

Featuring the 80th National Gymanfa Ganu, the North American Festival of Wales will be held September 1 – 4 at the Crowne Plaza City Centre, 777 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

The **OPENING CONCERT**, Thursday evening, Moch Pryderi, “Pryderi’s Pigs,” the premiere Welsh-American band, will perform.

GRAND BANQUET, Friday evening, cosponsored by NWAFF (the National Welsh-American Foundation). Recipients of the Heritage Medallion Award will be honored. Megan Morris, the 2005 and 2009 NAFOW Eisteddfod winner, will perform.

The **GRAND CONCERT**, Saturday evening, Hogia’r Ddwylan, a Welsh male voice choir from the area of Menai Strait in North Wales, will perform, Ild Jones, Director.

SEMINARS, Friday and Saturday mornings and afternoons. Cultural topics, language classes, Welsh films, genealogy, tours and special events.

The **WORSHIP SERVICE**, Sunday morning, in Welsh and English, Prof. Thomas Glyn Watkin, University of Wales, Bangor, will preach.

The **80th NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU**, Sunday afternoon and evening sessions, centerpiece of the festival, hymn singing in Welsh and English, Ild Jones, conductor.

INFORMAL SINGING, every night, Pub Nights, too!

The **2011 NAFOW EISTEDDFOD**: competitions in singing and recitation. The David G. Morris Memorial Award winner will compete in Wales at the National Eisteddfod the following year. The set poem for the youth recitation competition will be in English, by a Welsh poet – a break with tradition, but one designed to encourage more participation. For information, performance requirements and entry forms, see box at right.

The **MARKETPLACE**, open daily, includes vendors from Wales and across North America selling Welsh and other Celtic items: clothing, jewelry, trinkets, music,

books, tours, educational packages and the like.

The **TEA ROOM** is open daily, offering tea and “Infamous” Welsh cakes and an opportunity to socialize with friends new and old.

TOURS: Experience Cleveland on foot, by coach or by train. Visit the Galleria, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Progressive Field, museums, historic ethnic neighborhoods and more. Look for tour information and sign-up in Registration Materials or see box below.

RESERVE NOW!

Singles and doubles \$115.00 per night plus tax; triples \$129.00 per night plus tax; quads \$139.00 plus tax per night. All rooms non-smoking; some wheelchair accessible; dietary needs can be met. Special rates August 26 - Sept. 9 (check-out Sept. 10) as long as rooms are available. Free in-room wi-fi, reduced-rate parking, \$10/day.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-877-208-2519 and mention “Festival of Wales” or use the code “WNQ” for festival rates.

RESERVE ON LINE. Go on line to www.nafow.org. and click on “Accommodations.”

REMEMBER, when you choose to stay at the festival hotel, it helps WNGGA meet its contractual obligation to fill the room block reserved for all festival attendees.

If you experience any difficulty making reservations at the hotel, please contact president@wngga.org for assistance.



REGISTRATION MATERIALS FOR NAFOW AND THE EISTEDDFOD WILL BE SENT TO WNGGA MEMBERS. OTHERS MUST REQUEST THEM

On line at www.nafow.org

Or contact WNGGA International Headquarters

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Email: exec_dir@wngga.org

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HWYL is published quarterly by the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, Kay Gavin, Editor. Direct comments or inquiries to editor@wngga.org.

Welsh Proverb:

Os daw Mawrth i mewn fel oen a allan fel llew.

If March comes in like a lamb it will go out like a lion.

WHAT DOES HWYL MEAN TO YOU?

WNGGA trustees were recently asked what *hwyl* (pronounced *hoo-il*) meant to them. There were as many opinions as there were people polled. If you Google the word, you come up with even more explanations. Some of the words used to describe *hwyl* were passion, fun, spirit, frivolity, gusto, zest, energy, mood, emotional fervor, filled with enthusiasm, sudden ecstatic inspiration, a stirring emotional feeling and, also, good bye. Another definition is “a mood of controlled abandon that is inviting to the spirit.” Yet another source says, “Its origins lie in a much older sense of the sail of a ship and hence relates to one’s course - in life rather than on the sea.”

Michael Quinion at worldwidewords.org sums it up in this way: “In Welsh the word *hwyl* more often refers to a complex and intangible quality of passion and sense of belonging that isn’t easy to translate but which has been said to sum up Welshness in a word.”

