



HWYL

WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OPENING CEREMONY PERFORMER

DAFYDD EDWARDS is no stranger to the United States, having visited and appeared in concerts here over a period of thirty years. His first visit in 1977, at the invitation of David Morgan, a cousin, to sing at the Columbus Gymanfa Ganu was but the beginning of a flood of concert and festival appearances across the U.S., visiting Oklahoma, Nebraska, Texas, New Mexico, New York, California, the Dakotas, Oregon, Minnesota, Washington, both the state and the national capital, as well as Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria in Canada.



Those visits were as guest soloist with various choirs; as a member of "Parti Ceredigion" in the early 80s or, more recently, in company with daughters Menna, accompanist, and Gwawr, soprano.

Dafydd has also visited Australia on three occasions, travelling from east to west; appeared in concerts in Hong Kong, Singapore and Beijing; entertained on many cruise ships, including twice on the QE2, and visited many European countries. And, of course, he has been in great demand through the decades at home in Wales and in the U.K.

In addition to his fifty years of singing, Dafydd has been completely devoted, for sixty years, to taking care of the family beef and sheep farms at home in Ceredigion.

Ceredigion, in the mid 19th century, was the hub of a mass exodus to the U.S., and four Edwards brothers with their families, including at least thirty children and the widow and seven children of a fifth Edwards brother, left Wales to settle in Oak Hill in southern Ohio. Dafydd's great-great-grandfather is buried in Bethel cemetery in Oak Hill.

So it is little wonder that Dafydd feels a particular closeness and fondness for the U.S., and a special pride in returning to this his 3rd National Gymanfa at Columbus. He is looking forward to meeting as many of his relatives as possible and hopes that many will visit the festival in Columbus in September for a grand reunion.

Festival Hotel Block Filling Quickly!

IF YOU HAVEN'T MADE YOUR RESERVATION at the Hyatt Regency headquarters hotel, now is the time to do so! Reservations have come in at a fast pace and it looks like this year's North American Festival of Wales, set in the heartland of Welsh America, will be very well attended. We have already negotiated additional rooms at the group rate of \$119 per night. Once these rooms are taken, we are unsure if we will be able to secure more. To make your reservation, please visit our website <http://www.nafow.org> and click on **accommodation** or call: US and Canada - 1.888.421.1442, International - 1.402.592.6464. Use group name when making reservations: "North American Festival of Wales 2015".



**NAFOW 2015- COLUMBUS, OHIO
SEPTEMBER 3 - 6:
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 and click on the 'NAFOW accommodations'.

Festival Rates: \$119 per night
for single, double, triple & quad occupancy
(2 Doubles or King Bed available).

Extended stay dates available, subject to availability

WNAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2012-2013

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 P O Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886, Phone 607-279-7402
 Email wnaahq@gmail.com

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.

HWYL is published quarterly by the
 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

Southern Theatre

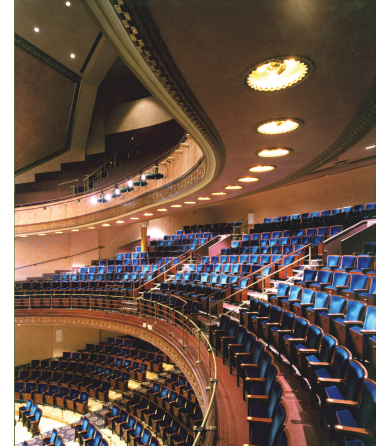
THE WNAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES just held a very successful mid-year meeting in Columbus April 18 and 19. This included a visit to the historic Southern Theatre which will be home to the 84th National Gymanfa Ganu. Board members were impressed with the architecture and preservation of the theatre. The acoustics and view from the balcony are outstanding!

The gymanfa is general admission and a festival pass, purchased through WNAA **OR** a Sunday ticket, purchased through CAPA, is required. Seating will take place on both the ground level and the balcony. We will arrange for seating in parts on both levels. The balcony is only

accessible by stairs and if you are unable to climb stairs, please make this information available ahead of time to Megan Williams via email: IHQ@thewnaa.org or by calling 607-279-7402.

Gymanfa Ganu Bus

THE SHUTTLE BUSES TO THE GYMANFA will leave between 1:00 and 1:20pm. Advanced registration is required. The buses will return after the afternoon session for those who wish to return to the hotel. Please note that the intersession meal will be held at the **Westin Hotel** (NOT headquarters hotel) and the Westin is directly next to the Southern Theatre. The buses will leave the headquarters hotel again at 6:30pm for those wishing to attend the evening session and will bring everyone back at the end of the closing ceremony. Accessible transportation is available upon request, please see separate entry on the registration form. A separate bus ticket will be issued and included in your registration packet. For those interested in walking, the theater is a one-mile walk down High Street from the Hyatt Regency. [photo by Brad Feinknopf]



Registration

AS ALWAYS, ADVANCED REGISTRATION is very helpful. Mail-in registration will remain open until August 1 and online registration will be open until August 28. On-site registration opens at 5pm on Wednesday, Sept 2. Meals must be reserved in advance, this is especially true for the Sunday intersession meal. I will NOT be able to sell meals to the Sunday intersession meal on site. Please register for all meals before August 28.

