

Minutes  
Folk Concert Committee  
1994 National Gymanfa Ganu  
July 19, 1993

The meeting began at 7:47 pm. It was held at the home of Alan Upshall. Members present were Tim Dyck, Jackie Cedarholm, and Sarah Huber. Special guest was Alan Upshall.

Tim opened the meeting explaining that the agenda would be looking at videos of two of the prospective groups being considered for the concert and then to come to a decision about whom to invite. The videos were of Fiddle Faddle (a dance group) and Plethyn (a folk singing group).

Since Jackie had already seen Plethyn in concert, it was decided to only look at the tape Fiddle Faddle had sent. The group watched it for approximately 25 minutes and then decided to discuss the options for the folk concert.

Tim handed out a matrix (attached) he designed to look at the different aspects of bringing either Cusan Tan, Hen Dig, or Plethyn as the central folk group for the concert.

Much discussion ensued about the pros and cons of each group:

Cusan Tan:

Jackie -- first and foremost, Jackie believes any group we pick should have a strong instrumental component. She liked the fact Cusan Tan is both instrumental and vocal and thought it would bring a lot of variety to the concert. She also believed certain members could provide interesting workshops during the weekend.

Tim -- agreed with Jackie that the group is potentially versatile and is full of talent. He raised the concern that the group may be too "new age" for the audience expected to attend. He also mentioned that all of the groups agreed to do workshops if they are invited to come.

Sarah -- agreed with both Jackie and Tim. Her concerns were that the group may be too "new age" but, if asked, she understood they might modify their repertoire to fit the audience. She also said that she thinks they have a very pleasant sound but that it may be better suited for background music rather than a concert where people are focused on what is happening on stage. She thought the music might get "boring" after a period of time.

Alan -- echoed the pros and cons raised by the group and also mentioned that Cusan Tan may be able to provide most of the variety being sought for the concert because of who is in the group.

Hen Dig:

Jackie -- liked the variety of instrumental and dance the group can provide. She believed this group would be the most popular with the audience and provide the best show. She mentioned how much people seem to enjoy them.

Tim -- agreed that Hen Dig is very talented and enjoys their music, especially their female vocalist. His concern is that they may have been overexposed because of the number of times

they have performed in the US in the past year including last year's National Gymanfa. He said that if it had been 2 years or so since the group had been at a National, then he would be much more likely to support them.

Sarah -- likes their sound very much but believed it would be better to bring in a group people have not seen in the US for awhile or at all.

Alan -- agreed with all of the statements made but was very clear he believes Hen Dig is overexposed.

Plethyn:

Jackie -- likes their sound very much but does not think they should be invited because they do not have a strong instrumental component to their repertoire.

Tim -- thought that even though they lack a strong instrumental component, they do provide a unique Welsh folk sound that many people enjoy. He also believes that if packaged correctly with other folk groups (e.g., dance group) in the concert, Plethyn would help round out a varied folk concert.

Sarah -- called Plethyn the "Peter, Paul and Mary" of Welsh folk music. She believes they would be pleasant to listen to in a concert setting, but also thought inviting a local instrumental group to add to the concert might help give the concert the variety it needs.

Alan -- again, basically agreed with the pros and cons raised by the group. His main issue was that any of these groups will make a good show; it is a matter of figuring out how we want the show to look and which group would best help fulfill that concept.

The group found it very hard to come to a decision. They finally agreed that Hen Dig should probably not be invited this year because of the issue of overexposure. Since one of the members was not present, people felt uncomfortable with making a decision regarding the other two groups. It was agreed upon that since a proposal needed to be ready for the next Executive Committee meeting, the group should lay out two proposals for the Committee and let the Committee make the final decision. This was done not only because of the difficulty of making the decision without one of the members present, but also because the Executive Committee would likely have a broader perspective on the whole weekend and how the folk concert will fit into other events.

Jackie asked if Tim would write the proposals because she has too many things going on. Tim agreed to do this, but double checked with the group about what the proposals should look like. The group agreed with the way he intends to draft the proposals.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.

and equally important what would be a good concert for those in attendance at the National and coming in from the local area. As you are aware, we narrowed the selection to four groups in June<sup>1</sup>. We wrote to each of the groups, advising them that we were considering them and requesting audio, video and written material from them to assist in making that decision. We heard back from three groups. Pedwar Yn Y Bar did not respond. I am enclosing a grid I used to help identify the various issues that each group presented.

(One note: Jackie had heard that a folk dance group, Fiddle Faddle, had expressed an interest in performing at the National and were willing to pay their way over to do so. We contacted them and they are not able to raise the money.)

I am also enclosing the minutes from the last meeting. As Gail was unable to attend we were unable to reach a decision. Therefore, we are presenting to the committee two alternatives and asking the committee to make the decision.