What can we as individuals do to renew our *hwyl* – enthusiasm, passion, energy – in the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association? All of us can contribute in our own way. Consider one or more of the following: volunteering at the annual festival, with your local society or on other projects, recruiting new members, serving on the Board, giving monetarily, or leaving a legacy for the next generation.

As we move into the next decade, let us celebrate our Welsh heritage and culture and savor our uniqueness as an organization. Let’s put some wind in our sail and go forward with gusto – and, by all means, have some *fun* along the way!

ALAN THOMAS TO RETIRE

After the 2011 NAFOW in Cleveland, extraordinary keyboardist Alan Thomas will retire as Festival Accompanist. Alan first accompanied the 69th National

Gymanfa Ganu in Ottawa in 2000 and then returned to accompany the North American Festival of Wales at Buffalo in 2004 and every festival since. Alan’s genial personality, his good humor and his enormous talent have endeared him to festival goers over the last decade. During that time he has accompanied competitors, soloists, the Worship Service and the Gymanfa Ganu, applying his skill to both the piano and the organ. We shall miss him, and we wish him happiness for years to come.



THE SEARCH BEGINS

With the retirement of Alan Thomas, WNGGA begins the search for a replacement. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact International Headquarters – see contact numbers in box on page 1 – for details on job requirements and compensation. Applicants will be expected to furnish a performance CD.



HOGIA’R DDWYLAN

WILL PERFORM IN CLEVELAND



The Grand Concert at the 2011 North American Festival of Wales will feature Hogia’r Ddwylan, a traditional male voice choir that comes to us from villages near Menai Strait that separates the Isle of Anglesey from North Wales. The choir is directed by Ildid Jones who will also conduct both sessions of the 80th National Gymanfa Ganu.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Can you spare a couple of hours at the festival? Volunteers of all ages are always needed to check tickets at doors, help out in the Tea Room or at the WNGGA sales table in the Marketplace. Look for more information in the next issue of *Hwyl*. Remember, NAFOW runs on volunteers!

PORTLAND FESTIVAL RESULTS

In December, WNGGA Headquarters was pleased to report positive financial results for the 2010 festival. The final accounting was delayed until discussions with the venue hotel over registration problems were resolved. Many festival attendees were told that there were no rooms there when, in fact, there were, and they registered elsewhere. This led to penalties being imposed for failure to meet our room commitment. Ultimately, the issue was resolved in WNGGA's favor. The officers have worked diligently to assure that similar problems will be avoided in Cleveland. Attendees are urged to follow the registration procedures outlined on *page 1* and to email the president of WNGGA if they encounter any difficulties.

Another positive result of the Portland festival was signing up eighty-one new WNGGA members!

EMINENT PROFESSOR TO PREACH

Preaching at the bilingual Worship Service at the 2011



Cleveland festival will be Professor Thomas Glyn Watkin. Professor Watkin was born in the village of Cwmparc in the Rhondda in 1952 and studied Law at Pembroke College, Oxford. He obtained various degrees from the University of Oxford and was called to the bar by the Middle Temple in 1976. He was a professor in the Law School

at the University of Wales in Cardiff until 2004 when he was appointed foundation Professor of Law at the University of Wales in Bangor. During that time he was acting as Legal Assistant to the Governing Body of the Church in Wales for several years, responsible for drafting bilingual bills and amendments to the Church's constitution. Professor Watkin's primary interests lie in the history of law in England, Wales and Europe, including the history of Roman law. He has published several books and numerous articles on these subjects in leading journals in Britain and abroad, and his work has won him recognition by legal societies in Britain, Europe and the U.S. As a teacher, he has been particularly associated with the development of degrees in law with languages, and he was responsible, while at Cardiff and in founding Bangor Law School, for developing bilingual legal education in Wales. In 2007, he returned to Cardiff to become First Welsh Legislative Counsel, the legal officer principally responsible for drafting the legislative program of the Welsh Assembly Government. Prof. Watkin is an ordained priest within the Church in Wales.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!

Your Business, Your Organization, Yourself

Purchase an ad in the 2011 NAFOW Program Book!

