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November 26th, 1970

copy Jack

Pres. Eilyn Lloyd,
[redacted] et,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear President Lloyd:

I am now ready to work on the musical aspects of the National Gymanfa Gannu Association. I have started some research on our present hymnal. It needs revision badly believe me, as to hymn tunes and words. I hope soon I will be able to send you some concrete ideas and information regarding this important work.

It was suggested at the Trustee meeting in Milwaukee that we have many fine Welsh composers right here in America and Canada, and that we should find out if they have some hymn tunes they would like sung at the Gymanfaoedd Gannu. Most likely, if they have composed some other larger compositions, they have harmony-wise worked on hymns first- as this is definitely a prerequisite.

Mr. Lloyd, you also suggested that we could expand the music committee if we desired. I would like to recommend to you that we form a Regional Music Committee, and that the following musicians be considered and added to the Trustees already appointed- Ada Davis Thomas, Miss Dodd, and myself.

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| <u>Midwest</u> | Mrs. Estelle Roberts Schubert, Chicago, Ill.
Miss Helen F. Richards, Evanston, Ill.
Mrs. Clwen Morgan Walk, Ripon, Wisconsin |
| <u>East</u> | Mrs. Annie Wilson Jayne West Virginia
Mr. Morris Wrench Youngstown, Ohio
Miss Frances Williams New York |
| <u>West</u> | Mr. E. Gwyn Thomas Los Angeles, Calif.
Miss Wladys Wynne Jones El Cerrito, Calif. |
| <u>North West</u> | Mr. Idwal Parri Portland, Oregon
Mr. John W. Williams Vancouver, B. C. Canada |
| <u>East Canada</u> | Mr. Irving Davies Willowdale, Ontario, Canada. |
| <u>South East</u> | Mr. Albert T. Davies Florida |

These people would represent the areas in which they live. Their duties would be to do some research on the Welsh composers and their compositions, and whether in their estimation the committee should hear their works, as it is very important that the hymns submitted be the "SINGING" type hymns. We know that there are many hymn tunes in our present program that are not of Welsh origin. They do not take well. Let us face it- they are never sung!

We must pick some hymn tunes that the people like. They will be happy people if they know some of the songs. There are new songs on one page, and some difficult words on the other page. The words should be on the same page as the song, and under the music if at all possible. I think I read music as well as the other fellow, but this business of having to look up at the top of the other page for the words is far reaching.

All new hymns should be tested. We could have inexpensive printing of them made, and sell them at the Local Cymanfacedd Canu- and find out just how well they will take with the congregations.

We must be mindful of the new organization WAY, and the tunes must be attractive to them as well. We can do with a few added Childrens hymns, and all should be grouped together- in sections, this will be easy for the people to find.

May I also suggest that some questionnaires be sent to those interested composers, and we could do a little publicity to get these songs introduced to the public. These regional representatives can help in this matter. They in turn will send their reports to the three Trustees, and later the names and material will be sent to you for adoption.

I am very concerned about some of the words of the hymns. They should be uplifting at all times. Some are very gloomy. This again is so important to the youth of our WAY. The words must sing along with the Music.

I will be delighted to hear from you as soon as possible, whether you would approve of all this, but my interest naturally is the improvement in Gysanfa Gannu singing everywhere. It is a big project, but I am willing to give it all I can. The Regional Music Committee would attend the National in this way, as we could have a workshop for conductors and accompanists- to really know "what the Gysanfa Gannu" is all about, and what we should be doing to excel in the matter of directing and accompanying.

This is rather lengthy, but I want you to know just how I feel and where we can improve in this great Institution for PEACE.

Our best to you and Mrs. Lloyd,
Sincerely,

Ann Davies Thomas

Ann Davies Thomas
N. G. G. Trustee and Music Chairperson