ARTICLE RE: WELSH FESTIVAL MUSIC

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The history of music in Wales began in the 1100s when groups of bards would get together to recite poetry and sing as they played their Welsh harps. During the last weekend in June, the Malad Valley Welsh Festival will keep that music tradition alive.

Jan Crowther Myers, 2017 Festival Bard, will present about the importance of music and poetry in Welsh culture at the Opening Ceremony on both days. Cory Webster, the 2019 Bard of the Welsh Festival, will perform his original cowboy poetry and songs several times during the Festival.

During both days of the Festival, Celtic musicians will perform authentic, toe-tapping Celtic music on the amphitheater in Malad City Park. Groups that will perform on Friday include the Haywire Ranch String Band comprised of Cory and Jill Webster from Downey, the Katie Jane Band from Portland, and Fiddle Express from the Treasure Valley. On Saturday, the Katie Jane Band and Fiddle Express will be joined by Teton Skye, a popular drum and bagpipe band from Idaho Falls.

The Youth Music Concert will be at 3:00 on Friday in the 2nd Ward Chapel and will feature some of Malad's very talented young pianists, vocalists, and instrumentalists.

On Friday evening's concert at 6:00, the Malad Men's Welsh Chorus will welcome everyone to the Festival with the traditional Welsh song "We'll Keep a Welcome in the Valley" and the Welsh National Anthem. Cathy Clayton, professor of music at the University of Utah, will perform traditional Welsh songs on her harp after briefly presenting about Welsh music. Cory Webster, the 2019 Bard, and sisters Christy Oja and Kathryn Fossum will also perform.

The crowd favorite Piano Ensemble Concert will be at 1:00 on Saturday in the Church Chapel. Adult pianists seldom have an opportunity to perform in ensembles, so this concert provides a venue for quartets and duets performed by local pianists and friends. The concert will end with a rousing 2-piano, 8-hand arrangement by Mack Wilberg of "Stars and Stripes Forever."

The Welsh Festival will conclude on Saturday afternoon with a short *gymanfa ganu*, a sing-along of traditional, well-known Welsh songs (in English).

Music will also be a big part of the 140th anniversary of the Malad Presbyterian Church, which is the Sunday evening program of the Welsh Festival. The Malad Men's Welsh Chorus and several local vocalists will perform traditional Presbyterian hymns as part of this historic program.

The music performances at the Festival are partially funded by grants from the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation and the Idaho Commission on the Arts.