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ymru Sant f Wales vid | Swansea College of Art Founded 1853

TREFTADAETH JAZZ CYMRU JAZZ HERITAGE WALES | menywod mewn jazz women in Jazz swansea

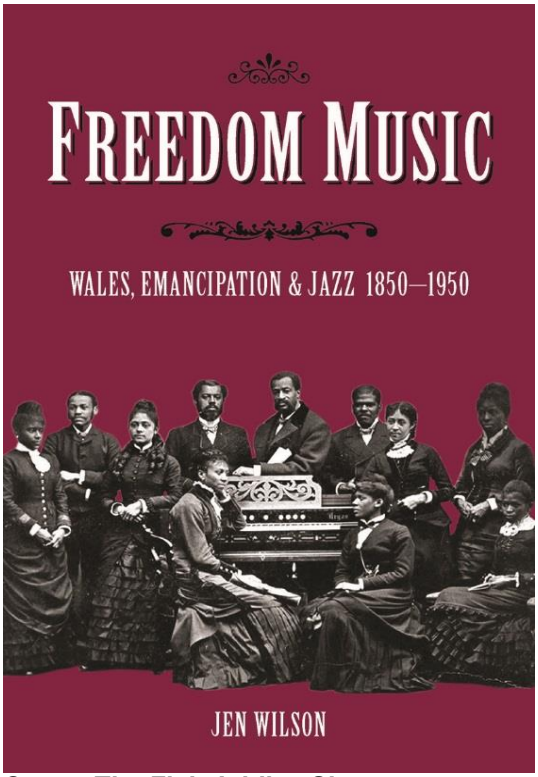
Review of the Year 2018 - Adolygiad o'r Flwyddyn 2018

Jazz Heritage Wales will be moving to a new campus in 2019.

We are a registered charity 1068022 founded by **Jen Wilson** in **1986** and run by a Board of Trustees and a team of dedicated volunteers based at **University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD)**. Jen was made **Hon. Professor of Practice in 2017.** We are not just about jazz but the social history, culture and politics surrounding the music. We are the only mixed media jazz heritage resource centre in the UK and have over thirty yearsô experience of working in the community and with cultural industries. We have developed and delivered projects that reflect the diverse and inspiring communities within Wales. There is ample opportunity for advanced academic study within our **Special Collections Resources** for aspiring students to acquire BAôs, MAôs or Ph.Dôs.

Hon. Prof. Jen Wilson

Jenôs book **FREEDOM MUSIC: Wales, Emancipation & Jazz 1850-1950** will be published by **University of Wales Press, May 2019**. The book reclaims for Wales the history and culture of a music that eventually emerged as jazz in the 1920s. The main themes of the book illustrate and emphasize the strong links between emerging African American music in the USA and the development of jazz in mainstream popular culture in Wales; as well as the emancipation and contribution of Welsh women to the music and its cultural heritage. The story is set amid the politics, and feminist history of the time from whence the music emerged ï which begs the question ôWhen was Jazz?ô to echo the question posed by Gwyn Alf Williams in 1985 ôWhen Was Wales?ô If jazz is described as the music of protest and rebellion, then there was plenty of that going on during the jazz age in Wales.



Cover: The Fisk Jubilee Singers

Jen won the Welsh Government's St. David Award for Culture in 2017.

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RTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF WELSH CULTURE AND HISTORY
Bangor University July 2018

Jen delivered an illustrated paper at this yearôs NAASWCH Conference called **GOING BACK TO DIXIE: A cultural fusion through ragtime and the cake walk, from Swansea's theatre stages to the Union Workhouse 1905-1926**. Later, a pre-dinner performance was given by Jen on piano and Margot Morgan, vocals, of excerpts from their CD **The Dylan Thomas Jazz Suite 'Twelve Poems'.**
ôThe NAASWCH conference is always inspiringôsaid Jen**.**

MOVING HOUSE – LEAVING UWTSD TOWNHILL CAMPUS LIBRARY

Photo: © Jazz Heritage Wales/Deb Checkland. Volunteer Mike Buckley (above) co-ordinating the audit and packing

Jazz Heritage Wales arrived at Townhill Campus Library in 2009. A Partnership Agreement was signed in 2010. We shall be moving to a new campus in 2019.

Stability through partnership.

Many professionals, archivists, librarians, museums and particularly the City and County of Swansea, have all supported and assisted in housing the Jazz Collection since 1986. **UWTSD Library Service** have agreed that Jazz Heritage Walesôinnovative research, together with community and performance work is an important part of UWTSDôs library resources, and provides us with a link to **WHELF** (Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum), which co-ordinates Special Collections in Wales. The Partnership has also provided opportunities such as collaboration on performance projects with the students, practical experience for students in many fields, including marketing, business and performing arts through the **Art & Design Faculty**. This fits in with the UWTSD ethos of providing students with experiential learning opportunities supported by UWTSD Community Engagement initiative.