I am excited for a great festival and look forward to seeing you in Columbus!

2015 NAFOW REGISTRATION FORMS

Register online at www.nafow.org or download, print and mail registration forms to:

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

Call Megan Williams at 607-279-7402 for paper registration forms or email IHQ@thewnaa.org.

Mail-in registrations must be received by Aug.1st!

GETTING TO AND FROM THE COLUMBUS AIRPORT



COLUMBUS HAS ONE AIRPORT, code CMH. There are several ways to get from the airport to the Hyatt Regency. The taxi fare from the airport to the hotel is approximately \$30. The journey takes about 15-20 minutes. A pre-booked shuttle is available through Arch Express. The costs are \$20 plus tax each way for one passenger or \$15 plus tax per passenger each way for two or more passengers traveling together. Passengers can make reservations by phone, 614-252-2277, or on their website at www.archexpress.com. Travelers should mention the event, promo code "NAFOW", to receive the special convention rate. Shuttle location will be at ground transportation just outside of the baggage claim. Look for the signs that read PREARRANGED VEHICLES. The last option is using COTA (Central Ohio Transit Authority). The trip will take about 1 hour and cost \$2. You will need to change buses. For details specific to your arrival time, visit the COTA website <http://www.cota.com>. Your destination address is 350 N. High St. Columbus. Safe travels!

LEAVING A LEGACY

by Richard Donohoe

IN OCTOBER 2006, I planned my return from my home in Maine to my home in South Carolina – the "snowbird" thing only lasted three years – so that I could participate in the Fall Gymanfa Ganu at the Welsh chapel in Delta, Pennsylvania. After the event, on the steps of the chapel, I chatted with Dic Baskwill, pastor of the church and Past President of WNGGA. I had enjoyed ten festivals at that point. Dic asked if I would consider serving on the WNGGA board of trustees, pointing out that the survival of any organization depends on new blood. I gracefully demurred – I was there for the singing – and headed south. But Dic's words weighed heavily on my mind. When I got home, I sent him a letter, apologizing for my reflexive response and assuring him I would be honored to serve. A few years later, when Barbara Jones initiated the Legacy Society, I remembered Dic's words and signed up. New blood needs old support. It is gratifying to think that, even after I am



gone, I can continue to support our North American Welsh heritage.

YOU TOO MAY BE A PART OF THIS! Just email or call Megan Williams, Executive Secretary, at WNAA headquarters and she will give you the quick & easy details for including WNAA in your estate plans. There is no amount too small, so be assured you will be playing a significant part in the Welsh presence for years to come.

Megan Williams, Phone: (607) 279-7402; email: IHQ@theWNAA.org

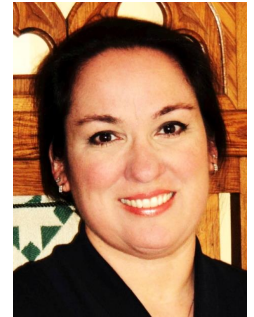
HWYL INTERVIEWS FESTIVAL CHAIR

The following is an interview with Laura Gorun, chair of the Columbus, NAFOW 2015, festival.

FIRST OF ALL, LAURA, could you tell us a little about yourself?

I grew up in Akron, Ohio and came to Columbus to attend Capital University, where I got my degree in fine arts.

After working in financial services for many years, I left to make lovespoons and do volunteer work. My husband, John, and I live with the last of my three dogs, a little mutt named "Tri" (Welsh for "three"). We live in Worthington (on the North edge of Columbus).



Could you tell us a little about the makeup of your festival committee?

I have a wonderful committee! We have, I think, a fantastic blend of experience and fresh perspectives, all with lots of enthusiasm and great ideas. We are so grateful for the very strong experience with the NAFOW and WNAA, in Stacy & Cheryl Evans, and Jeanne Jindra.

Then, we have Beth Ransopher, who has lots of great Columbus government connections and insight, has been leading the efforts on researching history of the Welsh in Columbus, and has been instrumental in tour planning.

Tegwyn Lantz has also been helping out with all areas of research, and bringing up endless creative and interesting ideas for us to consider. Teg and Beth have been working hard to help map out routes and talking points for the informal walking tours we plan to be offering in the mornings and one afternoon of the festival.

Jeff and Patti Jones have been full of interesting and creative ideas to consider, and they have contributed to historical research and helped engage local groups such as rugby clubs and local restaurants. Patti is very skilled with fiber arts, and will be doing some informal spinning demos at the NAFOW.

