

The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc.

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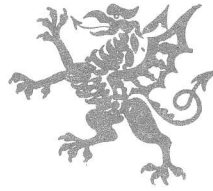
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(Come, Sing to the Lord)



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 A DDYRY CYCHWYN

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The St. David's Society of Minnesota

and

The Minnesota-Iowa Gymanfa Ganu Association

welcome you to the 47th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu
 on September 1, 2 and 3, 1978.

1978 MINNEAPOLIS GYMANFA COMMITTEE

General Chairman
 DAVID E. THOMAS
 1870 Roblyn Avenue
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55104
 612/644-4468

Vice-Chairman for Public Relations
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 St. Peter, Minnesota 56082
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 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419
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 P.O. Box 239
 Lake Crystal, Minnesota 56055
 507/871-7587

Treasurer
 MISS BETTY KINSEY
 2222 Nicollet Avenue
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404
 612/871-7587

July 1978

To All Members and Friends
 of the National Gymanfa

Labour Weekend - and all it means to the Welsh of the United States and Canada - is fast approaching and I trust you have already made plans to be in Minneapolis on September 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

This will be the first National Gymanfa to be held in Minneapolis and it will have its own especial flavor. The local committee is young and enthusiastic and has prepared a varied and stimulating program for us. The hotel facilities are excellent, the city and its environs are beautiful and the Westerners are noted for the warmth of their hospitality.

The Annual Meeting of the WNGGA will be held on Saturday, September 2nd, at 9 a.m. During the past two years the Constitution Committee has worked diligently and will present for your approval a new Constitution prepared in accordance with the desires of the membership present at recent Annual Meetings. The Hymnal Committee too has been hard at work and will have excellent progress to report to you on the preparation of a new hymn book. We solicit your financial contributions to this very necessary and worthwhile project.

Please send your membership dues and Endowment Fund gifts to the National Secretary.

Enquiries and donations to the 1978 Minneapolis Gymanfa should be addressed to: Minneapolis N.G.G. Committee, P.O. Box 8, St. Peter, Minn. 56082.

The Gymanfa is an important part of our great heritage and this National again provides an opportunity for us to participate in an outstanding event with first-class talent, to renew old friendships, to make new ones and, above all, to "Sing unto the Lord". It would give me tremendous pleasure to hear you say following the 1978 National, "this too has been one of the best". With you there, and with God's blessing, this can be so.



Eluned M. Thomas

President.

THE 1978 MINNEAPOLIS WELSH NATIONAL
GYMANFA GANU COMMITTEE

Box [redacted] ST. PETER, MINNESOTA USA 56082



December 12, 1977

Mr. Jack Meadows
[redacted] Southern Boulevard
Youngstown, Ohio 44512

Dear Jack:

It was good to talk with you last Saturday. We look forward to receiving the stationery.

During the month of January I will have available some student assistance from the College and I plan to begin contacting potential advertisers for the National Gymanfa Ganu Program Booklet.

Enclosed with this note are 60 copies of the promotional brochure which we put together here. If you want more, be sure to let me know.

Incidentally, could you send me the names and addresses of all of the members of the Board of Trustees. I assume they will be on the stationery but with the Christmas rush, I don't anticipate the stationery getting here until after Christmas. If you could just send me one sheet, I could then begin my contacts with them on distribution of the promotional brochure.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Ellis J. Jones
Ellis J. Jones

Enclosures

GENERAL CHAIRMAN.....	Mr. David Thomas, [redacted] Roblyn Street, St. Paul, MN 55104
Vice Chairman for Events.....	Mrs. Kay Vandersluis, [redacted] East Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN 55419
Vice Chairman for Music.....	Reverend Neal Lloyd, [redacted] Princeton, St. Paul, MN 55105
Vice Chairman for Publicity.....	Dr. Ellis J. Jones, [redacted] West Jefferson, St. Peter, MN 56082
Vice Chairman for Special Projects.....	Mr. Richard Roberts, [redacted] West 60th Street, Edina, MN 55424
Secretary.....	Miss Elma Jones, Route [redacted], Lake Crystal, MN 56055
Treasurer.....	Miss Betty Kinsey, [redacted] Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404

THE 1978 MINNEAPOLIS WELSH NATIONAL
GYMANFA GANU COMMITTEE

Box [redacted], ST. PETER, MINNESOTA USA 56082



December 9, 1977

Mr. Jack Meadows
[redacted] Southern Boulevard
Youngstown, Ohio 44512

Dear Jack:

Sorry I missed your telephone call. My schedule is so hectic with offices not only at the College but also at home and with numerous obligations out of town that it seems I'm usually not at the place where the phone calls come.

