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The Cat's Whisker

Community Music Wales

Autumn Newsletter '13



Mapping Sound across West Wales

Our MapSain project is an opportunity for us to interpret and play with the sounds around us. Working with local communities in Llandysul and Llanelli we explored and captured our acoustic environment, telling our stories and sharing our findings through an interactive sound map.

The two areas are very different, with Llandysul being more rural and Llanelli more urban. We wanted to look at alternative ways to represent these areas outside of these labels of 'rural' and 'urban' so explored naturally occurring sounds that are more hidden. Llandysul has a number of sonically interesting features. The river plays a large part in the area; many houses back onto it, its banks flood and fill the lower fields regularly and there is a great deal of fishing and of canoe activity along it. We recorded sounds around the river but also under the water itself, thus introducing new perspectives to those who live in the area but may not have experienced it in this way.

In Llanelli we worked alongside Coleg Sir Gar to collect sounds around the town, looking at less obvious urban sounds. We also looked at how the sea interacts with the town, in that it is a seaside town, but without the being traditional seaside. As with Llandysul we were able to record both along the waterside and in the water, looking at new perspectives on the area. We also expanded to include sounds from the waters around Saint David's with a youth group who were coastering!

We've been updating the online map over the summer and collated the sounds and a creative response to them into an installation piece which was exhibited in the Powerhouse in Llandysul, and will be in Coleg Sir Gar, Llanelli in later in September. Project Officer Adam Williams, who worked closely with community music practitioner Dr Pete Stacey on the project, said "It was fantastic to see it all come together.

The interactive sound map can be seen at www.mapsain.org.uk, it's easy to add in your own recordings and we've had ones added from across Wales. We will be continuing to populate the map over the next year so come and join us!

This project was funded by the Arts Council of Wales.

Welcome

to the autumn edition
of the Cat's Whisker.

We had a busy summer, with some fantastic projects and our staff and tutors working very hard on inspirational activity. In July, I met with some of our North Wales tutors to talk about new ideas and ways of working. We're always thinking of how to respond to change and it was great to have their input.

We are delighted to announce that we have received a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, to work in Anglesey in partnership with Bragod on a reimagining of Robert ap Huw's 400 year old binary musical manuscript.

We're looking forward to WOMEX 13 in Cardiff in October and very excited to be running community workshops with the international and Welsh artists on the Horizons/Gorwelion tour.

We also had a visit from Ragsy, who appeared on BBC's The Voice, who brought us homemade welsh cakes and played us his new single – both great! Anyone else who would like to bring us cakes – our door is always open!

After six months Nathan Manley leaves us, we enjoyed having him while he worked on his Jobs Growth Wales placement and we wish the best of luck in the future.

Thanks for reading.
Hannah Jenkins
Director



Community Music Tutor Training Celebration



Community Music Wales celebrated another successful Community Music Tutor Training Course, with a final performance by this year's cohort of trainees on The Glanfa Stage of the Wales Millennium Centre on Thursday 18th of July.

The trainees performed an original piece they'd devised that expressed the movement and development of music over time. They explored different cultures using voice, body percussion, traditional instrument, acoustic and electronic music. The performance was well attended and very popular with the audience, one of whom wrote to us to say she felt "So privileged to be in the audience for the students of Community Music Wales's performance last night at WMC. Absolutely awesome! Such talented individuals working together to become so much more than the sum of the parts. Congratulations to all involved - proving music can change the world! Bravo!"

Scott who attended the course wrote about his experience: "I have just finished my final placement with Community Music Wales, at the Music Mix event at St David's Hall in Cardiff, and what a fabulous experience the whole tutor training course has been.

I came to this course as a music teacher, instrumental tutor, and semi-pro musician. A friend who had taken part in a previous course run by CMW highly recommended it to me. So with this in mind and with a little experience in running music workshops I decided to apply to attend the course, and was pleased to be accepted.

I didn't quite know what to expect when I started the course. Any workshops I had given before I did very much following my own and others ideas. I never realised you could train to do it. What I have learnt; is more about myself as a musician, a useful skills-base, and how I relate to a group of workshop participants. Workshop facilitating is not the same as being a classroom teacher, or guitar tutor. It calls for different skills; in nurturing creativity, being inclusive, and facilitating a group of different personalities with different abilities (possibly), and different needs and desires. Community Music Wales has helped me to achieve these. The staff and tutors from CMW have been lovely. Helpful at all times, and they've challenged us constructively, and given really useful feedback."

You can read more about Scott's experience and the tutor training course on our website www.communitymusicwales.co.uk



Bye, bye Bluebird!

