



### LET THE SINGING BEGIN!

PARTICIPANTS in the 84<sup>th</sup> Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu in Columbus will have a grand experience. The venue for the centerpiece of NAFOW 2015 will be the historic Southern Theatre, whose acoustics are superb and whose ornate Romanesque interior is spectacular!



"The Great Southern Fireproof Hotel and Opera House" was built in 1896 after a series of fires destroyed five downtown Columbus theaters. A group of businessmen decided to develop a new hotel and theater with modern construction and safety features on the southern edge of downtown. Construction began in 1894. Both the theater and the hotel were constructed of "fireproof" tile, brick, iron, steel, and concrete.

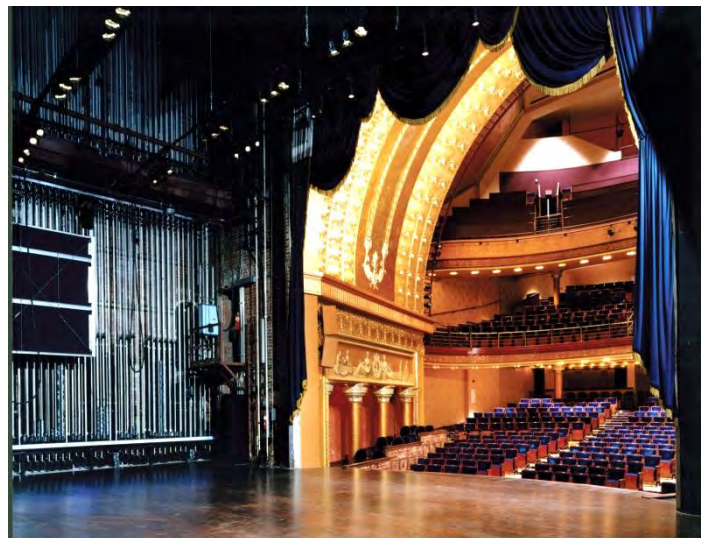
The theater's auditorium design was progressive for its day and reminiscent of Louis H. Sullivan's 1891 Schiller Theatre in Chicago. From the proscenium opening, a series of concentric arches dotted with incandescent electric lights radiate into the house, resulting in superior lighting and excellent acoustics. Built to be self-sufficient, the theater, one of the first commercial buildings in Columbus to use electricity, generated its own power. In

addition, the building produced its own water supply from three wells in the basement.

The Great Southern Theatre currently seats 933 with two balconies. It is an intimate "jewel box" that originally hosted theatrical touring productions. Sarah Bernhardt was just one of the famous performers to play the theater in its first two decades. In the 1910s and 1920s the theater, now called the Southern, featured first run silent films and live vaudeville. From the 1930s on, the Southern was a popular home for second-run double features. In the 1970s the theater briefly returned to first-run fare as the Towne Cinema, showing black exploitation movies. Throughout the 1970s the Southern also hosted a weekly live Country Music Jamboree, sponsored by local radio station WMNI. The theater closed in 1979 and in 1986, it was acquired by the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts. After sitting empty for nearly two decades, the Southern was completely restored by CAPA in 1997-98 during an extensive 14-month rebuilding process. The restored Southern Theatre reopened on September 26, 1998.

In 1982, the Southern Theatre and its associated hotel were added to the National Register of Historic Places. The hotel, now operated by Westin, will be the venue for the Intersession meal at NAFOW, so there will be no need to return between sessions to the Hyatt Regency, NAFOW's headquarters hotel.

The Southern Theatre is a little over a mile and a quarter from the Hyatt, about a 30-minute walk for those who feel up to it. For those who wish to drive, there is a parking garage across the street from the Southern. Shuttle bus service will also be provided and can be booked on the Registration form.



*Photos by Brad Feinknopf, courtesy of the Southern Theatre*

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**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.*

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 Welsh North American Association.

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

**FYI from IHQ**

*By Megan Williams, Executive Secretary, WNAA*

I CANNOT BELIEVE it is that time again. The North American Festival of Wales 2015 Registration is now OPEN! We have a few things that are different and important for you to understand this year.

The first is that we will be offering a genealogy workshop on Thursday, Sept 3, 2015. This will be four hours and presented by leading expert, Darris Williams. The price of \$45 includes lunch. Advanced registration is required and is available on both the paper and online registration form. A tour to Granville, the Welsh Hills and Licking County will also be offered on Thursday.