Because we are planning numerous letters to potential advertisers for the National Gymanfa Ganu program booklet, we do need more stationery. It would be appreciated if you would send one ream (500 sheets) to me directly at the address given at the bottom of this sheet.

Our weather here continues to set all time records for coldness--minus 53 wind chill this morning. Hopefully it will warm up to zero tomorrow.

Sincerely,


Ellis J. Jones

cc: David Thomas

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FROM MY AMERICAN DIARY

By JOHN O. MORGANS



*Eluned Thomas
President of N.G.G.A. of
America and Canada*

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota — True to the example of the high standard established by the National Gymanfa Ganu Association over recent years, the annual festival held for the first time in this city was visibly expressive of the determination for preserving a prestigious reputation.

From the first eager arrival to the last reluctant departure, the feeling prevailed that the 47th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu festival at Minneapolis was an event of truly wonderful happenings.

Separate from the powerful singing attraction of the gymanfa, yet functioning smoothly within the conventional programme structure, were the several features which offered an admixture of enjoyment for everybody.

David E. Thomas, chairman of the planning committee, comprising representatives from the St. David's Society of Minnesota and the Minnesota-Iowa Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association had prepared a full and diversified three-day programme, which included the Twin Cities Tours, Welsh Seminars, Noson Lawen, Te Bach, WNGGA Luncheon, Awr y Plant, Gala Concert, WAYCUS Breakfast, Welsh-English Church Service, with all events leading to the climactic gymanfa ganu sessions.

The official programme was launched on Friday morning as the fleet of tour buses moved off from the Hotel Leamington with the Ddraig Goch flying proudly in the gentle breeze and warm sun. Mid-day was observed with informal community singing under the direction of Olwen Morgan Welk of Ripon, Wisconsin at the Federal Atrium.

Unofficially the programme had started the previous evening when a large crowd of early arrivals gathered in the registration area. The desire to sing soon became evident and Morris Wrench of Youngstown, Ohio was pressed into service as emergency conductor. In a remarkably short time hundreds assembled and additional accommodation was hurriedly made available for the first singing of well-remembered Welsh hymns.

The seminars, all imaginative and innovative and new to the gymanfa festival discussed "The Legend of Prince Madoc," introduced by the Rev. Neal

South America:" and "Welsh Folk Dancing" with popular group participation. All seminars were well patronized.

Subtle humor, traditional Welsh comedy, music and many surprises attended the events of the Noson Lawen under the direction of Mrs Mary Mergenthal and the Rev. Neal Lloyd. "The Riverblenders", a 44 voice chorus from St. Peter contributed immensely to the enjoyment of the happy evening with their spirited choruses.

Miss Eluned Thomas, president of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, guest of honour at the official luncheon, commended the members of the sponsoring committee for the warmth of their welcome and for the excellent programme they had prepared.

She expressed confidence that the gymanfa would be a "memorable occasion and worthy of our finest traditions".

Eluned spoke eloquently of the National Gymanfa "as a rich heritage — may we ever cherish it in honour of those who have gone before and preserve it for those who will follow us". She asked the guests and members everywhere to subscribe generously toward the cost of publishing the new hymnals in time for the Golden Anniversary Gymanfa Ganu at Niagara Falls, New York, next summer.

Dr. Jane Ann Roberts, who had participated in the Noson Lawen, presided over the luncheon, and appropriate music, with a selection of Welsh airs were played on the harp by Lorraine

Singing in beautiful voice and harmony, the members of the chorus demonstrated their obvious joy in singing to a Welsh audience. They were in Wales last summer, and in commemoration of the visit they sang "All Through the Night", "The Ash Grove" and the haunting refrains of "We'll Keep a Welcome".

