

Annual Report April 2019 - March 2020



CANOLFAN GERDD
William Mathias

This year's story

2019-2020 has been another busy year for CGWM and it was wonderful to celebrate twenty years since the Centre opened its doors by inviting some of our past and present pupils to mark the occasion at a special concert in Galeri. The year started with the usual excitement of hosting the Wales Harp Festival in Galeri. 36 harpists of all ages attended the two-day course and we were delighted to welcome Catrin Finch and Austrian harpist Monika Stadler as guest artists.

After 5 months of planning and welcoming Mared Gwyn-Jones to our team as Project Manager, our Canfod y Gân / Discover the Song sessions started in April 2019. One of the highlights of the previous year was certainly securing a substantial 3 year grant from the Spirit of 2012 Music Challenge fund to allow us to set up the project which brings disabled and non-disabled people together to participate equally in music with the aim of improving mental health and well-being. The project is a partnership between CGWM and Gwynedd Council Learning Disabilities Team and we are extremely grateful to the team for their support and enthusiasm. Through the project we have developed a team of 6 musicians to lead the activities and forged strong links with the wider community at the 3 locations.

Encouraging more adults to start or return to instrumental lessons is one of CGWM's goals. Following a pilot series in March 2019 it was decided to continue with the adult Community Orchestra in Caernarfon conducted by Nicki Pearce. During the year the orchestra has gone from strength to strength and membership has grown from 14 to 35 in 9 months.

In November there were two special events to launch the Wales 2020 International Piano Festival, a concert by CGWM piano tutors in Galeri and a piano day that brought together 46 pianists from North Wales to perform in various sessions at Bangor University.

One of CGWM's future aspirations is to provide more opportunities to celebrate and learn about music from other cultures. It was great to work with the Gwynedd and Anglesey Schools Music Service to organise a series of workshops on Indian music with cellist Anup Biswas.

Little did we think at the start of this year that we would face the most challenging period in the company's history as the year drew to a close. With the onset of Covid-19 and the introduction of the lock-down period, CGWM's entire programme had to come to a stop overnight. As the situation developed pre-lockdown we began to consider online options and were therefore able to offer all our tutors the opportunity to move to online lessons from the first week of lock-down with approximately half the one to one pupils signing up for online lessons by the Easter holidays.

Community concerts by our talented former pupil Elfair Grug were also scheduled for the end of March so we decided to develop a series of informal online concerts from the homes of our tutors and alumni students.

The last two weeks of this financial year were spent planning for the coming months preparing to move more of our provision online and planning keep in touch projects with our community groups. As an organisation working with 46 freelance tutors we were very aware of the extremely challenging situation they all faced and so being able to maintain elements of their income through CGWM was a priority for us during this time, as well as ensuring that CGWM survives the period. Here's a summary of the year's work with thanks to our staff, volunteers, tutors, participants, audiences, partners and funders for making it all possible.





The story in numbers



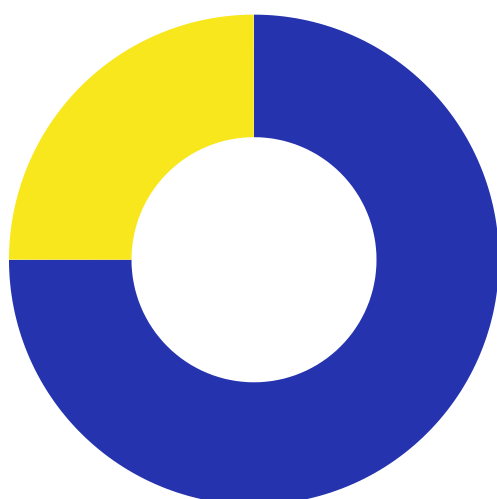
one to one sessions for 5-80+ year olds



participatory group sessions

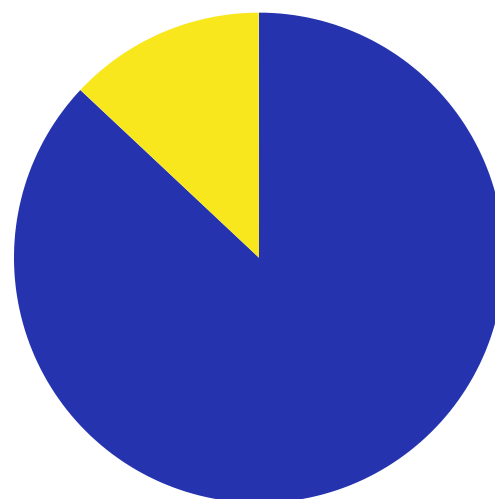


Language of 1-1 Lessons



■ Welsh (75%) ■ English (25%)

