



HWYL

WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

What's Special About 'NAFOW Milwaukee'??

MILWAUKEE IS HOST to the North American Festival of Wales, 90 years since the first gathering on Goat Island in Niagara Falls, N.Y. in 1929.

What are we, Wisconsin 'cheeseheads', offering that will capture your fancy?

SO, ARE YOU THINKING TOURS? Well, Milwaukee is famous for its breweries—We have put together four tours for Thursday and Monday, which include a sampling of the Lakefront Brewery and a guided walk through the fabulous Pabst Mansion. There will be stops at some of the architectural achievements of famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, whose Lloyd-Jones clan settled in Wisconsin in the 1840s. Seats are filling up fast for Monday's bus tour to the architect's Taliesin Center in Spring Green, Wisconsin, and to Thursday's visit to his visionary SC Johnson Center in Racine.

Milwaukee, described as 'an urban gem waiting to be discovered', has undergone a cultural renaissance while preserving many of its old neighborhoods, ethnic restaurants, and urban landmarks. You will love staying at the elegant Hilton Milwaukee City Center. And be sure to see Millie, the canine greeter in the concierge area!

THINKING HISTORY?? Resident Welsh historian Robert Humphries is collaborating on a multimedia presentation in the opening ceremony, and he is presenting a seminar on the Welsh in Wisconsin. Robert will finish the weekend as your guide on the Taliesin tour.

Wisconsin has had a strong and sustained Welsh community since the mid-nineteenth century. With its abundant fertile land, the state was a popular destination for Welsh farmers and Welsh-Americans migrating west.

To this day *cymanfaoddd ganu* have thrived in the state. Cambria, Wild Rose, Peniel Chapel (near Oshkosh) and Peniel Chapel (Rewey) are sites that continue to host annual sings; the Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin supports these and organizes the state's annual Welsh Weekend and State Gymanfa, and a Christmas Gymanfa. These efforts have fostered strong singers, musicians, gymanfa directors and preachers.

SO WHAT ARE THE EXTRAS? *Criw Pen Caws* has been brewing up some great extras for you in the marketplace, tearoom, and seminar areas.

HARP BACKGROUND MUSIC in the tea room anyone?

ART DISPLAYS from a new NAFOW Eisteddfod competition in the seminar room area!

A CYMRU CASTLE FOR KIDS, plus photo ops with Welsh dress-up clothes and dragon cutout!

A MAP DISPLAY OF ANCIENT WALES!

A WELSH CONNECTIONS TABLE with genealogy resources and networking!

We the Cheesehead Crew, "Criw Pen Caws"—Jan Batty, Carole Hausmann, Dale Hughes, Tim Hughes, Ann Lemmenes, Dick Myers, Danny Proud, Marilyn Schröder, and many others—extend a hearty Croeso to you and your families in advance of a very special weekend.



CINEMA WALES 2019

Gerri Baker Parry and Catrin Brace

WE ARE PLEASED TO BRING to the NAFOW a variety of films on Welsh subjects and Welsh filmmakers. This year we will present *Love is Thicker than Water*, a film by Ate de Jong and Emily Harris. Conflicting family ties challenge love in a modern-day Romeo and Juliet tale. Stars: Ellie Kendrick, Lydia Wilson, Johnny Flynn, Sharon Morgan, Juliet Stevenson.

Also showing will be a film by Cian Llewellyn, based upon Dylan Thomas' short story *The Outing*, plus a collection of short films that are part of the Beacons short film scheme run by Ffilm Cymru and the British Film Institute and supported by BBC Wales. The scheme provides funding to emerging writers, directors and producers in Wales to produce new material and to help them to establish careers as feature filmmakers:

The films will be shown 12:30pm to 4:30pm on both Friday and Saturday. Please check the website. With so many things going on at the Festival, make sure to set aside time to relax and take in a Welsh film.

WNAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2018-2019

President: Will Fanning, California
 Vice President: David Matthews, Alberta
 Secretary: Jeanne Jones Jindra, Ohio
 Treasurer: David R. Allen, New York
 Past President: Ian Samways, Pennsylvania
 Systems Coordinator: Gerri Baker Parry, Oregon

US EAST

Gwen Giffin Carter, Florida
 Hywel Davies, Delaware
 Robert Dayton, Pennsylvania
 Diane Owen, Washington, DC
 Richard Donohoe, S. Carolina
 Beth Landmesser, Pennsylvania
 Danny Proud, Wisconsin
 Dilys Rana, Illinois
 Dale Richards, Pennsylvania

Huw Christopher, California
 Evans Paschal, Washington
 Kay Thomas, Minnesota
 Karen Wojahn, Minnesota

CANADA

Myfanwy Davies, Ontario
 Gwen Dodson, Ontario
 Elaine Westlake, Alberta
 Lezlie Wood, Ontario

US WEST

Gwenith Closs Colgrove, Nebraska

WALES

Edward Morus Jones,
 Anglesey

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Megan Williams, P O Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886
 Phone 607-279-7402

HWYL is published quarterly by the
 Welsh North American Association.

