

Cymraeg 101

Learn Welsh and how to sing three beloved hymns ... *yn Gymraeg!*

Presented by Dulais Rhys, Ph.D

Not only is *Cymraeg* one of the oldest European languages still spoken today, it's also the most extensively spoken of a group of six Celtic languages that includes Cornish and Breton (Welsh's 'closest relations') as well as Manx and Irish and Scottish Gaelic.

So if you have Welsh ancestors and have always wanted to regain the lost language of your forefathers, here's a golden opportunity to make your dream come true ... and feel even more Welsh!

The presentation starts with basic letter pronunciation before moving on to short everyday phrases, such as "Shwmae" [hello] before gradually introducing more extended idioms, such as "Bore da" [good morning]. The emphasis will be more on correct pronunciation rather than the rules of grammar and syntax, not to mention the challenging and (in)famous 'Welsh mutations' – *Cymraeg* is one of the world's rarest languages where the first letter of a word changes according to context!

Unlike English (or even worse, *Français!*), *Cymraeg* is almost totally phonetic i.e. almost every letter or pair of letters has only one sound. So if you know the sounds of letters, you can say any Welsh word ... even *Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch!*

Nowadays, the norm in most north American *cymanfaoedd canu* is to sing most of the hymns in English (often translated from the original Welsh), with some shorter verses or choruses being sung *yn Gymraeg*. If you have always wanted to sing the original Welsh words, here's your chance to make that dream come true!

Learn how to say (then sing) the words of three of the most popular hymns sung in these *cymanfaoedd canu* (in order of difficulty): 'Rhys', 'Calon Lân' and 'Cwm Rhondda'. But be prepared to be challenged! Even if you are a relatively competent Welsh-learner, the lyrics of these magnificent hymn-tunes are somewhat archaic, difficult and can be a mouthful! Nevertheless, if you are willing to 'give it a go', when you next sing these hymns *yn Gymraeg* at a *cymanfa ganu*, everyone around you will not fail to be impressed by your heroic effort. And anybody who criticizes you will be answerable to ME!

Handouts of the Welsh learning and hymn pronunciation components will be issued ... as homework!

Dewch i ddysgu iaith eich cyndeidiau a chanu geiriau'ch hoff emynau! (Come and learn the language of your forefathers and sing the words of your favorite hymns!)

DURATION: c1 hour

FEE: \$295.00

EXPENSES: a contribution toward travel costs is appreciated.

Thank you for considering my proposal and please contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

Dulais Rhys, Ph.D

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REFERENCES, RECOMMENDATIONS & REVIEWS

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