age of 1-2-1 students

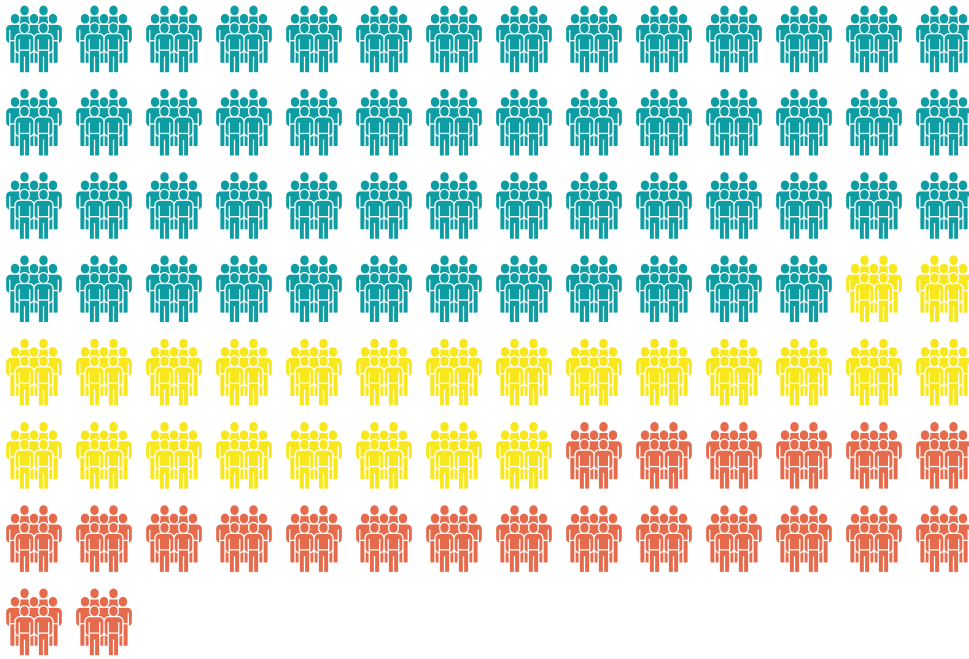


■ under 25 (87%) ■ over 25 (13%)



Canfod y Gân

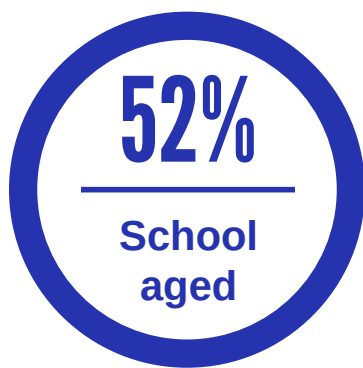
Workshop Languages



■ Welsh medium Workshops (54%)
 ■ Bilingual Workshops (24%)
 ■ English medium Workshops (22%)

“
90% of our tutors speak Welsh
 ”

Target Audience of workshops arranged



1-2-1 lessons & Group Workshops

1-2-1 lessons

We were pleased to see a slight increase in the level of one to one lessons at our centers in Caernarfon and Denbighshire during the year.

Regular weekly / fortnightly Group Activities

- Music theory classes in Caernarfon and Ruthin
- Camau Cerdd / Steps in Music for 6mths-3s and 4-7s in Caernarfon, Denbigh and Rhyl
- Youth Chamber Trios and Quartets in Caernarfon
- Doniau Cudd / Hidden Talent - creative sessions for adults (18+) who have learning disabilities in Caernarfon
- Côr Hamdden Mathias - a daytime singing group for older women in Caernarfon
- Caernarfon Community Orchestra - for adults of all ages and musical attainments
- Music Sessions in care homes in Denbighshire in partnership with Denbighshire Arts and funded by Comic Relief
- Sgwrs a Chân / Song and a Chat - community singing sessions in partnership with Gwynedd Council's Community Arts Unit in Trawsfynydd, Bala, Pwllheli, Gellilydan, Bethesda, Deiniolen, Tremadog.
- Music Memories at Rhuddlan Library in partnership with Rhuddlan Dementia Support Group and Denbighshire Arts Services.
- Canfod y Gân / Discover the Song - Spirit of 2012 funded project which brings disabled and non-disabled people together (aged 16+) to participate equally in music with the aim of improving mental health and wellbeing. Sessions in Caernarfon, Harlech and Pwllheli.