Editors: David Matthews and Richard Donohoe
 Direct comments or inquiries to editor@theWNAA.org

MISSION

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

TOURS UPDATE

**Have you booked your tour yet?
 Seats are filling up quickly!**

**Thursday Tour #1 : August 29, 2019 ~ ‘What’s
 Wright about Milwaukee’.**

**Thursday Tour #2 ~ August 29, 2019 ~ Quilts
 and Cars**

**Monday Tour #3 : September 2, 2019 ~ Frank
 Lloyd Wright's Taliesin**

**Monday Tour #4: September 2, 2019 ~ Wiscon-
 sin Sampler.**

Filling up Quickly!!

Book now! “First-come, first-served!”

FYI from IHQ

By Megan Williams, Executive Secretary

ONLY TWO MONTHS until the festival, how exciting! If you plan to attend, please consider registering now. Knowing how many will attend helps us to make the most efficient plans. Registration fees are fully refundable up until August 20. Please note that meals have to be booked in advance, cut off is August 25. We have great venues and a fantastic program, come and help us celebrate our 90th anniversary!

I wanted to mention that I will be away the first week in August at the National Eisteddfod in Wales. I may be slow to respond during this period as access to my phone and computer will be limited.

I am always happy to help answer any questions you may have about registration or the festival. Please email me; wnaahq@gmail.com

Enjoy the summer!

EISTEDDFOD MILWAUKEE

‘What you got brewing?’

IF YOU ARE STILL THINKING OF ENTERING one or more of our Eisteddfod competitions in ‘NAFOW MILWAUKEE’ you still have time!

Information on all of our competitions can be accessed at the NAFOW Eisteddfod: <http://thewnaa.org/eisteddfod>

If you want to enter the inaugural *Hymn Composition Competition* in honor of Daniel Protheroe, you'll want to hurry! The mail-in postmark deadline is July 1, 2019. Specific details can be found here:

http://thewnaa.org/uploads/1/0/4/2/104284521/eisteddfod_protheroe_2019.pdf.

All other competitions have an entry deadline of August 20, 2019, and - no more wasted paper! - you'll do it through our brand new online entry portal at the Eisteddfod webpage. Thus for our new *Visual Arts Competition*, don't worry... there's no need to send your art through the mail! Go here for further details; we'll only want to hear from you what's "on the way": http://thewnaa.org/uploads/1/0/4/2/104284521/eisteddfod_visual_arts2019.pdf

Detailed information on all eight of our ‘*Stage Competitions*’ (*instrumental, singing and recitation*) can be found here:

http://thewnaa.org/uploads/1/0/4/2/104284521/eisteddfod_stage2019.pdf. Join us in commemorating and celebrating the immense poetic and musical heritage of Wales!

With the sole exception of Solo Voice / Semi-Professional, none of our competitions have entry fees. Thus... what are you waiting for? We can't wait to raise a glass to your stage performance, or creative work, in Milwaukee!
Ian Samways, Eisteddfod Committee Chair

***Cerdd-dant* to premiere at Grand Concert thanks to Minnesota Welsh Association**

by Sally Evans and Mari Morgan

CERDD-DANT, A TRADITIONAL STYLE of singing Welsh verses to harp accompaniment, dates back centuries and it will be given an exciting new twist at NAFOW this year when a newly commissioned work is premiered at the Grand Concert by the female choristers of *Côr Cymry Gogledd America*.

Earlier this year, the Minnesota Welsh Association (MWA) Board agreed to a proposal from Mari Morgan to create a new trans-Atlantic innovative choral work which would bring together renowned Minnesota poet, Susan Thurston, with the high artistry of Welsh musicians, Kim Lloyd Jones and Ann Williams Fox. The idea envisioned as an all-female project was hatched after a discussion on the feasibility of setting English words to the Welsh style of *cerdd-dant* singing.

Susan, Kim and Ann each took on the creation of the three elements needed to write a work of *Cerdd-dant*: the poem in strict meter, the harp underlay called the *cainc*, and the *gosodiad* (arrangement) of the whole for voices.

As with most songs, the words came first. Susan Thurston, raised just north of Lake Crystal, MN, in Blue Earth County's Welsh community, took the meter of the popular hymn tune "*Cwm Rhondda*" as the inspiration for her poem titled "Bread of Longing – Land of Heaven".

