

The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association

Summary of Evaluations from 2000 Ottawa National Gymanfa Ganu

(Key: SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; N = No Opinion; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree; NR = No Response)

NOTE: In each item below, line 1 shows the responses according to the Key listed above. Line 2 shows an analysis comparing SA+A versus D+SD.

		SA	A	N	D	SD	NR
1.	The Registration Procedures were satisfactory	82	40	1	6	1	8
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 122			D+SD = 7		
2.	The Hotel Arrangements were satisfactory	85	31	9	1	0	12
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 116			D+SD = 1		
3.	The Market Place arrangements were satisfactory	19	38	13	32	18	18
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 57			D+SD = 50		
4.	The Tour Arrangements were satisfactory	29	25	26	17	8	33
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 54			D+SD = 25		
5.	The Opening Ceremony was satisfactory	35	25	32	3	2	41
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 60			D+SD = 5		
6.	The Tea Room Arrangements were satisfactory	59	41	14	6	1	17
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 100			D+SD = 7		
7.	The Eisteddfod Arrangements were satisfactory	20	23	46	4	0	45
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 43			D+SD = 4		
8.	The Folk Concert Arrangements were satisfactory	34	25	33	2	0	44
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 59			D+SD = 2		
9.	The Informal Singing Arrangements were satisfactory	21	36	25	25	5	26
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 57			D+SD = 30		
10.	The Seminar Arrangements were satisfactory	46	31	28	6	1	26
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 77			D+SD = 27		
11.	The Banquet arrangements were satisfactory	55	29	21	5	5	23
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 84			D+SD = 10		
12.	The Annual General Meeting Arrangement were satisfactory	14	11	58	2	1	52
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 25			D+SD = 3		
13.	The Awr Y Plant Arrangements were satisfactory	14	7	61	0	0	56
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 21			D+SD = 0		
14.	The Grand Concert Arrangements were satisfactory	78	30	3	7	3	17
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 108			D+SD = 10		

Summary of Evaluations, page 2

(Key: SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; N = No Opinion; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree; NR = No Response)

NOTE: In each item below, line 1 shows the responses according to the Key listed above. Line 2 shows an analysis comparing SA+A versus D+SD.

		SA	A	N	D	SD	NR
15.	The Welsh-English Church Service Arrangements were						
	satisfactory	64	30	22	2	0	20
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 94			D+SD = 2		
16.	The Sunday Afternoon Gymanfa Arrangements were						
	satisfactory	67	38	6	5	1	21
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 105			D+SD = 6		
17.	The Intercession Meal Arrangements were satisfactory	48	22	24	6	3	35
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 70			D+SD = 9		
18.	The Sunday Evening Gymanfa Arrangements were						
	satisfactory	78	28	4	5	1	22
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 106			D+SD = 6		
19.	Overall Evaluation	63	54	1	6	3	11
	ANALYSIS	SA+A = 117			D+SD = 9		

Ottawa

Ellis,

Responses to Evaluation paper is complete. If you wish to review or revise the paper, see Responses to Evaluation in Word.

Since the document contains 18 pages it may be more than you may have time to read before meeting the San Jose folks so following you will find some threads, trends, common elements that appear and reappear throughout the 19 items:

The two most frequently reoccurring complaints, comments, criticisms have to do with the acoustics and the sound system and John Morgan, MC at the Grand Banquet:

A cursory glance of the evaluation responses will reveal that the sound system was a problem during all the large group sessions, the general meeting and during the seminars. Where the breakdown in communication between hotel technicians and Gymanfa Ganu committee folks is not clear, but it is clear that this was a problem for many in attendance for it appears as an item more often than any other item.

John Morgan was definitely not liked as the MC of the Grand Banquet. Indeed many people were thoroughly disgusted with his raw barroom humor. It might be something for the San Jose folks to consider as they select MC's for their general sessions.

Other Items noted less often but are significant nonetheless:

1. Audio-visual appliances were not checked prior to use in seminars – An abiding principal of teaching that you and I learned long ago and that we preached to student teachers – You must check out your projectors to see that they are working properly. That was not done in Ottawa and there were problems.
2. Criticisms of poor signage are noted frequently, especially for folks who had trouble finding their way from the Westin to the Congress Center and for finding the appropriate room for the Saturday seminars. Room assignments were changed from that noted in the program and people did not know where to go.
3. Finding a place for informal singing after general sessions proved to be a problem for quite a few respondents. Many were disappointed that very little informal singing occurred. The problem seemed to be that there was no reasonable place for folks to gather. The San Jose folks might be apprised of this situation and give some consideration as to where the informal singing can take place.
4. There were general complaints about the meals, none too specific. Perhaps the one the San Jose folks might need to be aware has to do with giving people choices i.e., heart healthy choices. Responses about meals on the evaluations noted that some folks did not attend either the Grand Banquet or the Intercession Meal because the meal was unhealthy for them.

There are other items of lesser import that you might discover as you study the document; however, I think the ones I have noted above are the most significant.

Have a good visit to San Jose

See you in three weeks.

Ron

Ron

Responses to Evaluation Forms
Ottawa 2000 National Gymanfa Ganu

1. The Registration procedures were satisfactory:

COMMENTS:

No problem, Good service.

Unlike beautifully run Harrisburg, Pa., we sat where we could – there they have diagrams of tables so you

Could sit with friends – never found some until departure

My sister registered for me.

But did not hand out program booklets so had to go back after them.

Excellent

Couldn't have done it without Genny's good help!

With the exception on the mix-up with the 2 tours

Very helpful in switching courses. Guides were very helpful!

We were very happy we could register Wed. night because of an early trip on Thursday

The email confirmation was appreciated even if I made an error in addition

More or less. Errors soon rectified.

But not very friendly or welcoming. No plastic bags for convenience.

No response to email

Confusing – not enough signs and some of the people working were not that nice when asking for help.

Confusing

More information about, and best route to find. More information could have been in packets.

Very good

The printout was unclear as to where seminars I'd "made it into". But the tickets clarified all.

