

AN APPEAL

**LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL  
MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD, JUNE, 1947**

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*Patron* : SIR HENRY MORRIS-JONES, M.C., M.P.

*President* : W. CLAYTON RUSSON, Esq., M.B.E.

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Llangollen, believing that Wales and her ideals have their own valuable contribution to make to international cultural collaboration, has decided to invite choirs from Wales and other countries to compete in an international musical Eisteddfod to be held in the second week of June, 1947.

It is hoped that the Eisteddfod may become popular among overseas and British choirs as an annual event which should give the reputation of Wales as the home of competitive choral singing a new lustre in the world.

Cultural exchanges designed to bring, in addition to their leaders, the *peoples* of the world's nations into clear personal association, form an essential part of world reconstruction following the devastation of war. Wales, one of the most hospitable lands in Europe, certainly among the most beautiful, and with a people possessing a long and honourable tradition both in singing and in the cause of fellowship and peace, is well-fitted to stage an event which may well capture the imagination of many of the world's lovers of music.

Llangollen, with the leadership of its Urban District Council, the support of some of the Principality's leading musicians, and the enthusiasm of its townspeople, is embarking upon a bold venture with confidence in its success and the firm belief that in promoting the International Musical Eisteddfod it will be rendering a service to Wales as a whole in keeping with her finest traditions.

The Welsh love of culture in its different forms, and especially of music, is deeply rooted in the centuries. It has been nurtured by the spirit of the National Eisteddfod of Wales, a festival of the people unique in the world both in its accomplishments and in its democracy.

The Eisteddfod is an institution that has substantially inspired and preserved Wales's faith in personal liberty and democracy, and given to her people a passionate devotion to peace and to the arts of peace.

It is no accident that a Welshman, Joseph Tregelles Price, was the founder of the Peace Society in 1814 ; that another Welshman, Evan Rees, was its first secretary ; or that the pioneer work of these two men was later pursued in the 19th Century by Samuel Roberts of Llanbrynmair, and by Henry Richard of Tregaron, who, known as " The Apostle of Peace," visited Brussels, Antwerp, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Verona, Milan, Geneva, and other Continental cities in his unflagging zeal.

It is no accident that in more recent times Lord Davies of Llandinam worked so hard for the cause of International Peace, and that the children of Wales, using the " magic carpet " of the modern world radio, send each year a message of goodwill to the children of the world, which receives responses from the young folk of many nations.

The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod proposes to stage in the second week of June, 1947, three contests in which the choirs of other lands and of Wales are invited to compete for a fitting symbolic award expressive of international amity through the arts. The Chief

contest will be for mixed choirs (men and women) of 50-60 voices, with Secondary competitions for (1) men's choirs of 25-30 voices and (2) women's choirs of 25-30 voices. The strength of the choirs is being limited to the above numbers in the first year because current restrictions on travel from abroad make large choirs impossible. Preparations are well in hand for a festival worthy of Wales in musical standard and organization, and the test pieces are now being carefully selected and will be announced shortly.

Llangollen is anxious that this international festival should not compete with any other eisteddfod but rather that it should be complementary and helpful to our other eisteddfodau, large and small, and that it should, by expressing a product of Welsh cultural attainment in an entirely new field, stimulate a greater, even world-wide, interest in them.

It is a bold venture, but Llangollen believes that one of the best features of Welsh life deserves boldness, and the town is confident that the International Musical Eisteddfod will have the approval and the support of all devoted Eisteddfodwyr. Indeed, Llangollen promotes this new festival of the nations in no spirit of parochialism. While conscious that the festival will be a great and highly desirable spur to the Welsh life of the town, it hopes that through this event the town itself can be of genuine and permanent service to Wales and to the strengthening of the good name of Wales among other nations. It is in this spirit that Llangollen appeals for the support of all Welsh people devoted to their age-old traditions.

Both with personal service and with donations and loans, the people of Llangollen are helping to give the International Musical Eisteddfod a firm foundation to ensure that it becomes a permanent feature which will assist Wales to make her better known abroad.

The festival can in addition to providing enjoyment and improving the standard of music :—

- (1) Help to encourage through promoting personal relationships, better understanding among the world's peoples.
- (2) Help to increase goodwill abroad for Wales, and
- (3) Through publicising Wales in many countries, be of high value to the tourist industry of Wales, thereby creating more work for our people.

A considerable sum is necessary to place the festival upon a firm footing. Within two days of the opening of the public subscription list, over £200 was received in donations and guarantee loans, and Llangollen is planning to organize various events to raise the necessary funds.

The Organizing Council appeal for all possible help from their fellow countrymen and women. All well-wishers may give practical help at this juncture by sending donations to assist the Eisteddfod funds. Contributions, small or large, will be very gratefully received and can be forwarded by using the form enclosed.

G. H. NORTHING, *Chairman, General Council.*

E. DENBY-JONES, *Chairman, Finance Committee.*

E. E. HUGHES, *Hon. Treasurer.*

W. S. GWYNN WILLIAMS, *Hon. Musical Director.*

H. TUDOR, *Hon. Director of Publicity.*

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