2026 Côr Cymry Tour

By Danny Evan Proud

Côr Cymry Gogledd America, the premier North American Welsh Choir, toured British Columbia this past July 7-13, 2026.

As one of the original choristers with Côr Cymry, I can confidently say that our 2026 tour, On Waves of Songs from Wales and British Columbia, was one of our best tours, a special tour. The excitement of gathering together in Vancouver, after years of long-distance preparation with the music and the language, carried over into spirited performances before full audiences in Nanaimo, Victoria, and Vancouver.

A special feature of our concert programs was the shared stage with excellent local choral groups: the Bel Canto Singers in Nanaimo (led by Fiona Blackburn); the Victoria Arion Male Choir (Sean Lampard-Quicke, conducting); and the combined choirs of the Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir and the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir (Liana Savard, conducting). The bonds of shared heritage and love of the Welsh musical culture brought audiences and choristers together in affecting scenes. I'll never forget the joyous, sustained standing ovations we received at the three concerts in British Columbia.

The organizers of our journey, OPUS Tours and Mari and her team, found the perfect balance for us all, combining performances, site-seeing, free time, and down time. We ferried across the Salish Sea (Strait of Georgia) to Vancouver Island, enjoyed outings to beautiful Butchart Gardens and to Grouse Mountain near Vancouver with its free-range grizzly bears and gondola rides, and capped off the trip with our Farewell Dinner in the revolving restaurant looking out over the Vancouver cityscape.

On the coach our tour guide Teleri shared stories of the Welsh who settled in British Columbia and of the First Nations people who still exert influence on the culture and character of the area.



North American Welsh Choir and friends relaxing with in the beauty of Butchart



North American Welsh Choir enjoying one of the many delicious tour meals against the backdrop of spectacular B.C. scenery.

To me, as beautiful as the land was, as warmly as we were welcomed by the Canadian hosts (notably the Vancouver Welsh community) and audiences, and as carefully our organizers planned and operated the tour, what made this choral experience unforgettable was the feeling of caring community within our ranks. Côr Cymry is a big, beautiful, musical family, and I can't wait until we are drawn together again.

Note: The members of Côr Cymry hail from provinces and states spanning the continent, and from Wales. Under Mari Morgan the choir was organized in 1998 with the purpose of celebrating and showcasing Welsh choral music, the Welsh language, and contemporary Welsh composers. We have shared the music of Wales with audiences around the world, from Minneapolis (in 1999) to Wales, Patagonia, New Zealand, Canada, and to many locales in between.



North American Welsh Choir joined by choristers of the Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir and the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir for the finale concert at Pacific Spirit United, Vancouver, B.C. – a capacity audience!

Summer with the Welsh Society of the Southern Tier



Held their annual summer picnic at the Hickories, in Owego, NY



David & Janet Allen met with students from Athens, Pa. ahead of their trip to Wales

Huw Boucher Plays Bach

By Ian White

On July 14th in Toronto, we were so fortunate to be able to listen to the magnificent harp performance of a young but upcoming virtuoso from Wales.

Huw comes from Penarth near Cardiff and was here in Toronto for the International Harp Festival (see article elsewhere). He was invited to play for us at the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church (TEMC) sponsored by TEMC and the Toronto Welsh (the reconstituted St David's Society).

Huw has just graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in London and is continuing in its post-graduate program. He has gained innumerable awards, prizes and scholarships for his prowess and is currently learning from the masters including Skaila Kanga and the amazing Catrin Finch. Upon graduating from the Royal Academy of Music he was awarded the President's Prize for the Most Outstanding Student and the Exam Board Prize for the highest final recital mark.

Forget being a student. Huw's performance was stunning. Bach's Toccata and Fugue was recognizable but totally different and superior to the normal organ performance. His Rachmaninov piece beat any piano, and then there were the other pieces. All excellent.

Keep an eye on this guy, he will be one to watch.

As an aside and footnote, the Welsh community in Toronto has had an organized church since 1909, mostly around the Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. Declining enrollments forced its closure two years ago and the remaining congregation merged with the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church.

The church building is huge and magnificent in its architecture. There are regular Welsh services which are surprisingly well attended by the current Welsh and the old TEMC congregation. Perhaps it is the angelic voices, or perhaps the tea and cookies after the service. Whatever works!



Huw Boucher