Needed more sign saying where registration was on Friday afternoon?

Did not receive confirmation of the description to the names of the Seminars and with numbers switched – confusing

However, on form I checked box for dining directions never received

It was confusing that the tour time was listed in 24-hour time – 13:00 and the seminars were listed in 12-hour time. I double scheduled 2 events and had to miss one

Twice we asked for info on Ottawa and never got any (tours and stuff)

Person registering us indicated that she found it amusing and rather odd of us that we planned to attend so many events. "Oh you are some of those people," She said.

The staff was very friendly and helpful. They made a good welcome to visitors.

Very efficient! Well organized

Pre registered but no package ready upon arrival!

Everything ran very smoothly

OK, By mail – not upon arrival – not one sign to indicate direction to go!

Procedure for banquet was dreadful. We got a table in the back and a hard time from the registrar.

There was no indication in the Hotel Westin as to how to get to the Congress Center. I checked out all levels of the hotel and could not find the registration. Finally on Thursday I found the way to get to the congress Center. Once there everything was clear and efficient.

Yes

Question # 2: The Hotel arrangements were satisfactory:

COMMENTS:

More signage was needed.

Very much so

I'm on a budget; I enjoy staying in hotels or other budget accommodations. A list of such places would be helpful to me in planning lodging.

There were no instructions about the basket of food in the room and we'd eaten some before a friend informed us we'd have to pay for what we ate. Prices were inflated. Should be notice of procedure.

I live in Ottawa

Though ran into some problems when no directions given.

Very good hotel – Rooms clean and comfortable. Beds were great and as were down pillows and comforters

Excellent

Very good choice. Food was outstanding. Room service excellent. Staff very responsive and helpful.

Every thing was so handy not having to leave to get to the events

An excellent hotel Westin

Great facility. Covered connection to Congress Center appreciated in bad weather

Excellent hotel, friendly staff, convenient for Congress Center.

The Westin was great!

Great

Wonderful

Hotel staff was excellent – front desk, concierge, food servers

Was surprised that a hotel this expensive did not supply a closet – hotel wonderfully convenient

Would have liked a coffee machine in the room

I stayed at the Westin and heard good things about the Novotel

Except for parking - \$9 a day only if you do not take your car out – if you do, it's \$9 each time!!!

Yes

Question #3: The Market Place arrangements were satisfactory:

COMMENTS:

Missed the American vendors – Very sparse and NAAF was a disaster also –

Far too few “Market Place Stores. More product lines needed e.g. cloth/clothing. Jewelry. Candy/ crafts

Under the circumstances of having no American vendors.

Nothing much there

Very poor selection of goods.

Lacked variety of some Nationals

Market Place a disaster! We should have been told that Canada makes it difficult for USA vendors, and that the biggest ones (Harp and Dragon – Earl Williams etc. were not coming.

To few exhibits

Missed a greater number of venues selling Welsh products

Too small; not enough vendors

What Market Place?

Not enough of a selection.

The place was much more meager than usual.

The U.S. booths were not there – Therefore not the variety of items.

Very poor show tea and Welsh cake fantastic

I don't believe NAFTA is working out.

We thought there would be more tables of wares.

Understood reasons but very disappointing

It did look a little sad without the Americans here to sell

We were disappointed many of the dealers we watch for weren't here.
It was sort of out of the way.
Very disappointing little selection
Would like more vendors
Hardly anything to see or purchase
Paucity of materials
Too few vendors
Insufficient vendors this year.
Poor!
Not many dealers – hope for more
Not many vendors/variety of goods
Sorry there weren't more vendors this year.
It was very limited; but those there were ok.
I wish there were more vendors
Disappointed there were not more!
Disappointed in number of vendors
Very sparse! Nothing to browse once you'd been through the first time.
Needed more vendors. Very disappointing – but nothing you could help.
Slim pickings – missed U.S. displays.
Scanty offerings, but a few nice books. Welsh tours table very good, as always.
Short on vendors and short on Welsh and Celtic items
Disappointed that it was too difficult for US vendors to come
Not enough variety
Didn't have much to offer in line of gifts – books, jewelry, dolls, etc.
Very disappointed there weren't more vendors selling Welsh goods.
There have been more exhibits other years.
Small choice of shops
Poor compared with previous years.
We had hoped to find more jewelry.
Unfortunately no clue to lack of participants
Seemed a small number. Perhaps more of them need to be solicited from shops in Host City. At other conference, they sell and we get a percentage or they pay for having a table
Wished it could have been bigger.
Hoped for more booths.
Too few participants.
A little sparse
There was very little to buy, or choose from.
The problem was, apparently, Canada's Customs that prevented several merchants from coming.
Not a large enough display and items
The lack of vendors from the US was noticeable but I understand why they did not come. There were a nice variety of items in the booths present
What was there was fine. There were too few vendors.
There just were not the variety of shops as in previous years. Aren't there Celtic shops in Canada that could have taken the place of American Firms that didn't cross the border???

It was too small
More books please

Question #4: The Tours arrangements were satisfactory:

Not well organized on the day of departure and while in motion would be my comments
Long one – No speaker system working (Couldn't get into Parliament) Short one – Driver great!
On our own, Not told city busses could be used – so wasted 15 pounds for one trip to museum
The Tour Company, however, only provided a snack, not lunch. They also had the boat a little overcrowded.
On the Friday tour to Parliament Building, proper connections were not made, so we were unable to see different rooms.