Quarter page: \$75, Half page: \$135

Full page: \$250

Back cover (full color): \$400

Inside covers: \$350

Contact advertise@nafow.org for information and details

OPENING CONCERT: MOCH PRYDERI

Moch Pryderi, Welsh for "Pryderi's Pigs," is a six piece Welsh-American band from Fredericksburg, VA. The band formed as a result of the Fredericksburg Welsh festival in 1998 and has been together since. Their music is firmly rooted in the traditional Brythonic-Celtic music of Wales and Brittany, occasionally interwoven with traditional music from Ireland, Scotland, Turkey, and Appalachia. Moch Pryderi has performed widely on the east coast, including the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center in Washington, The Celtic Classic in Bethlehem, PA, the Philadelphia Folk Festival, the Washington Folk Festival, the Potomac Celtic Festival, the Fredericksburg Welsh Festival, the Philadelphia Welsh Festival, as well as the Historic Rugby Tennessee Festival of British & Appalachian Culture, the Celtic Nations Heritage Festival in Lake Charles Louisiana, and the Welsh Heritage Centre in Wymore, NE.



Moch Pryderi's instrumentation includes the Welsh triple harp, Welsh pibgorns and Welsh pipes as well as highland pipes, fiddle, Breton bombard, Celtic bouzouki, flutes, whistles and percussion. Moch Pryderi's vocal abilities create a diversified pallet for Moch's distinctive and haunting sound.

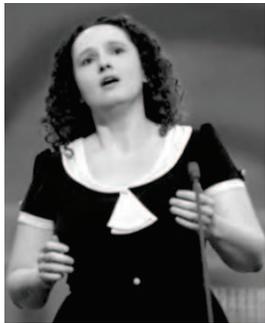
Moch Pryderi's fourth CD, "Moch IV," was nominated for the prestigious "Wammie" award in the traditional folk music category by the Washington Area Music Association.

MEGAN MAKES MUSIC

Mezzo-soprano Megan Elizabeth Morris, the Grand Banquet performer, has studied voice since 1998 and has performed professionally since 2004. Megan, who sings classical repertory and Welsh traditional folk music, has also performed, written and recorded in musical theater, jazz, popular and experimental genres.

Ms. Morris performed extensively as a student and young vocal professional in Ohio until 2006. She was the featured soloist with Pendyrus Male Choir, from Rhondda Valley, in the 2004 North American Tour celebrating their 80th Anniversary. She has also been featured in various live and recorded segments on WCPN's British & Irish program and in interviews on BBC Radio Wales.

Megan competed and won the David G. Morris Memorial Award at the NAFOW Eisteddfod in both 2005 and 2009. On each occasion she traveled to the National Eisteddfod in Wales the following summer and both times won second prize in the mezzo-soprano competition. Currently, Megan lives in Austin, Texas, and studies with Dr. John Van Cura of Baylor University (who also happens to be a bonafide Welsh cousin – serendipity.)



Megan's current musical project is Megan Makes Music, a community patronage and sharing experiment that allowed her to share her experiences real-time while traveling in Wales and singing in the 2010 Eisteddfod. Her plans for this medium are vast, and she enthusiastically encourages fond listeners and lovers of music and culture to connect with her at www.meganmakesmusic.com. The more the merrier!

DISCOVERING CLEVELAND

Popular with festival attendees each year, as NAFOW moves from one part of the country to another, are the tours that are offered at each venue. The Cleveland festival will offer organized, pre-booked tours and a variety of alternate options. Look for tour descriptions and prices in the registration materials that will be sent to current WNGGA members and to non-members who request them.

See Cleveland by coach, by boat, by train or on foot! Cruise Lake Erie! Experience Cleveland's ethnic neighborhoods! Many places of interest can be reached using the hotel shuttle: among others, the History Museum, the Botanical Garden, the Museum of Natural History, and the Museum of Art. Many other places of interest are within walking distance of the hotel.

There is great shopping, too! The Galleria at Erieview, Tower City Center and the historic Cleveland Arcade are all within reasonable walking distance.

YOUTH SHOWCASE

Singing, dancing, recitation, face painting, films, games! With the help of volunteers from a number of Affiliated Welsh Organizations, The Youth Initiative Committee is planning activities for children and youth at the Cleveland festival that will relate to their Welsh heritage and will give them an opportunity to participate in the NAFOW. Look for times, places and other details in the Spring issue of *Hwyl* or on the Web at www.nafow.org.