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<sup>1</sup>Pedwar Yn Y Bar, Cusan Tan, Plethyn and Hen Dig.

July 30, 1993

To: Executive Committee, 1994 Seattle National

From: Tim Dyck, Chair, Entertainment Committee

*Tim -  
Please forgive lapses in syntax  
& spelling errors.*

RE: Folk Concert and General Update

The purpose of this is to update you on the progress being achieved by the entertainment committee. I will report on all three areas, Thursday night, Friday night and Saturday night.

Thursday Night:

First of all, the plan is to invite people with staging experience within PSWA to meet with the entertainment committee and formulate a plan that will allow us to present the PSWA concert. We are currently <sup>thinking of</sup> alternating between using two MC's or none at all, relying on the program and the event itself to stage and cue the audience <sup>as</sup> to what is going on. We are looking for a way to avoid the standard MC getting up and announcing every number if possible. We are also looking at finalizing our list for performers.

Saturday Night:

The plans are going well on this one. All the artists are booked and plan on being here. The one exception is the Mid-Glamorgan Youth Band. So far they are trying to find a way to fund their trip here and we have yet to hear how this is going. Alan will be checking with them during his trip to Wales later this month.

Friday Night:

This is the area that has been the focus of the committee for the past few months. To briefly sum up our efforts, the person we had approached to head up the folk committee was unable to continue and so a new group was formed. We spent several meetings listening to tapes of various groups and attempting to put together what we would like to see in Welsh folk concert

<p>4. The group is very interested in coming over and would like to participate in the national.</p>	<p>4. Given the relatively new status of folk concerts at the National, we do want the folk concert to be as successful as possible so that other Nationals will feel that they need to include it in the future.</p>
<p>5. The group offers so much diversity that they would not need any support acts such as the Vancouver dancers.</p>	<p>5. People who like folk music generally do not care for new age sound. It is unlikely that we would attract new people to the National.</p>

Cost is unknown. It cost us \$600.00 for Robin + expenses.

Proposal 1:

That the National 1994 committee invite Cusan Tan to come and perform for the folk concert. Given Cusan Tan's diversity, it is felt that there would not be any room for another group to be a part of the program.

**Arguments for:**

**Arguments against**

<p>1. Cusan Tan is composed of four people. They would not cost the committee any money for transportation.</p>	<p>1. One of the group is Robin Huw Bowen. Robin is pretty exposed to the US audiences right now as he did a tour of the West Coast in April, and is doing a tour of the East Coast this fall with a major appearance at the National in Wilkes-Barre.</p>
<p>2. The group is an instrumental and singing group from Wales. They offer a lot of diversity. Robin can teach and lead folk dancing seminars, the two ladies have done vocal workshops in the past and John Rodge is open to demonstrating on his guitar.</p>	<p>2. Their sound is "New Age". Given the average age of most attendees at a National, this group has a strong potential to create controversy (it does not fit the idea of what most people think of when they think of Welsh folk music).</p>
<p>3. Robin is willing to be in the background and understands that we do not want to be seen as repeating recent past Nationals.</p>	<p>3. While the suggestion has been raised that we approach the group and ask them to feature a more traditional sound, it is unfair to ask them to change their "sound" to accommodate us. The group relies on Robin and John Rodge to feature more traditional folk sounds.</p>

*Continued.*

Proposal Two:

That Plethyn be the featured group at the National and that the Vancouver Dancers be invited to perform during the concert so that the concert as a whole is interesting.

Arguments for	Arguments against
<p>1. The group has four members. <i>NO COST TO BRING OVER.</i></p> <p>2. The group features a traditional Welsh sound. The sound is based on the Plygain sound which is an old Welsh sound no longer extensively heard. The Welsh pronunciation and enunciation is excellent.</p> <p>3. The group is well established and would offer a draw to people on the East coast to come.</p> <p>4. Surprisingly this group has <sup>only</sup> toured California and Vancouver and this was some years ago. They are very underexposed in this country.</p> <p>5. The group is very interested in coming over and would like to participate in the National.</p> <p>6. The group would be willing to do an informal seminar on Welsh folk music and give examples of singing.</p> <p>7. The group is inexpensive. With the Vancouver dancers it would cost us between \$650 and \$700 for the talent part of the concert.</p> <p>8. The group offers a unique sound that would be very attractive to a non-Welsh audience.</p>	<p>1. The group is limited to singing. While they accompany themselves with a variety of instruments, they do not do any strictly instrumental numbers.</p> <p>2. Plethyn would not be able to carry a concert by itself. We would need to add at least one other group.</p> <p>3. The group lacks the diversity of a Cusan Tan. They could only do a limited seminar.</p> <p>4. Some of our committee felt that they might not be as attractive as Cusan Tan to an American audience.</p> <p><i>5. We might need to look at "Indigo" or "Magical Strings" to beef up the instrumental section of the folk concert.</i></p>