Had an excellent 3-hr. city tour that had a guide that was like a history book. Going on 1,000 island tour
Monday
Did not receive tour forms 3 requests – none received
T 1 Terrific
Did not take tours
Some details were dangling, though they did not spoil a great tour
Confused – Late sent to different places – walked around aimlessly – stood around for a half hour waiting
for guides
We paid to go in the Parliament Buildings and we couldn't get in. Also only had ¾ hour at Civilisation.
We enjoyed our city trolley tour
Not too much choice
There weren't any tour guides on the busses to direct us. We were let out of our bus and on our own with
no directions.
SA 2 was kind of screwed up
Tour guides needed to tell the buildings along the tour and to answer questions. Did not get to see the
Parliament Building and how the 2 houses worked. Very disorganized. Printed material about tour given
out about places.
I'll find out Monday
Somebody goofed and we didn't get the tour of Parliament. Very disappointing! Also it would have been
better to have some kind of narrative commentary during the bus ride.
There should have been guides on the trips
Our bus had no air conditioning or breeze. There was no running commentary on what we were driving by.
The Houses of Parliament tour fell through.
Didn't take tours
Arrangements were satisfactory but the F4 tour was disappointing – no tour guide, did not see Parliament
Chambers.
All day tour on Friday - #4 not allowed to tour Parliament Buildings due to no confirmation. No
communication!
The tour of Parliament and the Stables was excellent – tour guides fantastic
City tour on Thurs. – Excellent
The Friday all day (#4) was a rip off. They did not lecture to us as we drove. At the Parliament and
Museum there were no guided tours as promised. The driver was in a hurry to get back early – we should
get our money back!
Not as advertised and expected. Personnel were very accommodating
One was and one wasn't Thur 1 (boat all day) Fri. 1 (City 3 hr.)-
Bus driver did not explain tour. Tour of Parliament was not conducted because they lost track of
confirmation.
We paid for a tour of Parliament buildings, which we did not see. Not enough time to visit Museum of
Civilisation
City tour director was not knowledgeable – could have provided more information. Mounted Police part of
tour was poor, could have had a video pertaining to the 'Music Ride'
City tour director was not knowledgeable of many sites in Ottawa. Also, was very disappointed in the visit
to the Royal Mounted Police Academy. They explained very little – should have had a video.
I really enjoyed the Bangor High school band
Bus had no good commentary enroute. Site guides were good.
Tour people excellent. Stop at Parliament was not scheduled properly and all that was planned for could
not be viewed!
Tour of Parliament was not scheduled and we were given a poor substitute. Double-Decker bus was
Unsatisfactory hot – windows didn't work crowded no PA system no guided tour
Ones I was on were excellent
Friday's all day tour was poor! A reservation error at Parliament, lack of pa on bus-

Question #5: The Opening Ceremony was satisfactory:

COMMENTS:

No talks. Where were the speakers? I thought I was at a band concert
Very colorful and Bangor Band was excellent
The band was great, but missed the opening waiting for the bands appearance
Did not arrive in time Heard that it was very good
Great! Band was terrific advertising of event would have been nice Chimes were terrible – wished more people attended
Sorry we missed it by one hour. It would have been nice to hear the band from Bangor another time i.e. Noson Lawen
The band was impressive. The band was super! Diolch Yn Fawr.
Excellent
Band was excellent, but what was the ceremony? Chimes in tower were very distracting
Bangor band was wonderful – too bad the carillon bells created such competition
Wonderful!!
Wonderful!! Even against those bells!
Too bad nobody told the band that the bell tower plays chimes from 2 to 3 PM
Should take place on Thursday when more people would be present
Spoiled by the carillon. Shame on them – and a disgrace!
Colleen Kennedy should have been allowed to perform at another time. She was willing to. She should not have been penalized because of a late plane. People would have enjoyed hearing her – I did when she sang behind me.
The band was great – but spoilt by the carillon playing at the same time
Expected opening comments by some dignitary
I really enjoyed the Bangor High School band
The band that opened the ceremony was completely at the mercy of a carillon.
There were no welcome addresses or speakers present!! No one knew why they were there!!
Disappointed that there were no local/provincial/federal politicians present.
I assume this is Noson Lawen
Was on tour so did not attend
Band could not be heard because of carillon no way to turn off
Wonderful worth the \$12,000 it cost
Could not hear band for chimes

Question #6: The Tea Room arrangements were satisfactory:

COMMENTS:

Bad tea and doughy tea cakes
In the “cellar” to speak
Very well done
Good tea and wonderful Welsh Cakes!
It was too bad it was closed mid-day; the only place to meet and mingle due to sparse market place
Didn't stay open long enough
Tea cakes were delicious!
Very good but were closed too many hours.
Great
Very nice to socialize and have tea and Welsh cookies (Thanks to the cooks!
Poor – no spirit like the others too institutional tea/coffee urn had been used for coffee
Delicious
No table decorations; too crowded; milk, sugar, etc. could have been on tables; awkward to carry; water for tea was tepid.

Absurd union rules
Not open enough
Welsh cakes and tea were lovely!
So many Welsh cakes – so little time!
The hotel should never make water for tea in a pot that's been used for making coffee. Yecch! The tea water tasted like bitter coffee!!!
Very nice. I liked the voluntary paying – hope you got enough money
Area was very drab – could have used even simple decoration
Not open during non-seminar times
What a nice idea!
Thank you for lovely Welsh cakes – That took work!!
They closed over lunch hour precisely when we wanted to use it
Disappointed – no tea bach the last night
It would have been nice to have the tea room open over the noon hour to use it as a lunch
It would have nice to have it open during the noon hour
Dirty table cloths not too clean no welsh cakes and tea after Noson Lawen
Okey
Many thanks to the Welsh cake lady!

Question #7: The Eisteddfod arrangements were satisfactory:

COMMENTS:

Did not attend.
I had trouble with adjudicators. Having just come from the National at Llanelli where musicianship is #1, it was hard to see sentimentality win, as it seemed to me!
Did not attend
Very good participants
Did not receive any information about literary Eisteddfod – What entry was received, or procedures for judicial
Didn't attend
Did not attend
Did not go
Room was too small, we had to stand quite a while
No opinion
Conflicting seminar
Saturday PM went very slow
Didn't attend
We need a larger room. Acoustics were not good enough. Can we alternate the performances (seniors; family; seniors; family) with a family set of judges and a senior set so there are not long lulls between performances
As a first time participant in literary competition, I had no idea how or when adjudication was done, and could find no one to tell me. (By sheer persistence, I found out)
Not big enough room. Though I had purchased a ticket, I could not sit.
Did not attend or get involved.
Did not attend
Did not attend
I did not attend
No not big enough

Question #8: The Folk Concert arrangements were satisfactory:

COMMENTS:

Very enjoyable

Noson Lawen There wasn't much in the way of "folk" but performers on Thurs. were quite good.

