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University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

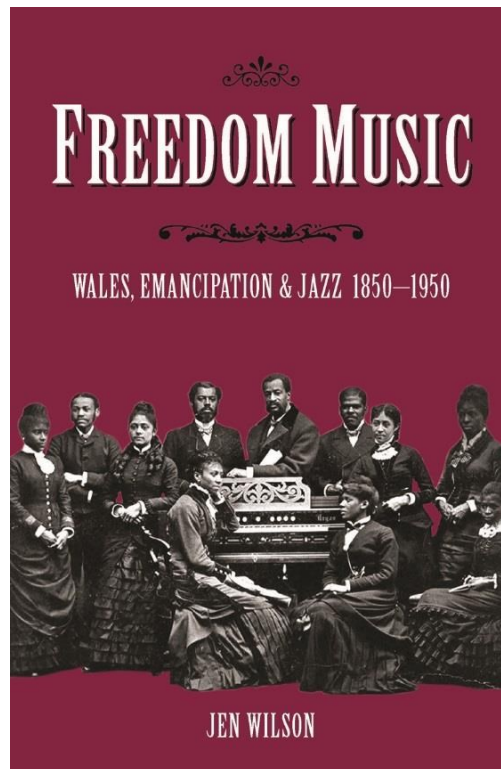
Swansea
College of Art
Founded 1853



www.jazzheritage.wales

Review of the Year 2019 - Adolygiad o'r Flwyddyn 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)**



Cover: © The Fisk Jubilee Singers

Jen Wilson's book **FREEDOM MUSIC: Wales, Emancipation and Jazz 1850-1950** was published by the **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 the strong links between emerging African American music in the USA and the development of jazz in mainstream popular culture in Wales. The story begins with **Jessie Donaldson, Swansea abolitionist** who ran a safe house for fleeing slaves on the banks of the Ohio River in Cincinnati, and the appearance of a choir of freed slaves the **Fisk Jubilee Singers** on the stage in Swansea, a direct line running from Cincinnati to Swansea through 1874-1907. Good reviews so far! Available from the **University of Wales Press** <https://www.uwp.co.uk>

FREEDOM MUSIC – THE BOOK LAUNCH, 20TH JUNE 2019

The **loudest** book launch in Wales took place at the Dylan Thomas Centre, supported by Trustees and Advisors, staff at UWTSD, friends and colleagues. The event was opened with drummers from the **Congolese Development Project** led by **Mr. Kokisa Buka** (in red) below. **Prof. Ian Walsh** welcomed everyone, with **Prof. Daniel G. Williams**, Swansea University, hosting the event.



Prof. Ian Walsh, Provost & Exec Dean UWTSD



Prof. Daniel G. Williams



Poet and writer Dave Hughes



Margot Morgan lead Yr Aderyn Du Brynmill Community Choir in songs from the Fisk Jubilee Songbook, from Chapter Three of the book **FREEDOM MUSIC**. All photos Jazz Heritage Wales / UWTSD

Elissa Evans sang Oh Susanna from the *Stephen Collins Foster Plantation Songbook*, illustrating the music from chapter one: *The Life, Times and Music of Swansea Abolitionist Jessie Donaldson (1799-1889)*. **Jen** gave readings from the book.



A large crowd enjoyed the words and music at the launch



First Minister Mark Drakeford receives a copy from Julie James AM. Photo: Welsh Gov.

A special thanks goes to **Silva Huws**, a Jazz Heritage Wales Advisor, who got me organised into thinking about chapters, where to start, in what order, proof read as we went along, put up with the swearing, drank all the tea, ate all the biscuits, then spent days working on the index and its intricacies and explaining how it all worked. She said she enjoyed it. Without **Dr. Catriona Ryan**, formerly Research Fellow at UWTSU, there would not be a book.

FACES AT THE BOOK LAUNCH

The man who flew the furthest.....