Pam Jones has also been lending her creativity, insight and careful eye to all of our plans. Stacy & Cheryl Evans, and Jeanne Jindra have been giving us invaluable support, offering the benefit of their extensive experiences with the

NAFOW and the WNAA. We have been poring through the documentation from the 1998 festival, learning from, and re-using everything applicable and available.



We have, of course, been working closely with the Welsh Society of Central Ohio, the local host Society this year, to try to combine efforts, where possible, to the mutual benefit of both the NAFOW and WSCO.

Our biggest challenge may have been to decide what activities to include in the short time of the festival and how best to make additional information available to those who wish to get the most out of their visit to Columbus.

Laura, what's your connection to Wales?

My paternal grandfather grew up in Wales and moved to Ohio when he was 16. I can remember sitting on Grampa's lap, and he read me the Welsh saying from a tea towel, and sang "Ar Hyd y Nos" to me. He was always singing.

What do you find most exciting about holding the NAFOW in Columbus?

Wow - how can I even begin to answer that, with so many amazing performers and speakers lined up, along with all that Columbus has to offer! But I suppose I would have to say that we're excited for people to see how the city of Columbus has changed and grown since the last time the festival came here (1998). Even we locals have been impressed with the revival and development of downtown. We genuinely hope people explore and even book a little extra time before or after the festival to take in more of all the great things Columbus has to offer!



What are you hoping NAFOW attendees will experience in Columbus?

As much as they possibly can! Don't forget to schedule for the Thursday and Monday bus trips, too! But I think the icing on the cake would have to be the Gymanfa Ganu at the spectacular historic Southern Theatre. Considering the

theater's wonderful, intimate, meticulously restored 19th century atmosphere and its world class acoustics, along with our wonderful NAFOW conductor, organist, and Welsh male voice choir all leading us, this will be an especially memorable Gymanfa Ganu. Why, I literally have goosebumps just thinking about it.

Laura, what else would you like to say to those people who are thinking about coming to Columbus NAFOW 2015? I say, don't miss it! Bring the family! Make a vacation of it!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nearly 9 Amazing Decades!

IN 1929, IN A FIELD ON GOAT ISLAND, Niagara Falls, New York, the first North American Gymanfa Ganu was held and soon organized into the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association. As this vibrant organization grew and prospered the vision to further present, promote and preserve Welsh culture, history and language grew as well. This expanded mission lead to a new name: Welsh North American Association or WNAA.

From that beginning of a dream, WNAA continues the vision as a growing, vibrant organization of over 3,200 members and friends. We are indeed happy once again to report a healthy, well-balanced budget as we mark our 84th Festival! This is all possible because of your outstanding dedication and support.

We hope to see you for the 2015 Festival of Wales, September 3 - 6 in Columbus Ohio, for wonderful *hwyl* as we enjoy seeing long-time friends and making new friends from all over North America as well as a few from Wales!

So, please take a moment to renew your support with a gift to the Annual Appeal. This is also a wonderful opportunity to join the Legacy Society by naming WNAA in your will, as well as, make a donation honoring someone special whose name will appear in the Festival Program. Please note the July 15 deadline for inclusion in the printed program.

You may make your contribution through the WNAA website: www.nafow.org, just by clicking the top left 'make a donation' button. Or, you may mail your check to the WNAA headquarters:

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

Looking forward to seeing you in Columbus for an exciting time with great *Hwyl!*

Diolch yn fawr iawn,

Barbara Leedy, President
 WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

**SOME OF OUR
FAVORITES RETURN
WELSH LANGUAGE CLASSES**

Hefina Phillips

HEFINA IS BACK to bring her passion and spirit to teaching you the “language of Heaven”. She will teach two levels of the Welsh language: Welsh Language I, with an emphasis on *speaking*, will be held on Friday; and Welsh Language II, which is suitable for those with some knowledge of the language and want to practice and improve, will be held on Saturday. This class will follow on from Welsh Language I, and you are encouraged to attend both.

Hefina was born in the Swansea Valley, and Welsh was the only language spoken in her home in Cwmgiedd. She was educated at Cardiff University’s Welsh Department and says she was fortunate to have studied under Saunders Lewis. She has taught at the annual *Cymdeithas Madog* Course since moving to North America and was responsible for starting Welsh language classes in the Toronto area. Hefina feels that to have been born Welsh is the utmost privilege and she does all she can to share her love of Wales and its beautiful language. She admits that her other passion is for her grandchildren.



**WELSH FOLK DANCING
(TWMPATH DAWNS)**

Sian Frick

SIAN RETURNS with her popular Welsh Folk Dance seminar. A certified and celebrated Welsh Folk Dance teacher, Sian will lead the dances for those of all ages to take part in a real Welsh *twmpath*, or barn dance. Come and have a good time!