Enjoyed the Noson Lawen very much. Good variety, not too long.

Didn't attend

Did not go

Late getting in

PA system was bad

What folk meet? Never hear heard of it

PA system no good

Noson Lawen? That is a merry evening. It was OK.

Folk concert??

Didn't attend

Was this the Noson Lawen? Too much talk!

Where was this? Noson Lawen?? Was glad to see "local" talent showcased – nice variety, not too long.

VERY ENJOYABLE

Excellent

Good variety

Nice variety

Do you mean the Noson Lawen? I liked the water containers in the back

Not there

The choir was not top class – since it was made up of sections of several choirs – The MC – John Morgan was atrocious – and his repertoire very inappropriate for such a concert.

Not involved

i.e. Noson Lawen – One of the best I have attend in several years.

Missed at least a cup of tea after evening programs

Thoroughly enjoyed

Did not hear it

Question #9: The informal singing arrangements were satisfactory

COMMENTS:

Most of all the lack of tea and cakes The huwyl was really missing

Seemed too disorganized

Did not attend

It seemed tome that some were unhappy when the banquet ran over into informal singing time.

Not a good place to sing – since choir was not in residence, we missed their informal singing too.

Slow in getting started.

Hard to sing when everyone else was talking around us.

Good leaders – good pianists

Not cosy enough – room too big

Didn't attend

Didn't stay

Could have been improved

Enjoyable leadership

When announcing the number, might hold up the number on paper as well as saying the number of the next hymn

Not well publicized

Didn't attend

Leader need a mike to instruct singers as to numbers and verses

Not as conveniently located this year.
Did not start on time – people left rather than wait
Sound better if in smaller area
A little slow getting started – Hard to hear which song #'s
It was difficult to know what was to be sung. Too much conversation going on.
Haven't been yet. Don't know what or where the arrangements are. No one has said. Maybe someone should.....
Slow in getting started.
It would be good if they were able to start earlier in a private room --.
Some one should be in charge to start things
No dedicated place for singing. Everyone wondered where it was to be each evening, and we were always blocking cleanup operations
Should have started sooner – time-wasted – people left – someone should be appointed to lead.
It would have been better if singers could have been sent to another room because it took so long for people to stop talking and leave after the evening entertainment; also – leader should use a mike. Those in back could not hear page #'s called out
Poor – not informal in hall setting
Should have been a smaller place
Not well organized
The singing is only enjoyable in informal ways – which means lobby of hotel or conference center hallways, restaurant etc. But not in the space and setting which is the same place as every major event. It was very disappointing.
Needed a piano after choir concert
Needed more directors to start up
On Thursday it started late and many people had left already
No idea where or when they would be held – choir usually has impromptu session- we found none! Don't believe they were even in this hotel – Westin
But not the 10:30 PM times
Didn't seem to have a satisfactory location
Need little room
Could have been organized so that all could hear the numbers announced, perhaps by using a microphone.
Poorly organized – hymns not announced folks not aware of page poor start

Question #10: The Seminar arrangements were satisfactory:

COMMENTS:

This may be too late – but hope it helps anyway could not find address
I attended the seminar given by Dr. Paul Birt and it was excellent. I would have liked the option of a longer seminar.
The signs were confusing.
The 3 I attended were excellent. Peter Warlock, Hearst Castle, Folk Tales.
Great seminars!
Locations should have been on tickets – last minute (hand written notes at entrance to cap centers) were not conducive to prompt arrival at seminars
Except that two kinds of times listed caused confusion.
Did not attend
Not exactly as I'd expected. Would have been helpful to have handouts. I though one I attended was not as good as I expected
Did not attend
Great as usual
F34: Started well (informative specific) –degenerated into “talks about my village!” – Thus not satisfactory! F41: excellent!
Excellent speakers particularly Bishop Rees, Nathan Hughes
Sound system was inconsistent.

Difficult to ascertain room – no printout, No introduction for speakers, Audio-video helps not well prepared
Presentations were spotty. The Bishop and the Professor from GMC were good. Others were not good
Very good presenters and interesting topics

Disorganized – more reference to Canadian than USA areas to look for information on ancestors
The Bishop ran out of his handout, which might have been helpful, for he hurried over a lot of names
The seminars I attend were great – wish I could have gone to all of them!

The 3 I attended were wonderful!

How about a seminar devoted exclusively to teaching folks how to sing/pronounce the Welsh National Anthem?

Did not attend

Great seminar on slate quarries! Rooms were fine for the one I went to

Interesting seminars, although signage on Saturday was confusing – could have “circled” Saturday’s sessions if using Friday’s signage Was AV equipment pre-tested? The seminars had malfunctioning equipment

Noise bleeding from next room made one not understandable

Did not attend – not interesting

I questioned the charges on some – Why should people pay to hear a promotional talk on visiting Wales? I think seminars are overpriced but perhaps you need the money to run the conference.

Living in a second class clip joint - i. e. He is rubbish

4 out 5 were absolutely superb! (Ellis on Celt) Fr22 (Brown and Greenalade on Images) Fr 32(Rees on Saints) Sa 34 (leader from Rio Grande on Welsh Lang.) Each was prepared, researched, scholarly, fun, etc. Terrific!! Do not have Nathan Hughes (changes in Wales Fr 23) It was the opposite – reminiscences, personal feelings, little facts that were contemporary

Sound from the other seminars kept filtering in and interfering.

The content of the seminars was first-rate. Some rooms had technical difficulties (lighting, video and sound) Perhaps sound an equipment checks would he completed before seminars started

Attended 3; they were very good Speakers truly were interested and interesting.