Steve Glass, guitarist and flautist (left) aka A.D.M. Glass Emeritus Professor of Botany, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, flew in from Canada to meet up with old pals and buy a copy of the book. Steve was a member of Swansea's **Jazz Senators** (1958-1960s) with pianist and artist **Arnold Lowrey**, centre. The Jazz Senators was led by drummer **John Evans**, Jen's brother who died of cancer 2006. **If you make it this far – celebrate it!**



John Evans

MORE FACES AT THE BOOK LAUNCH

UWTSD BA (Hons) Degree in Graphic Design Student **Kelly Whitcombe** (Left) designed Jen's new website as part of her degree project. The website brings Jen's work in cultural heritage and performance together, and promotes the new book **FREEDOM MUSIC**. Kelly did a very professional job. Thank you! www.jenwilsonjazzpiano.com **Deb Checkland**, (right) Chair of Jazz Heritage Wales Trustees organised the book launch with Trustees and Volunteers. A big thank you to all. It was a splendid event.





Gail Allen JHW Treasurer and supporter-in- chief with **Derek Gabriel** jazz photographer, a walking encyclopedia on jazz



Tim Batcup of **Cover-to-Cover Bookshop**, Mumbles, the best bookshop in Wales, ran the bookstall. With special thanks to the **University of Wales Press**

OTHER EVENTS IN 2019 – JAZZ HERITAGE WALES ARCHIVES ONLINE AT NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES, ABERYSTWYTH

The Jazz Heritage Wales Archive Collection has been catalogued and is available at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. Here is the link: <https://archives.library.wales/index.php/jazz-heritage-wales-archive-archif-menywod-cymru-womens-archive-of-wales> The title is Jazz Heritage Wales Archive (Archif Menywod Cymru/Women's Archive of Wales).



Photo © Jazz Heritage Wales / Deb Checkland Chair of Trustees with Dame Cleo Laine's "Carnegie Hall" gown worn for the 25th anniversary of her concert there in 1974.

Alison Harding, Executive Head of Library & Learning Resources at UWTSD said: 'As the National Library of Wales is part of the WHELP Library Management System you can also locate this archive via the UWTSD library catalogue as well; along with all other WHELP member institutions, which opens up the collection even more to a wider audience. Hopefully this collection will also appear on Archives Hub in due course as NLW are a contributing institution.'

We would like to thank Robert Phillips for all the help, support and encouragement we received from him and staff at the National Library of Wales: **Rob Phillips** Archif Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru a'r Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig | National Assembly for Wales Archive and the Welsh Political Archive Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru | The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3BU 01970 632984 | robert.phillips@llyfrgell.cymru | www.llyfrgell.cymru

DOCUMENTING JAZZ CONFERENCE

TU Conservatory of Music and Drama, Dublin, 17-19th January 2019.



Photo: Courtesy Dr. Damien Evans, Conference Chair / Natalia Kravchenko@Jazz.Ru Magazine

Deb Checkland and **Jen Wilson** attended the **DOCUMENTING JAZZ** conference, with support from UWTSD. This was the first conference of its kind, spearheaded by **Conference Chair Dr. Damien Evans**, bringing together individuals and organisations world-wide, working to preserve, document, conserve, display and develop their collections to the furtherance of jazz and related musics and their place in history and popular culture. Therefore, the need to document it, for researchers to dissect it and for conferences to discuss it, is of paramount importance in order to widen its significance within international cultural debate.

SWANSEA CELEBRATED ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY AS A CITY WITH AN EXHIBITION AND FILM OF ITS MUSICAL HERITAGE...



Jazz Heritage Wales contributed to the celebrations by donating items to the exhibitions, including photographs and memorabilia (above), and **John Evans's** yellow **Fireflies** jacket c.1958 (above right). We also contributed to the film, premiered at Swansea Museum 20th September 2019.

TIC TOC – PRODUCTION



Photo: Kirsten McTernan

What an absolutely splendid production of the musical **TIC TOC**, enjoyed by a packed audience at Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall on 8th November 2019. Gail Allen and I were knocked out by the whole thing. We thought this bi-lingual production stimulating, thought-provoking, warm, moving, outrageous. The plot centered around six women on a factory reunion night out with all that entails... laughs, tears, scandals, rows, camaraderie, worker/boss confrontations, and latterly the onset of pensionable age; all performed to a tremendous selection of music from the 60s.era by a live band

with music composed and directed by producer **Catrin Edwards** on **guitar**, together with **Ann Hopcyn** piano, and **Luke Adams** guitars. We contributed in a very small way to **TIC TOC** as they had read ***THOSE SATURDAY NIGHTS*** ed. by Jen.