We have a wonderful program in store for you! We look forward to welcoming back some familiar faces to our line-up as well as meeting new ones. One very exciting addition to this year's program is the fact that the 84<sup>th</sup> National Gymanfa Ganu will be held at the historic Southern Theatre! The theatre is one mile from the hotel. Shuttle buses will be running on a continuous loop from 1pm. The last bus will leave at 1:40pm. There is a charge of \$5/person to use the bus. The intersession meal will not be held at the headquarters hotel but at the Westin Hotel, which is conveniently located adjacent the Southern Theatre. If you are attending both sessions of the Gymanfa Ganu, and are signed up for the intersession meal, the bus will bring you back to the Hyatt at the end of the evening. If you are not attending the evening session of the Gymanfa Ganu, the bus will bring you back at the end of the afternoon session or after the intersession meal if you have signed up for it. The bus is an option on the registration form and MUST be selected ahead of arriving at the festival. Should you choose to drive, parking at the theatre is extremely convenient with a city-parking garage directly across the street. It's the Columbus Commons Main Garage located at 191 South Third St. Parking rates are just \$1 an hour.

Admission to the gymanfa is **included** in all 2- (Sat/Sun) and 3-day festival passes. This year WNAA is not permitted to sell Sunday only passes. These are available but must be purchased directly through CAPA (Columbus Association of Performing Arts). To reiterate, you do NOT need to purchase a Sunday pass if you are registered for a 2- (Sat/Sun) or 3-day festival pass. To purchase Sunday only passes, please contact CAPA box office by phone: (614) 469-0939 or visit the link of the festival website: <http://www.nafow.org>. As always, I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have. I look forward to seeing you in O-HI-O!

**2015 NAFOW REGISTRATION FORMS**

Online registration is now open at  
[www.nafow.org](http://www.nafow.org).

Register online or download, print and  
 mail registration forms to:

**WNAA, Post Office Box 1054,  
 Trumansburg, NY 14886.**

**Want paper registration forms mailed to  
 you? Call Megan Williams at 607-279-7402  
 or email wnaahq@gmail.com.**

**Mail-in registrations must be  
 received by Aug.1<sup>st</sup>!**

## NWAF TAPS ADAMAE LEWIS FOR 2015 HERITAGE MEDALLION

AT THE NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES in Columbus, Ohio, the first week of September, the National Welsh-American Foundation will award its 2015 Heritage Medallion to AdaMae Lewis for her significant contributions to promoting Welsh Culture in North America.

AdaMae says, “I am passionate about, in alphabetical order, continuing education, dogs, gardening and landscaping, family and Welsh associated activities.” Those who have worked with AdaMae are inclined to reverse the alphabetical order and start with Welsh associated activities: AdaMae has played a pivotal role in a number of organizations that have advanced the



Welsh-American community. First and foremost, she has began her involvement in Welsh America as president of the Iowa Welsh Society and serves as its vice-president today. She has served as a vice-president of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, as chair of the Welsh Heritage and Cultural Centre Charitable Foundation, as president of Cymdeithas Madog, and as president of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, bringing it into the age the modern communications and guiding its transition into the Welsh North American Association. She was the first female president of the WNGGA from the USA.

AdaMae’s great-grandparents, Lewis and Jane Davies Lewis, emigrated to Wisconsin in 1866 from Llanidloes, the first town on the River Severn in historic Montgomeryshire in Mid Wales. They left Wales because Jane did not want her sons to work in the lead mines, as Lewis had done. AdaMae’s grandfather Malachi was born in 1867 and, later, the family homesteaded in Dakota Territory. She still maintains contact with cousins in Wales, in Aberystwyth, in Devil’s Bridge, where the family farm is, and in Llanidloes and Cardiff.



AdaMae is a microbiologist and lives in Ames, Iowa, where she owns Lewis Biologics Consulting and co-owns Consultants for Veterinary Biologics, working with people and companies needing to know federal regulations for licensing, producing and distributing veterinary vaccines, diagnostics and serums. She received a Bachelor of

Science from South Dakota State University, having majored in Zoology and Entomology. She went on to a Master of Science at South Dakota State in Entomology and Microbiology and a PhD in Microbiology at Iowa State University. She attended a one-room school through the fifth grade. AdaMae says, “I loved school, and why not! At the end of the day, I’d been to classes for all the grades in school, because I listened as all the classes had their oral recitation time.” She went on to become valedictorian of her high school class in Rutland, SD.