Fr23 badly needed a handout sheet – not really prepared well

All that I attended were very informative and interesting. In two of them, the audiovisual equipment should have been checked before the seminars because there was difficulty in getting enough volume for the videos and the projector should not have been on automatic advance.

Did not attend

Well attended and interesting

Didn't go

Very disappointing leaders

Question #11: The Banquet arrangements were satisfactory:

COMMENTS:

Banquet stunk Lamb was not done

Acoustics of room poor Nice menu

Food excellent – entertainment very good – I could hear well where I was but those on the left had problems with harpist speaking. Lord Neyland was superb – very wonderful person.

PA system no working on left side of room couldn't hear Master of Ceremony or Harpist

Dinner delicious

My lamb chop was no cooked enough and rather tough. The other food items were good.

Service much too slow. Despite being in a front row table we were served not only last, but very late. The lady harpist was excellent but her performance and repertoire much too long

Table overbooked, caused hard feelings! Outside noise very disruptive!! Speakers with Welsh accents unfortunately do not come across well to those of us who are used to more clear annunciation

Great food and wonderful harpist

Did not attend

Dietary (special) needs not met although requested

PA system on left side did not amplify

Excellent dinner the speaker was inaudible to may in the hall as was the banquet

Did not attend
One table overbooked sound system horrible
Mediocre
Delicious meal
Did not attend
A little long
Wait staff/servers were very excellent. The food was very good
Could not hear speaker or harpist
Service slow, but food quite nice.
Not attended
Banquet was far too long. Far too much entertainment. Sound system was terrible. Service was efficient.
They were excellent!
Great food! Good entertainment – a bit too long
Did not attend – meal selection
Food was excellent!
Entertainment should be restricted to a time limit
PA system not good
Delicious dinner
Again PA system was bad
We probably will not return to Ottawa for a Gymanfa. In Pa., USA we traditionally add much Welsh flavor and welcome out-of-towners enthusiastically
Great meal! Harpist talked too much.
Sound system was poor
Great food
Did not attend
Not enough staff for that kind of service – so meal service was very slow. Food was outstanding. Enjoyed the program. Problem with sound carrying from next room.
I enjoyed the efficiency of the serving (and the food.)
Our food was cold –
Liked opportunity to take necessary portions. Though desert and some other portions not good
Relocation system was not followed People not allocated to a table tried to claim the table
Did not attend
Meat seemed uncooked as the way we cooked lamb Desert hard to eat (teeth). Salad scarce in quantity 3 tiny potatoes.
Except lack of waitpersons delayed everything! Not the fault of WNGGA – Ottawa.
Sit with strangers (friendly) but never found friends.
The meal was awful – Lamb a poor choice- Potatoes dried out – Salad not good – Tour lunch was much better! “French Service - not good - The hot plate was a joke it was cold – by the time food came
The lamb was too rare.
Sound system inadequate – much difficult hearing and seeing.
Barely adequate quantity - lunch on Sunday slightly better.
Food – lamb not cooked Entrée only fair

Question #12: The Annual General Meeting arrangements were satisfactory

COMMENTS:

Glitch of the sound system made it difficult to be heard until repaired
No mike there either meeting ½ over before added. Piped music couldn't be turned off
Did not attend
Did not attend
Did not attend
Did not attend
Didn't attend
Too bad they took so long getting the microphone ready

Enthusiastically
No sound system for much of the meeting
Fine after microphone fixed
Problem with sound carrying from next room. Mike should have been hooked up before meeting started.
Did not attend
Did not attend

Question #13: The Awr Y Plant arrangements were satisfactory

COMMENTS:

Did not attend good idea!
Did not attend
The children enjoyed performing and were delighted with the social time. The certificates twoonies and dragons were a great treat. Many thanks to Allison for a lovely time.
No kids
Enjoyed Sat. 11 AM
Didn't attend
Excellent
We enjoyed the children's program
Did not go
Did not attend
Did not attend
Enjoyed
Didn't attend
Did not attend

Question #14: The Grand Concert arrangements were satisfactory

COMMENTS:

Was good except for judicator was out of line and uncalled for!
Acoustics poor. MC made inappropriate jokes at inappropriate times.
Singing excellent. MC could be heard on the right but no well on the left. Sound system again.
Mike problems on the left side couldn't hear soloists
The sound for the male voice choir was not as clear as at the Sunday Gymanfa – may have related to where I sat – on the left side for concert. More in the center for Gymanfa
Concert and music was superb, but the comments between performers were totally inappropriate and in very poor taste
The performers were excellent, but the master of ceremonies was rude. Tasteless jokes were inappropriate
Could not see the participants – floor too flat! Should have been graduated in height, or participants elevated. Again Welsh accent not understood well!
But acoustics were very poor. We could not hear the MC!
I enjoyed the choir, the harpist and the 3 sopranos. The staff did an excellent job attending to the woman who fainted.
The Master of Ceremonies' comments were inappropriate – otherwise the concert was wonderful
The MC comments and jokes were inappropriate in a concert. The concert itself was excellent.
The singers were great but the MC was terrible and completely not appreciated for his comments and "jokes." I hope this style is never repeated!
MC told inappropriate stories – spoiled the lovely atmosphere of a wonderful concert
Did not like MC – not a suitable candidate for this type of occasion
PA system on left side was poor. Could not hear MC.
Excellent programs – choir, soloist, etc., a bit inappropriate of the MC.
For an audience of more women who are older, male humor, crude as it was has no place here. Must such jokes (sex, disabled, women) always be a part of this Welsh event?