Nansi Richards on her fifth professional singing visit to the United States thrilled her enraptured listeners with her magnetic stage presence and golden voice of incredible range and quality, with Lyn Harry as accompanist.

Internationally renowned as national eisteddfod prizewinner, concert and recording artist, Nansi's generous repertoire included selections from the classics, popular melodies and enduring Welsh favourites. Long remembered will be her inspiring renditions of "Llam y Cariadau" and "Cymru Fach".

She left the stage to a tumultuous standing ovation, the Cymric heritage seen excitingly alive in its sincere and spontaneous tribute to the great artiste from Cwmgorse.

"I Musici Bemidji", an instrumental group of four young people from Bemidji State University, Minnesota added their delightful contributions to the joys of the evening. The group was organized recently to give accurate historical performances of baroque music.

The WAYCUS Breakfast (Welsh Associated Youth of Canada and the United States) was well attended. Miss Cynthia Jones of Los Angeles, National president, presided. The attendance was encouraging to the young people who are eagerly promoting the Welsh awareness on the North American scene. They are also contributing of their talents for the support of the parent organization.

The Sunday morning Welsh-English Church Service at Westminster Presbyterian Church was noteworthy for a full attendance in a church with a congregation of 3,000 members.

ganu featured the teamwork of Lyn Harry as conductor and Steven Jensen on the organ. Lyn, as everyone knows is a veteran of the gymanfa, while Steven is probably the youngest organist to have officiated at a national gymanfa.

The capacity participants of hymn responded eagerly and well to both conductor and organist. Internationally acclaimed as a musical director, and still remembered as the conductor of the Morryston Orpheus, Lyn is a graduate of the singing traditions of South Wales with impressive credits through instantly recognized academies in Britain. He was impressive with his ready grasp and rich knowledge of the musical scripture of our Welsh hymns.

On occasion, it has been said that he possesses the rare talent for arousing and inspiring the multitudes. Both qualities became apparent at Minneapolis as the assembled singers joined together in a superb demonstration of the hymn singing traditions of Wales.

Pleasing duets were rendered at both sessions by Dr. and Mrs. Ellis J. Jones from St. Peter. Dr. Jones was the vice-chairman for public relations. During the final session Miss Eluned Thomas introduced her successor as president, Dr. David L. Mandry of Ravenswood, West Virginia.

Minneapolis will be remembered for many delightful happenings. Thanks reach out for the cups of tea and coffee and the thousands of Welsh cakes which must have kept the ovens hot for endless hours. Thanks to Morris Wrench and Anne Davies-Thomas for conducting the impromptu group singing each night after the official programmes were ended.

Welcome was the appearance of former president Owen Roberts from Montreal after his serious illness. Both Eluned Thomas and

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The seminars, all imaginative and innovative and new to the gymanfa festival discussed "The Legend of Prince Madoc," introduced by the Rev. Neal Lloyd; "Welsh Pottery" conducted by Cheryl Nelson and Harry Watts; "Welsh Cooking" demonstrated by Mrs Alice Ann Jones, Mrs Laura Walters and Shelly Price; "Basic Welsh for Travellers in Wales" with Dr. Gwyn Walters; "Travel in Wales" by Marion Carr; "The Welsh of

choruses.

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The Gala Concert at Orchestra Hall lived up to its expected standard of excellence with the 3M Male Chorus, Nansi Richards and I Musici Bemidji winning instant acclamation. Roger R. Evans and David E. Thomas were masters of ceremony.

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Dr. Gwyn Walters, formerly of Llanelli, and presently professor of ministry at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, delivered the sermon on "Y Gymanfa - Gŵyl y Graig" ("The Gymanfa - The Festival of the Rock").

Both sessions of the gymanfa

hymns.

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The experience, with all of its beautiful memories will last a full year until we meet again for the Golden Anniversary at Niagara Falls, N.Y.