Her professional career included teaching a post-graduate course in Integrated Pest Management for the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, through the Peace Corps, in Central America.

Somehow, AdaMae manages to devote time to her passion for gardening. She is the Iowa State Chair of the Gardening Study School sponsored by the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa. That includes both continuing education and gardening. She is also a Master Gardener, a Master Gardening Study Consultant – the two are not related – and a Landscape Design Consultant.

On behalf of WNAA, HWYL is proud to extend its *llongyfarchiadau* to AdaMae who, in 2010, directed the modern incarnation of this newsletter.

**WNAA is grateful to those who have made Memorial and Honoring gifts to the Association since NAFOW 2014 in Minneapolis. Donors are listed below in alphabetical order:**

Dorothy M. Ashley  
in memory of Edna Mae Jones  
Janet Barnes  
in honor of Barbara M. Jones  
Mary Adams Boltuck  
in memory of Jeanne Adams Rice  
Ruth Ann Craig  
in memory of Lydia Glenna Luman  
John W. Griffith  
in memory of Kathleen A. Griffith  
Perry and Dorothy Howland  
in memory of Myrtle James Henry  
Dave and Sheryl McCullough  
in memory of Joyce McCullough  
Denise G. McCullough  
in memory of Joyce McCullough  
and in memory of Sarah Walker Adams  
Karen Jeanne Rice  
in memory of Jeanne Adams Rice  
and in memory of Sarah Walker Adams  
Karen Jeanne Rice  
in honor of Mary Adams Boltuck  
Debbie Smith  
in memory of Joyce Ann (Thomas) McCullough

## CÔR Y PENRHYN MALE VOICE CHOIR



FORMED IN 1893, the Choir is based in the old quarrying village of Bethesda, in the Ogwen Valley in the Snowdonia National Park, one of the strongholds of the Welsh language. Members originally came entirely from the local slate quarry. Today, with the workforce reduced from 3,000 to 300, the seventy members come from a wider area and a wide variety of occupations. Alongside hymns and old favourites such as “Myfanwy”, which reflect the non-Conformist tradition with which male voice choirs were first associated, today’s repertoire includes, perhaps, even more challenging pieces.

One recently commissioned work combines words by one of Wales’ most gifted poets, Ieuan Wyn, with music by Welsh composer Gareth Glyn. In a lighter vein, there are Welsh and English pop song adaptations as well as ever-popular spirituals and opera choruses.

They have recently sung as part of the choir preceding two international rugby matches: in 2012 when Wales defeated Scotland and went on to win the Grand Slam, and in 2013 when Wales was narrowly defeated by South Africa. They have recently appeared twice on television programs and have competed in numerous eisteddfodau. Last year, they competed in the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. They have travelled extensively in Britain and Ireland, and have visited Canada, Finland and Hungary. They have been to the USA three times and were the featured choir at NAFOW 2006 in Cincinnati. Owain Arwel Davies has been the choir’s musical director since 2004; Frances Davies is their accompanist.

### OWAIN ARWEL DAVIES

#### (Cyfarwyddwr Cerdd / Musical Director)

IN 2001, ARWEL OWEN RETURNED to his roots in the Ogwen valley, settling first in Tregarth, and then in Bethesda. Brought up in Penrhyn Bay near Llandudno, Arwel attended Ysgol y Creuddyn and was a member of the Maelgwn Male Voice Choir, along with his father. His interests and musical commitments range from being a former member of one of Wales' most successful brass bands, Beaumaris Senior Brass Band, and from former

lead trombonist with the National Youth Brass Band of Wales and the Welsh Ensemble, to regular performances with some of Wales' leading rock bands. He also enjoys recording and has had the privilege of producing numerous recordings, especially the choir’s recent CD - **Anthem**. In 1999 he graduated, with honors, from the School of Music, University of Wales, Bangor. After taking a teacher training course, he was appointed Head of Music at Ysgol y Moelwyn, Blaenau Ffestiniog, in 2000. In 2005 Arwel was appointed head of music at Ysgol Tryfan, Bangor, and has had numerous successes with the school's Jazz Band. He was appointed Musical Director of the Penrhyn Male Voice 2004.