We say a sad farewell to Dave Hughes our Accreditation Officer who leaves us in October. Dave has worked for CMW for nearly 11 years; he began by working on the New Deal for Musicians where he was widely known as 'Job Search Dave', as he advised bands and musicians on finding meaningful work. He went on to work as our Accreditation Officer, internally verifying all our informal learning and helping the people we work with get recognition for the new skills they learn. Dave is a big part of CMW – he keeps us abreast of all American TV show news, he owns Harry the Noiseworks Dog and was the ringleader of the great Christmas holiday rebellion of 2007. Having caught the travelling bug (Egypt, Cuba, Russia and Peru are just some of his latest destinations) he's retiring to travel the world in his Cardiff City FC top. We will miss him!



MusicMix 2013

The first week of August saw us working with ArtsActive and St David's Hall Cardiff again to bring you another fantastic project. Over the 5 days a group of 25 young people, aged 14-18 worked together to create their own music based on the theme of 'Legacy'. A team of our community music tutors worked with the groups to create a vibrant rock orchestra.

Running alongside this was a film project with three of Cardiff's youth centres. Each centre inputted into a film based on the same theme of legacy. This film was then shown as a backdrop during the performance of MusicMix.

At the end of the week the groups performed their fantastic compositions on the main stage of St David's Hall to an enthusiastic audience. Well done!

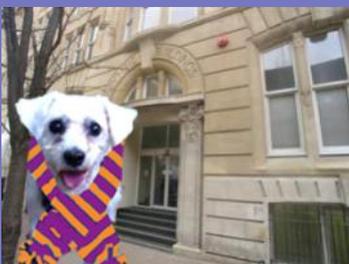


The MusicMix team of Arts Active and CMW meet up before the project

For up to the minute news and project information:
www.communitymusicwales.co.uk

Most Expensive Dog in the World

One of the transfer sagas of the summer is finally over after a period of intense speculation and scrutiny, just hours before the transfer deadline. We can confirm that Harry the Noiseworks Dog will be transferring from CMW for a record amount. The multi-million euros dog will be paraded around Cardiff Bay as he completes his transfer to the Welsh Music Foundation. Speculation over the transfer started earlier this year when photographs showing Harry as a puppy in a WMF shirt emerged. Harry said "I've had a great time at CMW and loved every minute of it but it's time to say goodbye." Harry is now the most expensive dog in the world.



Snoopy was unavailable for comment.

Staff Profile



Huw Owen Community Music Tutor

Huw has worked as a freelance community music tutor for CMW in North Wales for eight years. He specialises in working on social inclusion projects, using a variety of genres of music.

If you had to be stuck in a lift with anyone who would it be?

The devil and Diego Maradona

Favourite film?

Dyddiadur Dyn Dwad

What was the last album you bought?

Joe Gideon & The Shark 'Freakish'

What is your greatest fear?

Drowning in a 'Wave pool' in a water park

Which person do you most admire and why?

Someone who is honest

What's the first gig you went to?

Not sure. Possibly Ffa Coffi Pawb and Y Cyrff in Porthmadog Centre.

Cat or dog?

Got to be a dog, I'm allergic to cats. Lucky really, because I don't like cats.

Star sign?

Libra

If you could have an alternative career what would you be?

A Runner

What do you like to do when you're not in work?

Make music and misbehave

Eisteddfod 2013!

This year saw a dedicated area in the Eisteddfod to attract young people camping in the nearby youth camp site, Maes B, so they introduced Caffi Maes B! In the Caffi, there was a daily timetable of acoustic gigs, discussions on the Welsh music scene provided by Welsh Music Foundation and music workshops provided by us, Ciwdod. We organised a variety of workshops from hand drumming to music technology workshops and rock band workshops. We had families, children and young people attending these sessions and although the first couple of days were quiet, we certainly had more participants as the week progressed! One of the highlights was two brothers from Caernarfon forming a band, learning to play guitar and wrote a great song new with guidance from our tutors Mei, Huw, Dan and Dei!



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HUGE THANK YOU!

We would like to thank Jo, Nerys, Dan and Louisa, organisers of the Hwyl Festival for their generous donation of **£586.46!**

Jo, Nerys, Dan and Louisa are instrumental teachers covering the areas of north Cardiff, Pontypridd, Caerphilly, Blackwood and Newport. The Hwyl Festival was a family music festival at Llancaiach Fawr Manor in June. It showcases the talents of their young pupils and raises money for charitable causes.

Originally Jo, Nerys and Dan worked together at Forte School of Music Caerphilly, and after that closed in July 2012 they decided to continue collaborating together on various projects such as the Hwyl Music Festival, bringing Louisa on board as well.

This donation will allow us to buy some much needed music equipment to continue our work in bringing communities together through music.

Thank you!



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Bringing Communities Together Through Music