

PRONOUNCING WELSH

The ideal way for a non-Welsh speaker to sing ‘*Blodwen*’ with the original Welsh lyrics is to learn how to pronounce the sound of each consonant and vowel. Welsh is mostly a phonetic language so this is relatively easy – there are innumerable books and websites devoted to Welsh pronunciation.

The ‘Pronouncing the phonetic equivalent version’ [LINK?](#) is more specific to ‘*Blodwen*’ and should only serve as a guide to the sound of the Welsh lyrics. If possible, practice with a Welsh-speaker.

CONSONANTS

Welsh	<i>Phonetic equivalent</i>	As in	Notes
c	<i>k</i>	key	
ch	<i>CH</i>	loch	as in Scottish/German pronunciation
dd/th	<i>th</i>	this	‘soft’ th (see also ‘th’ below)
f	<i>v</i>	van	
ff/ph	<i>f</i>	far	
ll	<i>LL</i>	<i>place tongue behind top teeth & blow gently</i>	
r	<i>r</i>	rrrrr	always rolled
rh	<i>HR</i>	hr	h is aspirated before rolled r
s	<i>s</i>	<i>always ‘hard’ as in ‘see’</i>	
th	<i>TH</i>	thin	‘hard’ th (see also ‘dd/th’ above)
w	<i>w</i>	win	‘short’ w (see also w in VOWELS below)

VOWELS (+ have two slightly different sounds)

Welsh	<i>Phonetic equivalent</i>	As in	Notes
a ⁺	<i>a</i>	can	‘short’ a
a/â	<i>ah</i>	far	‘long’ a
e ⁺	<i>e</i>	men	
e	<i>eh</i>	day	no diphthong
i ⁺	<i>i</i>	pin	‘short’ i
i/u	<i>ee</i>	peel	‘long’ i
o ⁺	<i>o</i>	top	
o	<i>oh</i>	flow	no diphthong
w	<i>oo</i>	moo	‘long’ w (see also w in CONSONANTS above)
y ⁺	<i>uh</i>	bun	
y	<i>ee</i>	peel	as <i>i/ee</i> above

ALTERNATE PHONETIC EQUIVALENTS FOR WORDS USED IN THIS LIBRETTO

Welsh	<i>Phonetic equivalent</i>	<i>OR</i>
ai/a’i	<i>ahee</i>	<i>I</i>
mai/mae	<i>mahee</i>	<i>my</i>
oed	<i>oeed</i>	<i>oyd</i>