Jazz Heritage Wales is currently unfunded and has no paid staff. We hope to rectify this.
We are all indebted to Chair of Trustees Deb Checkland for organising the Collections Audit, finding volunteers Mike Buckley and Sandra Stone, co-ordinating with the university and implementing the packing and storage of all the collections. Each item was photographed, described and uploaded to the DB/Spreadsheet, then carefully packed in archive and storage boxes with a corresponding index number. The work was carried out over the spring and summer of 2018.

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ACK CATALOGUE

We are hugely indebted to the support we have received from **UWTSD** over the past 10 years. In preparing the logistics of moving a huge multi-media resource, the Trustees worked with **Kim Collis (left) City Archivist of West Glamorgan Archives,** and the **Women's Archive of Wales**. We were pleased to donate 9 archive boxes of cultural history and heritage material relevant to the City, containing records and documents of collaborative work with **SWHG Swansea Women's History Group, DACE Swansea University Adult Education**, and **SWAG Swansea Writers and Artists Group**. Kim said ***"Together they provide a fascinating picture into our cultural and literary heritage over a remarkable time span of 40 years".*** Kim is holding a sash from a 1980s disarmament campaign from one of the archive boxes which also includes correspondence with Seamus Heaney and Kingsley Amis. Jen is holding a photograph of Swansea Women's History Group 1984, featuring **Ursula Masson, Gail Allen** and **Jen** at the launch of one of their video documentaries in 1984, **Back of the Front Line,** on Welsh Women Munition Workers. Jen did the music for the video.

Another important visitor this year was **Rob Phillips, Head of Archives and Manuscripts, National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth** (below). Rob paid an initial visit to look at the collection of archive boxes in the Stacks Room for a possible donation to the National Library and disappeared! He eventually emerged confirming that the Library would take at least 32 boxes and would return with a van. Rob said ***"Thanks for the welcome and the tea on Wednesday - much appreciated! The boxes are now all safely in the archival storage cells here and I hope that Bethan will be able to start on them in the next few weeks... It will be great to have this collection available for readers sooner rather than later."*** This donation contained nearly 30 years of jazz administrative papers, its early community projects, funding applications and rejections, and financial documents. The donation will fill gaps in the National Library's resources on women and music, the abolitionist period, African American heritage, social and feminist history, and the minutia of establishing a jazz archive in 1986 - when most people had said at the time ***"A jazz archive? In Wales? That's not relevant to Wales. What are you doing that for? Not interested."***

Photo: ©Jazz Heritage Wales/Deb Checkland

Not for nothing are archivists known as Keepers of the Graveyards and our hair turns white.

This year the charity we supported was defibrillators for Swansea seafront. Volunteer Irene Mann organised a cheese and wine event at Swansea's Brynmill Community Centre. Regulars and guests turned up on a foul evening for craic and a drink. Jazz and blues was provided by vocalist Margot Morgan, and Jen on piano.

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TAGE WALES AND WHY THEY COME

rnment visited and hired our touring exhibition **CROSSING** for display at the June 2018 **Windrush Commemorative Event** at the **Senedd** building, held in conjunction with **Race Council Cymru.**

Uzo Iwobi and Patti Flynn

Dame Cleo Laine (Patron)

Humie Webbe

Uzo, Patti and Humie are featured on the CROSSING OCEANS panels. Some of the guests (below) enjoying the event. Jazz Heritage Wales were honoured to support the Windrush event and thank Aly Jamal for all his help.

Photos: © Welsh Government

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ORE VISITORS

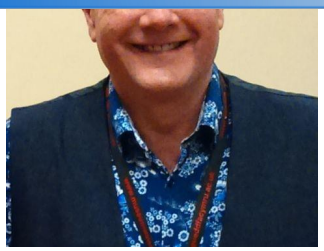

Photo: © National Museum of Wales

Senior Curator of Modern and Contemporary al Museum of Wales, interviewed Jen and Gail (JHW out how our early work conducting interviews in **Swansea Women's History Group** during the 1980s, influenced the setting up of **Jazz Heritage Wales in 1986**. Answer: it was through a process of learning, and understanding where we all belong in Welsh history and cultural heritage - then realizing where the gaps were and filling them in. *"Pioneers"* Ian called us! That was not what the police called us when we were filming the South Wales Women's Support Group during the 1984/5 miners'strike.

Jen was contacted by **Catrin Edwards Film-maker, Director and Producer** for the production for **Parama 2.** Catrin and colleagues (pictured) received a Welsh Arts Council & Heritage Lottery Grant to Research & Develop **Tic Toc**, a musical based on **Archif Menywod Cymru / Women's Archive of Wales** oral history project **Voices from the Factory Floor / Lleisiau o Lawr y Ffatri.** One of their aims was to research the music and dance venues of the period such as the Tower Ballroom in Swansea (**Those Saturday Nights: The Story of Swansea's Tower Ballroom, ed. Jen Wilson**) where women went to kick up their heels in the fanciest ballroom in town.