*Frances and Owain Arwel*

### Frances Davies, (Cyfeilydd / Accompanist)

BROUGHT UP IN DIHEWYD, Cardiganshire, Fran is a language teacher at Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai Further Education College. She also teaches piano to children. She was victorious in the solo piano recital competitions both at the National Eisteddfod in Machynlleth and the Urdd National Eisteddfod at Pwllheli. Fran is a life member, Music Ovate, of the Eisteddfod Gorsedd, her bardic name being Frances Dalis. In 2007, she gained a scholarship to research the use of language in Caernarfon, and in 2013, she received a PhD in Applied Linguistics.

### GRAND BANQUET PERFORMER

THE 2015 GRAND BANQUET PERFORMER will be Meinir Wyn Roberts, a Soprano from Caernarfon in North



Wales. She graduated with a First Class BMus Degree from the Royal Northern College of Music where she sang several operatic roles. She has also sung in productions of the British Youth Opera, the Nevill Holt Opera and the Manchester Universities Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Last year, Meinir was a finalist in the prestigious RNCM Gold Medal Competition. She was a finalist in the 2014 Young

Welsh Singer of the Year competition sponsored by the

Morrison Orpheus Choir Supporters' Association. A big influence in Meinir's life has been the National Eisteddfod of Wales. The Eisteddfod has been a significant performing platform for her since she can remember. In 2014 Meinir was the winner of the prestigious Osborne Roberts Blue Ribband Award having won the Operatic solo category. Following this success she was also awarded the Violet Mary Lewis Scholarship for the Most Promising Soprano in the competition.

Meinir started a two year MA (Performance) course at the Royal Academy of Music in September. She hopes to become a member of a professional Opera company, travelling the world entertaining audiences.

## NAFOW ACCOMPANIST

DAVID ENLOW, who last served as Festival Accompanist at NAFOW 2012 in Scranton, is a concert organist and church musician who has performed across the United States, Canada, England and Europe. David is

Organist and Choir Master at the Church of the Resurrection in New York, where he directs a professional choir, performing over fifty mass settings each season, often with orchestra. He is a



member of the organ faculty at The Juilliard School, responsible for the service playing component of the curriculum, and he is also Dean of the New York City Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Mr. Enlow is a member of the Guild's National Committee on Professional Certification, serving as an examiner of organists nationwide. Mr. Enlow holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree from The Juilliard School. He also studied at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and with John Tuttle in Toronto.

David is a Fellow of the American Guild of Organists and an Associate of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. He has won several national performance competition first prizes.

## NEW AMBASSADORS OF WELSH COOL

CALAN BRINGS TOGETHER the remarkable talents of five young musicians giving a fresh, vibrant sound to traditional Welsh music. With a lively, contemporary approach, they breathe new life into old traditions through their sparkling melodies, foot tapping tunes and spirited performances of Welsh step dancing. They blast their way through some of the old favorite reels, jigs and hornpipes with uplifting, fast-paced arrangements before melting into some of the most hauntingly beautiful songs. Following the release of their 2008 debut album "Bling" that attracted four-star responses from the critics, they have been playing to big audiences and rave reviews at concerts and festivals



around Britain and Europe. The group has raised some eyebrows with a deliberate policy of eye-catching clothes and presentation, despite the ancient roots of their music, and see themselves as a new generation of ambassadors, striving to take their new sound to new audiences, while raising the profile of Welsh traditional music on an international level. With their unique instrumental blend of accordion, fiddle, guitar, Welsh pipes, Welsh harp and the percussive sound of the Welsh clogs, *Calan* has found its musical niche, and they plan is to continue to delight audiences far and wide!

### WNAA is grateful to those who have made generous gifts to the Association since NAFOW 2014 in Minneapolis. Donors are listed below in alphabetical order:

Benjamin Roberts Barnard, Excelsior, MN  
 Shirley Lynn Buchberger, Eagan, MN  
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 Linda Jenkins Weaver, Grand Rapids, MI

## COLUMBUS SEMINARS

### WELSH WRITING AND IDENTITY IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY

*Dr. Jerry Hunter*

A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT of Welsh-language literature was produced in Ohio during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Jerry Hunter will present some of the high points, focusing on a selection of period sources, which will be made available in translation for those who can't read Welsh. We will explore ways in which these texts allow us to understand the vibrant Welsh-American culture that had taken root in Ohio and consider ways in which Welsh Ohioans expressed their state and national identity, or identities. Topics range from politics to poetry, from chapel to eisteddfod, and from the Civil War to connections between Ohio and Patagonia.



