



6 August 2018, Tŷ Gwerin [Folk House], at the National Eisteddfod.

"The Welsh Music Archive was established at the National Library in 2017, in order to collect, and to promote the use of, music archives and manuscripts in the Library. In a brand new partnership between the National Library and the National Eisteddfod, we shall be commissioning a musician to pore over one aspect of the archive and perform a set of songs based on their findings from the archive. To begin these sessions, which we hope will develop to be an annual event at the Tŷ Gwerin, **Gwenan Gibbard** will perform songs from **the archive of [Welsh-language folk music collectors] Meredydd Evans and Phyllis Kinney.**" (*National Eisteddfod website*).

Gwenan, who is the Chairperson of *Cymdeithas Alawon Gwerin Cymru / The Welsh Folk-Song Society*, performed a selection of the collected items. This included singing a Cerdd Dant song, accompanying herself on the harp - Cerdd Dant being the art of singing poetry to harp accompaniment, the harp

melody and the singer's melody being in counterpoint, with the main accents of the poetry falling on the main accents of the music. The words are always given the greatest priority and the mood of the poetry must be reflected in the chosen harp melody and also in the singer's counter-melody and style of singing. Another item was "War Cuckoo"; traditionally, birds are addressed to carry messages of love - in this song to the lover in the trenches in World War One. All in all, an impressive presentation by Gwenan, and a commendable initiative by the National Library and National Eisteddfod.

Sam Simmons

Notes:

For more details of the National Eisteddfod and of Tŷ Gwerin [Folk House], see FOLK NEWS: WALES, this issue, page 6.

National Library of Wales: The Welsh Music Archive

- **The Welsh Music Archive:** www.library.wales/collections/learn-more/archives/the-welsh-music-archive
- **Welsh Traditional Music:** www.library.wales/collections/learn-more/archives/the-welsh-music-archive/welsh-traditional-music

Meredydd Evans died in 2015, an appreciation by **Mick Tams**, "**Merêd: let's celebrate the legacy that he left**" is on Mick's website <http://folk.wales/magazine/?p=443>

Mick also adapted that article for our **FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS 46**, it is copied to <https://issuu.com/traditions-uk/docs/ft-46> and to <http://bywyd-gwerin.cymru> (go to 5. Folklife Studies - Articles)

Gwenan Gibbard - Cerdd Dannau CD: see sainwales.com/store/sain/sain-scd2702

About the art of Cerdd Dant: see www.cerdd-dant.org/about.html

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