I-r: Tash Horton Video Director, Sian Williams Movement Director, Jen, Valmai Jones Script Writer and Director
Photo: © Catrin Edwards/Jazz Heritage Wales

Catrin Edwards can be seen filming (below) at the Peace Walk to commemorate the original walk from Cardiff to Greenham Common 27th August 1981, a women's protest at the siting of the US Cruise Missiles. Gail Allen (in yellow hi-viz) organised the event on behalf of the **Women's Archive of Wales**, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Two of the original marchers, Ann Pettitt and Karmen Thomas, joined us, and spoke inspiringly at the event. There were peace songs from **Heather Jones** on Guitar (on left), the Red Choir, and Frankie Armstrong, bringing back many memories.

Peace March (right) crosses over the original Severn Bridge re-creating the 1981 walk. It was being involved in the **Greenham Common Campaign** and getting back into education, that inspired Jen to set up Jazz Heritage Wales in 1986.
Photos: © Women's Archive of Wales

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EEPING JAZZ LIVE/ALIVE IN WALES

Photo: © Jazz Heritage Wales/Deb Checkland. Jen (above) making a point at the Keeping Jazz Alive Event at the Pierhead Building, Cardiff.

Julie James AM Leader of the House of the National Assembly for Wales arranged an event to profile jazz, hosted by **Swansea International Jazz Festival** and introduced by **Dafydd Elis Thomas, Minister for Culture, Media and Sport**. Julie James said: ñLast year, Swansea narrowly missed out on winning the UK 2021 City of Culture but on the back of that campaign, the city remains very much Walesôcapital of culture. This event highlights the unique sounds of jazz and gave everyone the chance to hear first-hand from the speakers of how we can all play our part in promoting the arts and culture across Wales. Bringing Jazz to new audiences is part of a continued cultural conversation that Swansea is leading on in Wales and one that I am passionate aboutò **Professor Ian Walsh, Dean of Swansea College of Art at UWTSD**, spoke on how the University has contributed, and continues to do so, to culture across the city. **Dave Cottle** (below, left), **Creative Director, Swansea International Jazz Festival,** spoke about the passion he has for promoting Jazz to new and different sections of the country. Daveôs band provided a snapshot of their music and their bid to keep Jazz live and alive in Wales.

Jen said at the event: ñThe story of jazz in Wales is unexpected. There is a traceable line running from Swanseaôs Anti-Slavery Society, abolitionist music, and the Underground Railroad that brought people to freedom. It is a story of social history and politics that is mixed up with music and the café culture that sprung up in Swansea in the early 20th Century. It is also womenôs history that is being told here. The floor shows and jazz cafés that took place in Swansea in the early 20th Century were led by women while the men were away at war. They were the ones who took the lead, rehearsed the acts, booked the bands. You canôt have jazz without its social and cultural history. That is the story being told here.ò

Photo: ©Jazz Heritage Wales/Deb Checkland. L-R Dave Cottle (piano), Dafydd Elis Thomas, Aidan Thorne (bass), Alan Barnes (sax), Mark O'Connor (drums), Julie James AM.

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INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 1918.

celebrated a successful **Copper Coast International Film Festival (CCIFF)** with over 3,000 entries from all over the world. The range of this yearôs awards reflected the wide range of talents involved with the film industry. These included; Best Welsh Language Film, Best Animated Film, Best actress, Best Actor, Best Film and UWTSD ALUMNI Achievement Award. **The Awards Night Reception was enlivened by Margot Morgan's sultry blues and jazz vocals, accompanied on piano by Jen Wilson. Margot is Deputy Chair of Jazz Heritage Wales.**

Photos: © Courtesy of UWTSD

Opposite are some of the audience enjoying the Awards event, and screenings of the winning entries. The Film Festival Director was **Timi O'Neill** and hosted by **Mal Pope**. Below is one of the speakers, BAFTA-winning film maker **Destiny Ekaragha.**

NOW ~ AND BACK IN THE DAY ……

Also dispensing inspiration to the film and media students at the film festival was **KEVIN ALLEN**, director of **TWIN TOWN**, the cult movie filmed in Swansea with its cast of reprobate characters causing havoc on Swanseaôs streets. Parts of **TWIN TOWN** were filmed in Jenôs house in Mount Pleasant (itôs a long story) giving her a close up view of how films were made. Director Kevin played her piano in between takes. Jen kept a photographic record of the bizzare goings on during filming in 1996 out in the street, which kept all the kids and neighbours entertained.

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Photos: © Jen Wilson Collection 1996
Above: Kevin Allen (baseball cap), Dougray Scott (back to camera), Dorien Thomas (white suit)
Below: Kevin Allen on front doorstep shooting the breeze waiting for action. The camera outside the back gate.

This year a new generation of film makers made their mark. Director and Editor **Geraint Huw Reynolds** won a **BAFTA Award** for his Short Film **HELFA'R HELI** (Catch of the Day), adapted from a story by his wife, Welsh Learner of the Year, **Sarah Reynolds**. The music for HELFA'R HELI was composed and performed by musician and artist **Owain Wilson**. Owain and Geraint's brother **Iwan** had been gophers on TWIN TOWN. Iwan is cameraman for major movies in US/ UK.

DECEMBER 2016
Deb Checkland, Chair - Board of Trustees and Advisors, Jazz Heritage Wales