ORIGINALLY FROM CINCINNATI, OHIO, USA, Jerry Hunter is a Professor in the School of Welsh, Bangor University. He has also taught at Harvard University and Cardiff University. *Gwreiddyn Chwerw* (A Bitter Root, Gwasg Gwynedd 2012) is his second novel for adults; his first one, *Gwenddydd*, won the Prose Medal at the National Eisteddfod in 2010. He has published a children's novel and five academic books with one, *Llwyd Cenhedloedd* (The Dust of Nations), winning the Wales Book of the Year award in 2004.

### FLOODING, DROUGHT AND ADAPTATION IN PATAGONIA

*Dr. Hywel Griffiths*

Y WLADFA, the Welsh Colony in Patagonia, was established in 1865, when over 150 people from various parts of Wales sailed on the *Mimosa* to settle in the Chubut Valley, in Southern Argentina. The Welsh colonists of Patagonia were forced to adapt quickly to environmental conditions drastically different from those they were familiar with in Wales, namely a semi-arid region that was also prone to devastating floods. Dr. Griffiths has analyzed letters, newspaper articles and memoirs written by the original Welsh settlers and their descendants, and includes insights gained from interviews undertaken with members of the Welsh speaking community in Patagonia in 2014. Documentary analysis has allowed Dr. Griffiths to build a database of historical floods and drought extending back to the first colonization, giving insight into how the colonists and their descendants adapted to the environment and how attitudes toward the environment have been influenced by historical events. This includes viewing the new landscape

in the context of their native Wales, wonder at the power of destructive floods, and using emergent knowledge of hydrology and geomorphology to adapt and build a thriving economy.

DR. HYWEL GRIFFITHS is a lecturer in physical geography in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, Aberystwyth University. His research focuses on rivers, including studying documentary records of historical flooding, the cultural importance of floods and rivers and the nature of geomorphological processes in rivers. He also writes poetry and won the National Eisteddfod Crown in Cardiff in 2008, and his first collection of poetry reached the Wales Book of the Year Shortlist. His first novel for children won the Tir na nOg Prize. Born and raised near Carmarthen in south west Wales he now lives with his wife and young daughter in Tal-y-bont, Ceredigion.



### MYRA: THE LOST FAIRY TALES OF WEST WALES

*Peter Stevenson*

THIS SEMINAR TELLS OF THE LIFE of the writer, illustrator, storyteller and fairytale collector Myra Evans, who documented the lives and stories of the folk of New Quay, Ceredigion, in the late 1800s. Her stories are of dark encounters with the Otherworld, from lazy harpers to light footed fiddlers, the Lady of the Millpond to the Llanina Mermaids, and Sigl-di-gwt to Siani Pob Man. Pieced together by storyteller, writer and illustrator Peter Stevenson, by scrubbing archives for old manuscripts and tramping old pathways in search of ivy covered ruins and misty memories of people long gone.

### The Crow and the Canary

THIS IS THE STORY OF A CURIOUS and little-known encounter between writer and fairytale collector, Myra Evans, and the poet from No Man's Land, Dylan Thomas. Myra's family lived close to Dylan for fifteen years, and her fairytales were a significant influence on his life and work. Featuring the stories of the *Llwynwermwnt Changeling* and *Rhysyn and the Mermaid*, oral history and interviews with family members, Peter Stevenson takes you on a journey through New Quay in the mid-1940s.

PETER STEVENSON is a storyteller, children's writer, book illustrator, folklorist, purveyor of Magic Lantern



Shows, concertina and banjo player, organizer of the annual three-day Aberystwyth Storytelling Festival in collaboration with Aberystwyth Arts Centre, and runs Stories by Gaslight, a storytelling club that encourages collaborations with visual artists, musicians, dancers, puppeteers. He has illustrated, compiled and written over a hundred children's books, travelled the country with storytelling shows for adults that use hundreds of projected illustrations and live music, has compiled and written *Ceredigion Folk Tales* for the History Press for whom he has also written and illustrated a biography of Dylan Thomas due out this year. He tramps the roads with mud on his boots and his head in the clouds. Peter is an associate partner with Aberystwyth Arts Centre.

