

Cariad: Welsh Traditional Folk Music

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This information is provided to give you a start on learning a little bit about Welsh traditional music. There are not a lot of Welsh traditional bands in the U.S. at this time so we hope that we can spark your interest! Some instruments that you might find in a Welsh Trad Band that are not usually found elsewhere are pictured below:



The triple harp has three rows of strings, originally of wire but now often strung in gut, played on the left shoulder instead of the right shoulder. There are also some small lap harps played in Wales.

A pibgorn is a pipe made of horn with reeds. It is made up of a wooden pipe and the horns of a bull. One horn is used as a mouthpiece and another to form a bell end which helps amplify the sound. The pibgorn consists of six holes for the fingers and a thumb hole at the back



A Crwyth is one of the oldest of traditional Welsh instruments. The crwth is a form of stringed lyre which uses a bow to play the strings. The strings are also plucked, sometimes at the same time.

Other instruments common in a Welsh traditional band are the fiddle, accordion, guitar, pipes, whistles and flutes. Singing is, of course, integral to many of the folk bands and Welsh Clogging is also featured. The Welsh have their own distinctive clogging tradition.



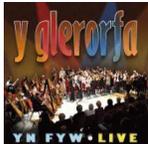
An important link to all things Welsh traditional is: <http://www.clera.org/saesneg/cleratoday.php>
This website has a links page that will link you to all sorts of great information about Welsh traditional music! You may click a tab in the lower right hand corner to request English text. I also recommend checking out my web page:

www.woodburystrings.com/instruction/groups-and-camps/welsh-traditional/

The link to *Cerdd Ystwyth Music* below is an important link to CD's and sheet music from Wales. I have pasted below some information about CD's that I recommend you start with if you have no Welsh traditional music to listen to yet. Some of these can be found in the states and even downloaded on iTunes, etc. A Welsh band to watch as of late, that has recently visited the US, is Calan: www.calan-band.com. They have several CD's now available. The best American sources that I am currently aware of for traditional Welsh music are: Jodee James www.jodeejames.com and www.mochpryderi.com. I also recommend that you visit my web page: www.woodburystings.com/instruction/groups-and-camps/welsh-traditional/ which will link you to tune sights, our annual Welsh jam session that celebrates St. David's Day in Vermont, and several other resources. For a tune book, I'd start with Sian Phillips' new tune book put out by Schott: *Welsh Fiddle Tunes - 97 Traditional Pieces for Violin* which includes a CD. It is pictured here on the right....



Cerdd Ystwyth Music <http://cerddystwyth.co.uk/index.php>
7 Upper Portland Street, Aberystwyth, Wales, UK Tel:+44(0)1970 623382 e-mail:sales@cerddystwyth.co.uk



Y Glerorfa In November 2006 Clera – the Society for the Traditional Instruments of Wales – celebrated its 10th anniversary. During those first ten years the society had concentrated mainly on organising workshops, teaching Welsh melodies and the traditional method of playing them. The 40 musicians who appeared on the Galeri stage in Caernarfon for the anniversary concert were the product of those workshops. The new ensemble needed a name. The Welsh word for orchestra is cerddorfa; Clera is the name of the society, so a combination of both produced Clera. Originally, there were no further plans beyond this single concert, but the enthusiastic response on the night itself meant that the new group simply had to carry on.



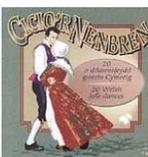
Crasdan – Dwndwr --- The latest album from this most accomplished of instrumental folk groups. This release includes a bonus DVD featuring 3 surround sound tracks, video and information about the instruments.



Hyn - Carreg Lafar --- The Cardiff folk group's second album, nominated for a Grammy Award in America. One of my favorites!



Gramundus - Siân Phillips---acclaimed album from St.Cleas based fiddler Sian. One of the original fiddlers on 'Ffidil', she organises traditional music workshops in Wales and has visited the US on several occasions. "This album is a vital part of the revival of Welsh traditional music", Taplas, Wales' leading folk magazine. **Siân has a new website: www.sianfiddle.moonfruit.com**



20 Welsh Folk Dances - Cicio'r Nenbren

A great source of traditional music!! This may be hard to find but if you can get your hands on it, I recommend it!



AR LOG - "I – III (1976 – 1981)"

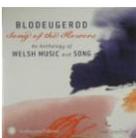
The 21 tracks on this delightful compilation are drawn from the first three albums of Ar Log, the premier Welsh folk band, to aid their silver jubilee celebrations. Constant throughout are Dafydd and Gwyndaf Roberts, while Geraint Glynne Davis and Graham Pritchard replace Dave Burns and Lolo Jones after the first album. Despite this personnel change, it's not easy to spot the joins between the albums, which shows how competent and confident they were from the very start of their recording careers.



FFIDIL (1997)

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED - PERHAPS THE BEST FIRST WELSH CD FOR FIDDLERS TO PURCHASE!

The fiddle players on this CD are: Bernard Kilbride, Gerard Kilbride, Mike Lease, Jane Ridout, Huw Roberts, Stephen Rees, Marc Weinzwieg, Robert Evans, Gareth Wheelan, Dan Morris, Sian Phillips, Julie Higginson.



Blodeugerdd: Song of the Flowers - An Anthology of Welsh Music and Song Smithsonian Folkways Record.

This is a beautiful album readily available in the US:

<http://www.folkways.si.edu/blodeugerdd-song-of-the-flowers-an-anthology-of-welsh-music/world/music/album/smithsonian>



Sian Phillips Trip To New England: A Welsh Americana Mix with Live with Vermont Musicians Sarah Hotchkiss, Iain MacHarg, and John Mowad. <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/sianphillipsarahhotchki>

We produced this album recently which captures some of the music from Sian's trip to New England in 2014. A real treat!!!