Occasional Workshops

- Composition classes for A Level students
- Indian Music workshops with Anup Kumar Biswas
- Voice Technique workshops with Marian Bryfdir & Kiefer Jones
- Camau Cerdd pop-up sessions
- Piano Day at Bangor University

Concerts & Performances

Concerts and performances organised by CGWM

- CGWM's 20th birthday Concert
- Music Stage concerts featuring students, once a term in Caernarfon and Denbighshire
- Caernarfon Community Orchestra Summer and Christmas Concert
- Summer Concert featuring CGWM soloists and ensembles
- CGWM Piano Tutors' Concert to launch our 2020 Wales International Piano Festival.
- Concerts featuring CGWM tutors and alumni students in community settings and care homes.
- Canfod y Gân/ Discover the Song Community Performances

Working in Partnership

There were many opportunities to collaborate with other organisations and events during the year

- National Eisteddfod of Wales - 3 performances on the field in Llanrwst.
- North Wales International Music Festival - performances at the Festival launch and concerts, Camau Cerdd sessions and working in partnership with New Sinfonia and the Denbighshire Music Cooperative on the educational project and with Ensemble Cymru and WNO on the Chamber Music Morning.
- Beaumaris Music Festival - providing a concert by young CGWM musicians and Camau Cerdd sessions.
- Bangor Music Festival - Music Steps sessions and performance by Canfod y Gân.
- Denbighshire Community Arts - Camau Cerdd projects and sessions in care homes.
- Gwynedd and Anglesey Schools Music Service - workshops on Indian music and Trustee training
- Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych - Camau Cerdd sessions as part of its Family Days.
- Gwynedd Council Arts Unit - Sgwrs a Chân / Song and a Chat project

Volunteering & Resilience

Volunteering

As a result of establishing Canfod y Gân / Discover the Song we have developed a volunteering policy and Volunteer Handbook and established an agreement of understanding with Bangor University Union in relation to volunteering. Our aim next year is to develop the opportunities for volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to be part of the CGWM family.

Resilience

During the year there was an opportunity to work with two consultants following an application to the Arts Council of Wales' Resilience Fund. With the help of HR consultant Kay Walters, a number of CGWM policies and staff contracts were reviewed and updated. Several policies can be viewed on our website. CGWM staff and board members had the opportunity to work with business development consultant Amanda Smethurst to consider CGWM's Business Plan and our priorities and vision for the future. As a result we have updated our Business Plan and refined our Aims and Objectives:

- A) CGWM will provide centres of excellence to nurture and develop the talents of members of the community including our students in musical performance, education, and composition for all ages and abilities, to enable them to reach their musical potential
- B) CGWM will work in partnership to provide exciting, inclusive and innovative opportunities enriching the whole community and supporting health and wellbeing through engaging with music
- C) CGWM is a flagship for music in Wales at a national and international level and will promote the role and importance of music in the region, nationally and internationally.
- D) CGWM aims to continue to develop a secure financial and sustainable future for the company

Thank you to our funders and sponsors

We are extremely grateful to the following for their continued support :

Arts Council of Wales

Gwynedd Council

Chapman Trust

Cyfeillion CGWM Friends for providing core funding and supporting several of our students with bursaries towards the cost of their lessons.

Thank you to the following for supporting specific projects :

Spirit of 2012, Pendine Park, Ffestiniog Railway, Arts and Business Cymru,

Ymddiriedolaeth William Park Jones, Denbighshire Arts Services, Menter

Iaith Sir Ddinbych, Cyngor Tref Caernarfon,

Camac Harps - Telynau Vining Wales, Salvi Harps Uk

Morley Harps, Niebisch & Tree Harps.

Thank you also to all individuals who have made donations to support our work



CANOLFAN GERDD
William Mathias