## WELSH CINEMA AND ETHNIC IDENTITY

*Dr. Stephen Jones*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN to be Welsh? This question has been revisited often in the fields of literature, history, and others, but little work has been done with this question in relation to film. There are several categories that may be considered “Welsh Cinema,” ranging from the more obvious films produced in Wales by Welsh people to films that merely employ Welsh characters in non-Welsh settings. This seminar addresses films in both the English and Welsh languages in each decade from the birth of Welsh Cinema to the present, and will establish a sense of the various kinds of representation of Welsh ethnic identity that have existed on the silver screen.

STEPHEN JONES is a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts-Cymru and is on the Board of Directors of the National Welsh American Foundation. He received his PhD from Ball State University, where he studied under former Celtic Studies Association of America president Dr. Frederick Suppe, and teaches graduate level courses in literature (Literary Theory and British Modernism) at Southern New Hampshire University. He was a Fulbright Scholar during the 2010-2011 academic year, conducting dissertation research at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth where he analyzed correspondence between the authors Saunders Lewis and David Jones. His research primarily deals with conceptions of Welsh identity in relation to the British Empire in modern literary works.



## A WELSH SLIDESHOW AND QUIZ

*Ian White*

COME AND JOIN Scotsman Ian White on a visual trip around Wales. This will be an eclectic mix of castles, mountains, people -- some important, some not, but all interesting and Welsh. You will be surprised by some

things, feel proud about others, and you may get to cry a little bit. If you want to join in, Ian will be asking questions about the pics and we will see how much you know, and how much homework you need to do! So -- “who was Wales’ most murderous pirate?”

SO WHAT IS A SCOT DOING speaking in a Welsh seminar? Ian White was born in Glasgow and grew up mostly in Liverpool, the home of many Welsh ex-pats. His contact with the Welsh began early as he went to an old fashioned Grammar School where he was caned frequently by sadistic Welsh school masters. Later on he travelled extensively in Wales, scuba diving off Tenby, climbing in Llanberis Pass, exploring disused lead mines in Denbighshire, buying steel in Port Talbot, before leaving for Canada. Since then he has travelled all over Wales as a tourist learning about the history and shooting pictures of the scenery. Academically, he has degrees from three real universities – Liverpool and Loughborough Universities in the UK, and from McMaster University in Canada. As an engineer and accountant, he has followed the normal corporate path of Merchant Banker, CFO, and Company President. Currently semi-retired, he indulges his lifelong interest in photography, history, and digital painting.



## A LAYMAN’S TAKE ON CYNGHANEDD AND “WHAT IT MEANS TO BE WELSH”

*Peter Griffith*

A TALK ABOUT HIS FIRST NOVEL *Tongue Tied* from two angles: first is the influence of “Cynghanedd”; the basic concept of sound arrangement within one line, using stress, alliteration and rhyme on its style; and second is the novel's take on the question of what it means to be Welsh. This would include a discussion of Wales’ relationship with England, their national boundaries, agricultural heritage, identification with the landscape, personal characteristics, the Welsh language and its survival, and Wales’ solidarity.

PETER GRIFFITH was born in 1942 in Cynheidre near Llanelli in Carmarthenshire. He was educated at Five Roads Primary School, Llandovery College, and Lincoln College, Oxford. He and his family emigrated to Denver, Colorado, in 1972 where he worked as an Investment Counsellor. Over the last twenty years, he and his wife Yvonne have gravitated back to Wales.



## WELSH POETRY IN TRANSLATION

*John Ogwen*

THE ART OF POETRY READING and storytelling goes back centuries in the history of Wales and the Welsh language. Come spend an hour in the company of John Ogwen, actor, and one of Wales' finest poetry readers and storytellers. John will include readings of Welsh poetry in its original language and in translation; poems by Dylan Thomas and Harri Webb. And since the earliest Welsh language poetry goes back over 1,500 years, John will share some examples from over the centuries. He is a fan of Leonard Cohen's poems and will more than likely read one or two! John will also include some humorous stories and anecdotes from his fifty years in the entertainment industry.

