



Ontario Welsh Festival • Gŵyl Gymreig Ontario

Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association • ontariowelshfestival.ca

Dear Supporters and Friends:

We're back! This is the 62nd year of the **Ontario Welsh Festival** and the Festival is fast approaching. We invite you to join our celebration of all things Welsh on the weekend of April 21-23, 2023 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Ottawa.

Must-see events at the 2023 Festival are:

- The **Saturday night concert** featuring award-winning soloists from Wales. Baritones John Ieuan Jones and Steffan Lloyd Owen are joined by soprano Eiry Price, and accompanist Rhiannon Pritchard at Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa.
- The **Sunday Cymanfa Ganu** being led by John Ieuan Jones along with our very own accompanist, Alan Thomas, the heart and soul of the Festival. Come and sing *your* heart out!
- The **Friday evening Noson Lawen** where you can be part of the entertainment (or provide your hearty encouragement from the audience).
- The Saturday afternoon bus tour, **Ottawa with a Welsh Flavour**, led by David Jeanes.
- The presentation of the 10th and 11th annual **Gold Award** at the **Banquet** on Saturday night where your presence will help to make that event extra special. We will be honouring Dave Pugh as the 2020 Gold Award recipient and Meriel Simpson as the 2022 Gold Award recipient.

See your registration brochure for the many activities that are being planned for your enjoyment. Regular updates about the Festival weekend can also be found on our website ontariowelshfestival.ca or at Facebook <https://facebook.com/ontario.welsh.festival>

This year, for the first time, there is a line under **Donations** called Sponsorship if you would like to donate to a particular event or activity. Sponsorships will be recognized in the Festival Brochure (or can be anonymous, if noted). This is a more targeted donation which helps us do our best in presenting entertainment and boosts our ability to balance the finances of our organization. We would be most grateful for all your donations.

Keeping the Festival viable is always one of the challenges faced by your Board. As you know, the pandemic has played havoc with pricing across all sectors. When we use the facilities of a large hotel such as the Hilton Garden Inn, the Board is required to guarantee the hotel payment for a minimum number of room nights, as well as attendees for the Banquet. You can help by ensuring the hotel knows you are attending the **Ontario Welsh Festival** when you book your room, and by attending the Saturday evening Banquet.

Finally, the association hosts its **Annual General Meeting** during the Festival. Come out to hear more about our plans and share your views with us at this year's AGM.

Your attendance is the strength of our organization. Through your support the Festival will flourish. Mark the April 21-23 weekend on your calendar now. The celebration will not be the same without you!

Best regards,

Meriel Simpson

(Acting) President / Llywydd (Dros dro)