MC a bit over the top and out of whack.
MC's comments were in poor taste, completely inappropriate and embarrassing.
I was very upset by the very detrimental comments of your MC, toward the choir and his rude jokes.
Great choir – wonderful soloists
Excellent
Mr. Morgan's jokes were inappropriate and in bad taste. The music was great!
Too much harp music
Noise bleeding from another event made it most difficult to hear and understand. The MC could have been eliminated – gladly – he was lousy!
Microphone setup was poor – harpist and soloists had no speaking mic and half of the room couldn't hear the MC (which was probably no great loss)
Could not hear Master of Ceremonies
The music was wonderful!!!! The Master of Ceremonies was terrible. His jokes were in poor taste.
The soloist singers were delightful! The Concert Choir was wonderful! The evening was ruined by the MC. Please don't interrupt the beautiful flow of music with a "celebrity" who was so disruptive. The acoustics were very poor And we heard kitchen noises constantly!
I know you needed to get areas girls in but an alto would be good.
MC was out of line with jokes
All but the MC – bad
Super
A bit long. MC – well, I won't be watching his TV show. I've heard better – fewer jokes and more keeping with a concert, not his personal comedy show
Couldn't understand the MC at times – he needed a better microphone/sound system
Wonderful !
Too many soloists – not enough Welsh Choir. I didn't care for MC's attempts at humor
Venue wasn't appropriate and the room was too large and sound system inadequate. A lot of sound bleed from hotel staff
PA system not good
Not enough of choir wanted to hear more from them. One special person enough – 3 too much.
I would have preferred hearing the male chorus without additional female soloists and a Capella
Wanted more of the men "choir" less sopranos.
Acoustics in concert room were bad.
I couldn't see a performer because of sitting too far back. But love the music.
Poor venue – acoustics poor, too spread out – difficult to see, not worshipful
Very inappropriate MC – couldn't understand him; inappropriate!!
Outstanding. Great job!
When I attend the National, I like to hear an all-Welsh program. I can hear non-Welsh music at home by good vocal groups and soloists
Did not like like the MC
I felt 3 operatic sopranos was too much.
Could not hear comments
Wonderful – with the exception of off-colour humor by John Morgan (not appropriate!)
Except the MC was a disgrace!
Beautiful, simply stupendous
The best concert since 1988(Bryn Terfel, Elinor Bennett, Caernarfon Choir). The finale was spectacular.
Program – good length, nice variety – very enjoyable
Again with Genny's help
Not enough Welsh
Screen MC's
Screen MC's
Choir was magnificent.
Excellent concert
Too long; too much "special music"
Would have enjoyed other voices besides just sopranos. Also more Welsh musical solos and not so much operatic!
The MC was terrible! Spoke too fast – dropped voice at punch lines – he was not funny.

Wonderful! Men's choral group – fabulous – too much solos opera – we'd like more men's choral! MC offensive, obnoxious – completely ruined the flavor of the program every time he opened his mouth! 3 sopranos with too many songs. Really boring interruptions of the choir, the choir was the draw. . Wonderful chorus., Good selection of music.
Chorus – wonderful –
The sound system could have had better technicians at the controls.
Arrangements were satisfactory but the MC, Mr. Morgan was a disgrace to the whole evening – His joke/stories were very inappropriate in such a high caliber meeting. He gave a very bad impression of US and Canadian TV programs – We've never experienced such an uncomfortable MC.

Question #15: The Welsh-English Service arrangements were satisfactory:

COMMENTS:

Role of Trustees should have been thought out and explained better. Sound system worked well this time.
Mic failed during solo presentation
Good use of Welsh. Super Sermon
Difficult to hear the speakers – especially the Bishop –
Wonderful sermon –
3 men as ministers is one man too much! A woman must be included. No one announced where the offering was to go. Sermon was fine, but no liturgy, no opportunity for congregation to participate except for the hymns. We must have worship in a church.
No worship setting; i.e. altar, etc.
Did not attend
I'd like to have a list of folks remembered in death
More male choir numbers!
Poor venue
Very moving service
Wonderful especially the Bishop's sermon "Service for the Lord's Day" format might be considered.
Purpose for offering not mentioned.
Great
Did not attend
Couldn't hear half the time from the back seats
The sound technicians should have been better organized

Question #16: The Sunday Afternoon Gymanfa arrangements were satisfactory

COMMENTS:

Good
Poor acoustics in room. I could not hear the people on either side. One goes to Gymanfa Ganu for the glorious ocean of sound; but it was missing!
Morris was wonderful!
Put performers upon stage so you can see them
Great director and music – enough Welsh for once
Good conductor! Loved having the choir part of the Gymanfa
It was difficult to hear the other parts. Perhaps this is because the event was so well attended. The organ drowned out the bass section though.
Excellent
Did not attend
Roy made an excellent leader –
Could not see director
I like it when the leader tells us a little about the hymns and instructs and encourages us. I experienced very little of these features –

Too much Welsh and 6 songs were brand new to me.
Wonderful
Venue wasn't appropriate. The room was too large and sound system inadequate; a lot of sound bled from, the hotel staff
More male chorus numbers!
Enjoyed the conductor greatly!
A good conductor, but a pity we weren't focused much on the words, and thus more on God!
Poor venue
Not too much getting up and down. Conductor very agreeable.
Difficult to see conductor
Conductor had everyone confused too often. Verses should be announced individually i.e. "1st verse in Welsh." Or by words, not announced all at once. It was too easy to get confused and not remember
Didn't attend
You should have had Alun Thomas do a solo piece
Good
Director gave confusing directions, sang too much Welsh.
Did not attend
Wonderful in every way
A large number of unfamiliar songs. (at least from the area where I live)
Hard to hear. I don't sing so sat back to let singers have front seats and so couldn't see well or hear.
Outstanding! Roy Morris is superb! Every word is clear and his directions and rapport with audience is simply great.
Might provide more space for part singers. Thanks for providing water.
Great director a great job
More English, less Welsh. Most of us can't speak it and don't know what the words mean.
Was not there

Question #17: The Intercession Meal arrangements were satisfactory:

COMMENTS:

Started earlier than scheduled – caused some problems
Good
It was greatly improved when the noisy music was turned off.
Excellent
Extremely cold in the room, but real good and quick. Efficient service
The best meal between sessions at the Gymanfa I have attended – very efficient handling of a large crowd
Delicious food. It helped to have 3 buffet tables set up.
No food left by the time we got there – meat or dessert
Insufficient food and seating!
Super
Delicious
This was excellent! Food was great!
Did not attend
The room was cold so the food had no warmth by the time you ate it, besides me being physically cold
Fantastic job getting people in and out with lots of time to spare. Very relaxing.
Again it was excellent!
Yum! Very well done!
There was just pasta selection
Delicious and much better than boxed lunch!
Excellent food.
Well done!
Good food served in a timely manner
What a great meal served with a minimum of fuss
Did not go
Didn't attend

Did not attend. I have a wheat allergy. Pasta bar did not give me any options.

