

PRONOUNCING THE ‘PHONETIC EQUIVALENT VERSION’

- 1.1 Welsh dialects have slightly different vowel sounds. For example ‘Elen’ can be pronounced *ehlen* or *elen*. Generally in the score and in order to save space, the ‘shorter vowel’ (*e* in this case) is used. But as in this example, either vowel *e/eh* pronunciation is acceptable.
- 1.2 A longer example - the opening lyric: ‘Rwy’n dod o’r Wyddfa uchel bell’ could be sung with ‘short’ vowels (as mostly used in the score): *rooen dod or ooeethvah eeCHel beLL* OR with ‘long’ vowels (as in this libretto): *rooeeen dohd ohr ooeethvah eeCHel behLL*. Both pronunciations are acceptable.
2. In the score, the relative duration of a note will have a varying phonetic vowel version. For example, a short(er) note ‘mae’ has *maee*, a long(er) note ‘mae’ has *mahee*. For an example, see #7. ‘Rwy’n gwybod dy hanes’, bars 33-34.
- 3.1 In the Welsh libretto, multi-syllable words, e.g. ‘eryr’ are ‘split’ to make the singer understand the word, i.e. ‘er-yr’. This is sung ‘e-ryr’ so the phonetic equivalent consonants correspond to where they should be sung. So for ‘er-yr’, the phonetic equivalent is *e-reer* (or *eh-reer* - see 1.1 above).
- 3.2 If a Welsh word has adjacent consonants, e.g. ‘Blod-wen’ then the phonetic equivalent consonants are also ‘split’, i.e. *blod-wen* even though it is sung as ‘Blo-dwen’.
- 4.1. Some Welsh words ‘mutate’ at the beginning (for more information, refer to books or the internet), i.e. the first letter(s) change(s), e.g. ‘mam’ (mother) changes to ‘dy fam’ (your mother) – known as a ‘soft mutation’.
- 4.2 In this libretto, for some ‘nasal mutation’ words, e.g. ‘yng ngwyneb’, the phonetic equivalent is amended to the sung version *uhng ooeeneb*. Similar examples include: ‘yng nghastell’ sung as *uhng hahstell*; ‘yng ngwaelod’ - *uhng wehlod*, ‘fy nheimlad’ - *vuhn hehmlahd*, ‘fy nghariad’ - *vuhng hahreeahd*, ‘fy mhopeth’ - *vuhm hopeTH*, ‘fy nghlwy’ – *vuhng hlooee*
- 4.3 Exceptions to the above are ‘fy Mlodwen’ which should be sung as *vuh mlodwen*; ‘wedi’u pinio’ - *wehdee pineeo*; ‘daw’n ôl’ - *dahoo nohl*. Also, ‘y wybren’ has been amended to the more modern ‘yr wybren’ and should be sung as *uhr ooebren*. But in certain dialects, the ‘w’ is more of a consonant than a vowel so ‘y(r) wybren’ could also be sung as *uh weebren* – both versions are acceptable.
5. Some Welsh words have an indeterminate ‘vowel’ between the final two consonants, e.g. ‘Lloegr’. The phonetic equivalent inserts a vowel, so ‘Lloegr’ should be sung as *LLoeeger*, ‘llwybr’ as *LLooeeber*, ‘dieithr’ as *dee-ehthuhr*, ‘dinistr’ as *dinistuhr*, ‘ochr’ as *oCHor*, *et al*
6. ‘i’w’ and other examples is represented by *u* as in ‘few’