NAFOW SEMINARS: LEARNING CAN BE FUN!

Each year the North American Festival of Wales offers a variety of seminars on cultural and historical topics as well as classes in language, singing and dance. A full and varied slate is planned for 2011.

Darris Williams will present four different sessions on Welsh Genealogy beginning with an introductory seminar, "Was Elvis Welsh?"

Thomas Watkin will conduct two seminars, one on Welsh influence on the founding of America and the other on the significance of Welsh legal history.

Anne Kelly Knowles will offer a seminar on Welsh artisans in the American industrial revolution.

Jeanne Jones Jindra will give a talk on "Little Cardiganshire," the Welsh settlement in Southeastern Ohio including an armchair tour of the area.

Welsh language classes are being planned due to the enthusiastic approval of learners at previous festivals.

Singing School (*Ysgol Gân*) will be led by Ild Jones, conductor of the Gymanfa Ganu sessions. Come and learn the Gymanfa Ganu hymns in four parts...in Welsh!

Look for more information on more seminars and expanded descriptions of the subjects and bios of presenters in the spring issue of *Hwyl* or on the web at www.nafow.org.

ARE WE MISSING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Does WNGGA have your email address? Has your email address changed? Do you have a new address?

Please send it to publicity@wngga.org.

AFFILIATED WELSH ORGANIZATIONS

Affiliated Welsh Organizations, **AWOs**, are encouraged to send representatives to the Annual Meeting of **AWOs** at the **NAFOW** on Sept. 3. This special meeting is *your* chance to meet face-to-face with other local Welsh leaders to discuss common issues. Each **AWO** is entitled to one vote at the Annual General Meeting, also on Sept. 3. **AWOs** are asked to update their contacts each year and to include an email contact for **WNGGA** mailings. That can be done at either meeting or at the festival's Registration table.

LLAWER O DDIOLCH!

The vitality of any not-for-profit organization depends on the support of its members. WNGGA is grateful for the generosity of those who responded to the Fall appeal letter that appeared in the last edition of *Hwyl*. Their names are included here and will appear again in the program book at the Cleveland festival.

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MISSION

The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association strives to preserve, develop and promote our Welsh cultural heritage and traditions, including the Gymanfa Ganu, and to do all things necessary and appropriate to accomplish these goals.

OUR THANKS FOR THEIR VISION

Nearly 19 years ago, Executive Director Nelson Llewellyn, Patricia Powell Viets, daughter of Mr. Powell, longtime editor of Y DRYCH, and President Ellis Jones met over coffee at the National Gymanfa Ganu (now the NAFOW) and proposed that a newsletter be issued regularly to Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association members with news about the organization. After much discussion, they agreed that the newsletter would be named HWYL to represent the *spirit* of WNGGA.

Other than the first issue, put together by Mrs. Viets, Ellis Jones was responsible for the content of the newsletter, and Nelson Llewellyn had it printed and distributed. The basic premise by which Ellis worked was, "The cohesiveness of any organization is affected by the strength of its internal communications network. As a result of regular communication, members should gain an understanding of the purposes of the organization, develop a sense of satisfaction and pride at being part of the organization, and feel comfortable in knowing about the organization, its goals, its structure, and its program to meet its goals."

In the past, HWYL was published three times a year but in the last few years it has been issued annually. We intend to resurrect HWYL to a quarterly publication and rekindle the vision and *spirit* on which the newsletter was originally founded.

Help us to achieve our goal. Tell us what kinds of information you would like included in the WNGGA newsletter. Tell us what we can do to help strengthen your commitment to WNGGA and to ensure its continuation as a viable on-going group.

Our thanks to Nelson Llewellyn, Patricia Powell Viets, and Ellis Jones who had a vision for the WNGGA newsletter and were willing to commit their time and expertise to accomplishing this goal so that all of us could benefit from it.

A Welsh proverb says, "*Ymhob pen y mae 'piniwn*" or "In every head there is an opinion." We welcome yours.

Email editor@wngga.org.

Join the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association at
http://wngga.org/wngga/wngga_memb.html



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Dydd Gŵyl Dewi hapus! Happy St. David's Day!