Sian is a British national of mainly Welsh parentage. From 1984-1991 she attended *Cymdeithas Ddawns Werin Cymru* (Welsh Folk Dance Society) workshops in Wales to learn the spirited but lightfooted Welsh dances, earning her *Cymdeithas* Instructor’s Certificate in 1986. She organized *Dawnsywyr y Tract Cymreig*, The Welsh Tract dancers, and led them from 1986 to 1992. Sian was a member of the *Dawnsywyr Mon* display team in Anglesey that performed for six months in 1991. She frequently gives



demonstrations at many of the Celtic Festivals in the mid-Atlantic region and on her visits to Wales she has joined Welsh teams performing dances at various events. In 2009 she was a member of the U.S. team from Welsh Heritage Week that competed at the National Eisteddfod in Wales and was judged worthy of performing on the main stage.

YSGOL GAN

Edward Morus Jones

ONCE AGAIN, EDWARD will conduct an informal singing practice session where you will learn some of the hymns we will be singing on Sunday afternoon and evening. On the Friday, this will be your opportunity to hear some Welsh verses pronounced and to practice your part, whatever it may be, with joyful abandon. Fun and enlightening.



Edward hails from Llandegfan, where he was a teacher and headmaster for 18 years. Over the years he has written and recorded scores of songs and albums for children, and written shows, plays, and musicals. He sings with the renowned *Côr Godre’r Aran* Male Choir in the Bala area. In addition, he teaches hymn-singing and has conducted many *cymanfaoedd ganu*.

KAREN WOJAHN, who has served as an accompanist for the annual Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festivals since the 1970’s and was organist for the 1998 Welsh National *Gymanfa Ganu* in Minneapolis, will be the accompanist for *Ysgol Gan*.



Karen is the Worship & Music Coordinator and organist for the American Lutheran Church in her southwestern Minnesota town of Windom. She also plays the harp for special events.

Karen will also be the accompanist for the ever-popular ‘informal’ singing that takes place every evening. Karen received great reviews for her wonderful leadership last year in Minneapolis.

PATAGONIA 150 YEARS

Edward Morus Jones

EDWARD, WELL-KNOWN to the NAFOW community for many years and member of the Honorary White Robe Order of the Gorsedd of Bards, will, on Saturday, present *Patagonia-1865 – 2015: An Amazing Story*. Since the Welsh settlement in Patagonia, Argentina, will be 150 years old this year, Edward will discuss the fascinating story of the development of Y Wladfa.

OUR EISTEDDFOD – GETTING A NEW LOOK!

by Ian K. Samways

AS THE NAFOW (North American Festival of Wales) continues to evolve, so do its constituent components such as the Eisteddfod; this will be no exception in Columbus. Thus, in response to some general discussion and relevant "market research", we have condensed the schedule so that all competitions will take place on a single day - Saturday, September 5 - to help everyone involved (competitors, adjudicators, hosts, accompanist, spectators) free up time for other Festival activities. In a word... you're running out of excuses not to compete!

This year, we have a total of six competitions in singing and recitation, covering all imaginable bases. Recitation set pieces include: "Cofio" by Waldo Williams (Adult Recitation); "Y Sipsiwn" by Eifion Wyn (Welsh Learners); and "Welsh History" by R.S. Thomas (English Language). Once again, in addition to Hymn Singing and Solo Voice competitions, the David G. Morris Memorial Competition (Solo Voice/Semi-Professional) will offer the opportunity for a generous cash scholarship for travel to compete in the 2016 National Eisteddfod of Wales. Hymn Singing requires that you sing one hymn entirely in Welsh; the

other singing competitions require two pieces, at least one of which must be in Welsh.

To get a closer look at details of the Eisteddfod, the entry form (and information sheet) is now up and available here: http://www.nafow.org/.../forms2015/eisteddfod_entry_2015.pdf. You can enter as many competitions as you like, with the sole exception that you cannot compete in both Solo Voice and the David G. Morris Competition. While your entry must be received by August 20, 2015, certainly contact us at any time if you have any questions at all about the Eisteddfod or its competitions (email: eisteddfod@nafow.org; phone: 412-215-9161).

The NAFOW Eisteddfod has been a mainstay of our Festival since Alan Upshall founded it in 1994. In competing, you will benefit from the insights and input of professional-caliber adjudicators, so think of it as a hands-on workshop to help continue developing your skills!

I want to thank fellow Eisteddfod Committee members Myfanwy Bajaj and David Llewelyn for their considerable help to date, as well as Gerri Baker Parry for her assistance with the forms and to Megan Williams for her ongoing input and support. Many thanks also go out to our generous competition sponsors, who are noted on the forms.

So what's to wait for, then...? We'll see you onstage in Columbus!