The food was cold again –

Excellent; efficiently done. Very good food and arrangements.

Did not attend

Very well organized and food service great. Nice to have Shannon and Gwyneth back.

It was a really good meal.

Great

Horrible – nothing but boring, boring pasta with no choice – Only too many desserts for people who don't eat them anyway

Cold pasta, plain lettuce salad, terrible coffee. Set-up was good. Waiters were fine.

Was not there

Except for opening the doors before 5PM as stated, caused

Question #18: The Sunday Evening Gymanfa arrangements were satisfactory:

COMMENTS:

Superb

Confusing “instructions” re Welsh/English! Artists were wonderful. Good atmosphere

Soloists excellent at both sessions as was the male voice choir

Everything was great

I got a better seat! It was great!

Excellent

Wonderful evening

But why didn't we sing Aberystwyth?

Could not see director

More familiar songs this time

Wonderful

Fine I'm sure

Song choice, wanted some more familiar hymns. Everyone not a music major.

More male chorus numbers!

Songs that were chosen were too hard and confusing. Wanted more familiar hymns.

Wonderful! Thank you for a wonderful Gymanfa Ganu!

If we sing “Hen Wlad” (a foreign anthem in Canada) it is respectful to sing “O Canada” too.

Poor venue

Pleased to be able to attend

Good

Director embarrassed the choir. Too much Welsh. Sang many unfamiliar tunes.

Director was too full of himself. Too much Welsh. Embarrassed choir in my opinion

The conductor rearranged verses too much.

Perfect

More familiar hymns in the evening

Nothing to add to afternoon session except, sorry choir was gone.

Great. Gymanfa itself was great! Soloists were excellent.

The sound technicians were not organized.

Question #19: Overall Evaluation: No space for comments with this item.

Question # 20: Overall Comments:

A very moving first Gymanfa Ganu for me. Many thanks!

The singing was over directed. No Hwyl. Instead of relying on the Holy Spirit he was too controlling- did not use the feeling of the singers, but rather subdued and controlled them. Too many jokes, etc. Gymanfa

Ganu should be essentially a deeply religious experience, not a concert. The singing lacked the deeply spiritual robustness and rigor and power of earlier Gymanfa Ganu.

Not enough people on special jobs. Details not attended to. Can't do well and serve on more than one thing.

A thoroughly enjoyable weekend!

Thank you all for a fantastic job. Well done, everyone.

There should be no jokes during the concert – Do not need MC – just straight introductions. Need better sound system.

Ottawa was a beautiful setting for the 2000 Gymanfa and the people in charge were very helpful. It was very convenient to have the conference center connected to the hotel by an Inside Passage. The Wesson was a comfortable hotel and the meals in their dining room were enjoyable.

A ballroom does not offer favorable acoustics for singing or listening to performers or speakers. The desk had no idea what was going on, or where to send the guest. The noise level at many events was inexcusable, but I believe this was the hotel's responsibility, not Mr. Morris and his assistant's. I believe all the previous comments tell the story – but as I watched and listened the major concern over and over was – “What did he or she say?” or “What's so funny? I didn't get it.”

We were well pleased enjoyed your great city. Thanks!

Excellent work all around!

The convenience of the facilities was great.

We thoroughly the whole weekend

Fabulous!

First Gymanfa attended – fantastic experience!

A very very great success. Tremendous organization. Everything went smoothly and on time. The sound system was a problem – Many speakers were inaudible, except when Ron Evans was in charge at the Noson Lawen when the system worked so well. Bill Javes

Enjoyable. Great time – enjoyed meeting many new people – Music wonderful.

The lady talked too much who played the harp. She lost the interest of the audience quickly.

Thank you for all the people who make it such a success.

I liked the conductor but as a non-Welsh speaker, I felt there were too many verses in Welsh and I couldn't sing to the glory of God, as I wanted. I felt unfulfilled. I missed having “practice” sessions, i.e.; stopping and having sections do certain lines. Otherwise, what's the point of sitting in sections? I missed repetitive choruses and particular expressions (sudden repeats, accents, retards, absolute rests and other such “play.” “Hymns” (poetry) are not meant to be skipped around in their verses. The music (time) is not the only thing!

Thanks to everyone concerned. Everything most satisfactory.

Very well done. Thank you for sharing your beautiful city and for all your hard work. We'll be back to Ottawa.

In many respects my main difficulty is that much of this is getting out of my financial range. Please include low cost accommodation alternatives and tent and trailer camping possibilities.

Thank you all for a wonderful weekend! Well done!

Nametags should include country in bold type. Opening didn't seem like a “ceremony.”

No one said “Hi,” “Hello,” or “Welcome.” Where were the mayor, the president, and maybe a tourist bureau rep?

Not up to standards of previous years. Market place was very poor.

My name is Tegfryn Davies of Cor Meibion; and I have attended past Gymanfa, but I have never had such a bad experience as I witnessed with that so called “MC.” He should make a good PTO (?) living in a second class clip joint. –i.e. He is rubbish

We should get our money back on the Friday tour

Congratulations to Ian Morris and his committee. The whole week-end events were outstanding!!!

A special “thank you” – Diolwch Yn Fawr! Roy Morris – Superb as usual.

Acoustics not always good. Ottawa is a great place to visit! Thank you for having us.

Why no te bach after the Gymanfa????

Bangor Band had too much competition from chimes in Government Building. Noson Lawen was one of the best ever attended.