BORN AND RAISED in the Ogwen Valley, Bethesda, Wales, John Ogwen attended local schools and then the University of Wales, Bangor, where he gained an Honours Degree in English and Welsh Literature, but spent most of his time either in the Dramatic Society or on the soccer field! He joined the Welsh National Theatre Company straight from college and so began a career of almost 50 years as an actor, writer and presenter. John has appeared in many outstanding television productions and recently passed his 3,000th performance on stage. He was awarded the coveted BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Industry in 2004. He has also been given an Honorary Fellowship at his old university. John is regarded by many as one of the finest modern exponents of the special craft of poetry reading and storytelling. He has for a number of years been a very proud Honorary Vice-President of the Penrhyn Male Voice Choir. This is his third visit to the U.S. as compère with his beloved band of brothers!! John celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday last year!



## THE WELSH-AMERICAN HYMN SINGING TRADITION

*Jim Cassarino*

THIS SEMINAR WILL EXAMINE the hymn singing tradition of the Welsh-American community with emphasis on the Ohio Welsh. Columbus and Youngstown were known for Welsh-American hymnal and musical journal publishing during the 19th century. Additionally, many officers of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association were from Ohio, and Columbus has been the location of several national Welsh hymn singing festivals and eisteddfodau during the past 150 years.

JAMES P. CASSARINO is Associate Professor and Chair of the music department at Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont, where he also serves as director of the Welsh Heritage Program. Under his direction, the college choir has become well known for their Welsh language repertory and for their collaboration with numerous choirs throughout North Wales. As a student of Welsh music, he earned his post-graduate degree at the University of Wales, Bangor where his dissertation investigated the Welsh hymn tune tradition in the United States and its uses within the Welsh-American community. He has lectured on Welsh music to numerous St. David Societies, the National Welsh-American Foundation, and the North American Hymn Society. His current research involves the history of the Welsh-American Eisteddfod and its associated music.



## WELSHNESS AND CHORAL MEMBERSHIP

### Connections on both sides of the Atlantic!

*Dr. Jennifer Johnstone*

THIS PRESENTATION REPORTS FIELDWORK collected in North Wales and at the NAFOW between 2008 and 2012. The research, comprised of interviews and questionnaires from over 120 anonymous participants, aims to describe present-day Welsh identities and their ties to choral singing in North Wales and in North America. The author discusses possible social, historical, and cognitive reasons for different expressions of Welshness in North Wales and in North America, and also why strong connections between choral singing and Welshness still exist.



JENNIFER JOHNSTONE holds a Ph.D. in musicology-ethnomusicology and master's degrees in both ethnomusicology and piano performance. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Kent State University. Previously, Jennifer was Assistant Professor at Anne Arundel Community College, where she earned a Teaching Excellence Award in 2012. She has taught a range of courses in music theory, music history, and ethnomusicology. Her research interests include cognitive semiotics, cultural identity, U. S. immigrant history, Welsh choral traditions, popular music, and gender. Her work appears in peer-reviewed journals including *The Journal of the Polynesian Society* and *Journal of Band Research*.



## A Letter from Legacy Society members



THE NEW YEAR, 2015, is upon us – a time when many make resolutions for the future. If charitable giving is an important part of your life, consider WNAA's Legacy Society with a

gift from your estate after you pass away. Your will doesn't need to be re-written, just ask your lawyer or financial advisor about making an addendum or codicil to your current will.

Donna and I have chosen to participate in WNAA's Legacy Society as an important part of our estate plan. Over the years, we have realized the importance of WNAA to the North American Welsh community as well our own lives. It seems like only yesterday that our friend Myra Thomas Lawrence invited us to the 1999 National Gymanfa Ganu in Minneapolis. We weren't sure what to expect, but then we enjoyed a fascinating weekend immersed in the culture and traditions of great-grandfather Richard Jones. We made new friends, sang new hymns, attended seminars and concerts, tasted our first Welsh cakes and began an annual tradition reserving Labor Day weekend for the North American Festivals of Wales.