Kim Lloyd Jones in Carmarthenshire then developed Susan's theme further by writing a new *cainc* for harp, with a hint of the melody of the "*Cwm Rhondda*" we all love to sing at the end of a *cymanfa ganu* with, of course, the rousing repeats. Kim named her *cainc*, "*Rhondda Fach*" (Little Rhondda) after the river that meanders its way through the Rhondda Valley in southeast Wales.

Ann Williams Fox then skillfully and artfully created the *gosodiad* itself in both English and Welsh, weaving a three-part vocal *cyfalaw* (countermelody), on Susan's words in English and an additional verse in Welsh from William Williams' *Cwm Rhondda* with the harp's *cainc*. Few could have successfully undertaken this part of the project, but with Ann's vast experience and creativity, the work was completed with its name being, "*Nefol Dir* – Land of Heaven".

How will "*Nefol Dir*" sound from the stage of the beautiful Helen Bader Concert Hall when sung by the female choristers of *Côr Cymry Gogledd America* and two concert harps?

Come to NAFOW and hear for yourselves. It's going to be magnificent!

Composing a new *fabric* for the North American Welsh Choir

by Mari Morgan

IN PREPARING TO CELEBRATE the 90th anniversary at NAFOW Milwaukee, and also our own 20th year, *Côr Cymry Gogledd America* faced a clothing dilemma!

How to unify the appearance of our multi-generational choir drawn from across the United States and eastern Canada was the question, while also linking the whole to the heritage of Wales. Concert *black* alone was not going to *cut-it* this time – there had to be color.

When singing in a choir, we think of voices *blending* together in harmony to share a song. The colors of the song's culture and history *sing* through its lines as rays of light.

In Welsh, the word for composing is *cyfansoddi* and it is one that we use in so many ways – *cyfansoddi cerdd* (poem), *cyfansoddi cân* (song), *cyfansoddi patrwn* (pattern), *cyfansoddi casgliad* (collection) *cyfansoddi brethyn* (fabric). And, as I've learned over the last ten months, designing and weaving fabric is a science, an art, and inspired passion - you might say a three-dimensional process *o gyfansoddi* (of composition).

When CEFYFN BURGESS, one of Wales' most highly-acclaimed and creative textile designers used the word *canu* (sing) in relation to dominant threads of yarn woven into the *cyfansoddiad* (composition) of fabric, I knew I had found the right person to design and create the one-of-a-kind garment for *Côr Cymry Gogledd America's* special celebration.

Cefyn, who hails from Bethesda in northwest Wales, combines in his style of work a contemporary reinterpretation of the traditional with, as he calls it, "a distinctive Welsh appeal".

Two themes stimulated the *Côr Cymry* design: Wisconsin's native son and proud Welsh-American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, and the *Ceredigion* (Cardiganshire) *carthen* (blanket) from the early 1800s.

"It's not like printing," Cefyn tells me. "The mathematics of the patterns in my head and my designs on paper take on another life when threads of fine wool and silk are woven together on the looms. The fabric comes to life in the weave."

How will the fabric react when the tension is released and washed? How will it look on the body? Will the fine silk threads have the 'dragon' quality against the other colors? It is a surprise to be revealed at the party – the Grand Concert in NAFOW Milwaukee.

One thing is for sure, it was all conceived and created with reverence and passion, *ying ngwead y cyfansoddiad* – in the weave of the composition.

It will be truly beautiful.



MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS NOW
AT THE NAFOW RATE!!

HILTON MILWAUKEE CITY CENTRE

Room rate: \$125+ tax per night

Book offline at Hilton 1-800 HILTONS using the group name “**2019 WNAA North American Festival of Wales**”

CUT OFF TO BOOK HOTEL ROOMS IS AUGUST 8TH. AFTER THAT DATE THE GROUP RATE CANNOT BE GUARANTEED

CHECK OUT THE WNAA WEBSITE www.nafow.org AND/OR *HWYL* WINTER AND SPRING EDITIONS FOR DETAILS ON SEMINARS, THEATRE, GRAND CONCERT, GYMANFA GANU, GRAND BANQUET AND ALL OTHER EVENTS.

SILENT AUCTION: WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE AN ITEM?

If so, please email SusannaAdkins@sbcglobal.net with a description of the item and any interesting history that it may have, and an estimation of its value. Simply bring it along to the Silent Auction table in the Marketplace when you arrive at NAFOW MILWAUKEE 2019!

**LOVESPOON
RAFFLE**

David Western has, once again, donated a wonderful lovespoon to be raffled! Tickets will be \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and will be available in the Marketplace. Drawing will take place at the Grand Concert on Saturday evening