The venue badly need a different sound system – our hosts were very agreeable, - well planned

We will be singing praises of your beautiful city south of the border – and appreciate all the hard work your committee did to provide an occasion to come to Ottawa

Could have distributed info on local shopping area beside the attached Rideau center – there is a marvelous open air market complex only two blocks away Was there a Te Bach anywhere at all? Nosen Lawen – See comments under “Folk concert.” Signage in hallways was nonexistent or poor – needed in lobby too
The acoustics were poor.

Although I was disappointed in many aspects of the weekend, I thank the committee for its work. It is such an effort to put on one of these – I hope the San Jose planner can learn from the shortcomings of the Ottawa weekend. Thanks –

Wonderful except for MC of Grand Concert

Thanks very much! See you in San Jose!

You all worked hard and deserve credit. Tours lacked attention – Helping with bus loading, keeping group together and in the time limit need a better variety –too many repeated trips. Loved thing we found to do such as renting bikes for the paths. Enjoy my Gymanfa on a scale 1-100 90% - Good Job!!

All music superb The male choir of Wales, superb. John Morgan was inappropriate MC. Roy Morgan is a very special leader.

Very nice! The hotel, 1 mall and center were wonderful!

John Morgan was not a good MC – His humor was flat land after hearing such wonderful singing, his rather poor performance was disappointing – We can do better

A marvelous weekend!!

I like it when all activities are in the same area. This year was great Hotel and Hall.

Congratulation on a huge undertaking! Well done. Make sure you all go to San Jose to enjoy the next Gymanfa!

Like male choir to sing more a Capella

Great experience! It has been wonderful to hear and sing with so many wonderful voices under two such talented and enthusiastic conductors.

Needed signs for direction. Food at banquet was excellent. Best leek soup ever.

I appreciated the fine job performed by everyone involved. I happen to enjoy the Welsh Male Choirs singing a Capella – No reflection on the female soloists who were excellent – but I came primarily to hear the Male Choir

I have been to 5 Gymanfa this could not compare to the others. However, the music at the Grand Concert was great. Need more activities

Worship is much better in a church. Recruit experienced speakers for the seminars.

Intercession meal didn't have a variety to choose from, I don't like Italian food at all.

Welsh verses and English verses should be grouped to tell a story. Random order broke the flow.

There was a noticeable lack of Welsh flags, daffodils, and other items symbolic of Wales. A certain warm charm is created by a small thoughtfully placed centerpiece or stage decoration.

It would be helpful to know in advance of restaurants available in the area, as the intercession meal was very overpriced. In some locations it is a necessity - but in Ottawa it was not.

Ottawa is a very beautiful city. We wish you could have encouraged local exhibitors to the Market. Good atmosphere.

Diolch yn fawr for providing a great weekend! Sound systems should be better

Good choir. Very helpful! Staff – hotel and Gymanfa staff.

The best venue yet of the 6 we have attended. Very enjoyable. Will be here next time Lord willing!

With specific, correctable weaknesses and deficits.

Everything was well planned. All workers helpful and courteous. It was a most enjoyable experience.

A very wonderful Gymanfa!

List of local restaurants with suggestions from host committee would be helpful. The Welsh Choir, soloists, Ottawa Welsh Chorus, and musical conductors were magnificent!!!!

One easily overlooked detail was great – the ready availability of cold drinking water!!! Ottawa is a great place for a Gymanfa Ganu!!!

A woman I met told the conductor of the Wales Men's Chorus that she wished the Welsh men made more contact with the people attending. He retorted that in the five days the men were here, not one time were they offered a cup of tea, Welsh cakes etc. It made us feel so bad! Guess you owe them an apology

I always enjoy!

Would be helpful if no meal, recommending several eating places would be very helpful

Banquet book not too good. The ladies did not know where anyone was seated by name. Pre-booking with Gymanfa booking for banquet was better

Missed the Te Bach. John Morgan's jokes were not appropriate for this type of concert. They were barroom jokes. They diminished the great concert you prepared. Your committee deserves great credit for the work put in for this Gymanfa Ganu.

Good overall. Criticisms: sound system, no private for nightly singing, no Te Bach as promised in program we received. Ignoring Miss Kennedy. People missed class times because hours were used and military times as well.

It was a Great Gymanfa! Thank you!

Loved concert except for soloists. Why 3 opera singers even though they were good? Felt the director chose to many unfamiliar songs

Many people worked long and hard to give us hymn books with words under the music. I don't like it when the conductor ignores this effort and insists on singing so many hymn stanzas outside the music.

Excellent

Based upon the results, the committee and Chairman deserve tremendous praise for the many hours each one spent planning this event. Everything seemed to run smoothly

Some of the people who came ½ after everyone poured into the intercession meal had slim pickings land nowhere to sit (with cutlery etc.) The staff should have cleared and reset the tables and reserved some of the desert until late comers entered. Acoustics of the large room were not good.

Wonderful Gymanfa! You are to be congratulated. Our only disappointment was that we would like to have heard Colleen Kennedy sing.

Lots of great things, but some not agreeable.

The hotel /Congress Center/Rideau Center made things fairly easy. At banquet we were sitting with Patagonians – too bad they were not acknowledged. Maybe your "emcees" should be a minister – they know how to use the mic and most of them can tell funny stories! Because informal singing was not good, chances to mix were more limited. Inter-session a real plus!

Had a wonderful time! Thanks!

Ottawa was great – worth visiting and the singing was worth while except too much soprano-ing.

PA system poor. Couldn't hear unless sitting in center.

No hospitality - Could have used some signs in hotel – directing folks to other building. Morgan person was a disgrace!

Do not expect the little things to fall into place. Better signage was needed. Directions were not well stated or posted. Excellent hotel.

Generally a warm, well-organized Gymanfa. MC on Thursday was very good, not so John Morgan on Saturday. He did not judge the age/temperament/occasion – and his humor was too raw and unsuitable for the event. If it is within your power do not wait 25 years before hosting another National Gymanfa. Also a forwarding address is needed for those who did not fill out this form in Ottawa