Seventeen years later, preparing our travel schedule, the North American Festival of Wales is always the first entry. Because it has become such an important activity in our lives, we continue to support WNAA's purpose of preserving, developing and promoting Welsh cultural heritage and traditions. And we eagerly joined the Legacy Society so we could continue to provide financial support for generations that will follow

Here are reasons to join WNAA's Legacy Society:

1. Your gift will strengthen the Welsh North American Association and help to secure a successful financial future.
2. Your gift will support emerging needs and help build solutions for future challenges.
3. Your gift will teach your children and grandchildren about the positivity that charitable giving can generate, helping them understand the concept of giving back.

As we look ahead, we hope your New Year's resolutions will include supporting WNAA because it is a cause that matters to you too. Every legacy, large or small, is valuable to WNAA and helps to make a difference for the future. Your legacy will help make a lasting contribution and your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Here's to a happy and healthy 2015! And we look forward to seeing you in Columbus in August!

-Will and Donna Fanning, Orange, California

*For additional information and to indicate your interest to join the Legacy Society, please contact WNAA's Executive Secretary Dr. Megan Williams at International Headquarters (Tel: 607-279-7402 or [IHQ@thewnaa.org](mailto:IHQ@thewnaa.org).)*

### STORY THEATRE PRESENTATION “THAT WAS BOB”

*A musical theatre production*

“THAT WAS BOB” is the musical theatre production about the life of Bob Evans, including stories from his childhood, his work, his outdoor adventures, his commitment to 4-H programs, his service as a political influence, and his travels and his friendships that help the actors and musicians tell his life-story. Many people around the world know a little about Bob Evans and his success in the business world, but this play will let them know more about Bob Evans the person. Area residents now have the opportunity to hear the story through dozens of personal recollections from friends and family members. The project is collaboration between Bob Evans Farm, Rio Grande, the Rio Grande Theater Department and the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at Rio Grande.

*Directed by Dr. Greg Miller - includes the Red Brush Band.*

### MORE SEMINARS!

Three popular seminars which are well-attended every year are Welsh Folk Dancing, Welsh Language Classes and *Ysgol Gân* (Singing School). Siân Frick and Hefina Phillips will be back again, Edward Morus Jones will lead *Ysgol Gân* and Karen Wojahn will accompany late-night singing and *Ysgol Gan*. These seminars and activities will be featured in the Spring edition of *HWYL*.

#### GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

A FOUR-HOUR GENEALOGY WORKSHOP will be offered on Thursday, Sept 3, 2015, by leading expert *Darris Williams*. The price is \$45 and includes lunch. Advanced registration is required and is available on both the paper and online registration form.

#### NAFOW 2015, AUGUST 28-31: COLUMBUS, OHIO RESERVE EARLY!

Headquarters Hotel: Hyatt Regency, Columbus.

Hotel bookings: 1-888-421-1442

Code “North American Festival of Wales 2015”.

*or* Book on-line at [www.NAFOW.org](http://www.NAFOW.org) and click on the ‘NAFOW accommodations’.

Festival Rates: \$119 per night

for singles, doubles, triples & quads.

Rates will be available from August 28 thru September 12, 2015, depending on availability.

## NINNAU CELEBRATES 40 YEARS!

The WNAA would like to congratulate Ninnau on 40 years of publication. The Welsh North-American newspaper is a valuable resource in promoting Welsh culture in North America. Ninnau, meaning Us, had its birth at the 1975 National Gymanfa Ganu held in New York City. The idea was announced and the then editor Jane Prytherch went home from the gymanfa with 200 subscriptions! Ninnau continues to have a presence at the festival each year and we are grateful for the coverage of the event that Ninnau provides. Please join Ninnau in celebrating 40 years at its anniversary cocktail hour which will be held in Columbus at the 2015 North American Festival of Wales on Saturday, Sept 5, at 4:30pm. Certainly a cause for celebration at a fitting time and location! Llongyfarchiadau!

## SPONSOR 2015!

The 2015 festival line-up is a wonderful mix of Welsh music: young and vibrant, traditional and contemporary.

We are looking for interested parties to help sponsor the 2015 festival. We have developed specific sponsorship levels for those wishing to promote a business and individual sponsorships are always welcome. 2015 sponsorships can be made anytime between now and June.

To discuss sponsorship in more detail or to enquire about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Megan Williams on 607-279-7402 or email [IHQ@thewnaa.org](mailto:IHQ@thewnaa.org).

***Without you, it wouldn't be possible!***