



Information on music for Sinfonia Cymru Patagonia Project: March 2022

Most of the music is on this recording:

<https://sinfonia.cymru/2021/08/curate-two-nations-tango>

Carlos Gardel: Por Una Cabeza

Carlos Gardel was born in France in 1890 but grew up and lived most of his life in Buenos Aires in Argentina. He was a singer, songwriter, composer, and actor who was a bit of a celebrity in Argentina and all over the world. He made the form of Tango music famous, and a lot of his music was used in films of the time. *Por Una Cabeza* is one of the most famous Tango pieces and has also been used in many films. The title means ‘with a head’, and the song is about a man who loses everything after his favourite horse loses a race ‘by a head’.

A tango is a type of dance which shows a lot of passion and drama. The music is always full of beautiful melodies, intense glissandi (slides) and staccato rhythms. It originated in South America in the 1880s as a social dance in Port areas and had strong influences from African slaves and European immigrants.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrWv500P2hg>

Two Nations Tango – Nocturna and Sosban Fach (arranged by Gideon Brooks)

This is a mix-up of a traditional Argentinian Tango, *Nocturna* by Julián Plaza and the traditional Welsh folk tune, *Sosban Fach*.

Julian Plaza was another famous Argentine tango composer, and but started out as a musician playing in tango bands. He worked with other famous Argentine composers such as Piazzolla, and *Nocturna* is one of his most famous Tangos.

Sosban Fach is a traditional Welsh folk song that most people will recognise as it is often sung at rugby matches and by Welsh choirs and musicians. The title means ‘Little Saucepan’ and the song is particularly associated with Llanelli Rugby Club (“The Scarlets”) to recognise Llanelli’s history in the tin plating industry.

Welsh

Mae bys Meri-Ann wedi brifo,
A Dafydd y gwas ddim yn iach.
Mae'r baban yn y crud yn crio,
A'r gath wedi sgramo Joni bach.
Sosban fach yn berwi ar y Tân,
Sosban fawr yn berwi ar y llawr,
A'r gath wedi sgramo Joni bach.

Dai bach y sowldiwr,
Dai bach y sowldiwr,

English (literal translation)

Mary-Ann has hurt her finger,
And David the servant is not well.
The baby in the cradle is crying,
And the cat has scratched little Johnny.
A little saucepan is boiling on the fire,
A big saucepan is boiling on the floor,
And the cat has scratched little Johnny.

Little Dai the soldier,
Little Dai the soldier,

Dai bach y sowldiwr,
A chwt ei grys e mas.

Mae bys Meri-Ann wedi gwella,
A Dafydd y gwas yn ei fedd;
Mae'r baban yn y crud wedi tyfu,
A'r gath wedi huno mewn hedd.
Sosban fach yn berwi ar y tân
Sosban fawr yn berwi ar y llawr
A'r gath wedi huno mewn hedd.

Dai bach y sowldiwr,
Dai bach y sowldiwr,
Dai bach y sowldiwr,
A chwt ei grys e mas.

Aeth hen Fari Jones i Ffair y Caerau
I brynu set o lestri te;
Ond mynd i'r ffos aeth Mari gyda'i llestri
Trwy yfed llawer gormod o "de".
Sosban fach yn berwi ar y tân
Sosban fawr yn berwi ar y llawr
A'r gath wedi huno mewn hedd.

Little Dai the soldier,
And his shirt tail is hanging out.

Mary-Ann's finger has got better,
And David the servant is in his grave;
The baby in the cradle has grown up,
And the cat is resting in peace.
A little saucepan is boiling on the fire,
A big saucepan is boiling on the floor,
And the cat is resting in peace.

Little Dai the soldier,
Little Dai the soldier,
Little Dai the soldier,
And his shirt tail is hanging out.

Old Mary Jones went to the fair in Caerau,
To buy a teaset;
But Mary and her teacups ended up in a ditch,
By drinking rather too much "tea".
A little saucepan is boiling on the fire,
A big saucepan is boiling on the floor,
And the cat is resting in peace.

Calon Lân

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YFGM8LXRPM>

In Welsh, Calon Lân means 'A Pure Heart'. The words to this hymn were written by Daniel James with the music composed by John Hughes. It has become popular as a traditional song, and as an anthem sung before every Welsh Rugby International game.

Welsh:

Nid wy'n gofyn bywyd moethus,
Aur y byd na'i berlau mân:
Gofyn wyf am galon hapus,
Calon onest, calon lân.

(Cytgan):
Calon lân yn llawn daioni,
Tecach yw na'r lili dlos:
Dim ond calon lân all ganu,
Canu'r dydd a chanu'r nos.

Pe dymunwn olud bydol,
Chwim adenydd iddo sydd;
Golud calon lân, rinweddol,
Yn dwyn bythol elw fydd.

English:

I don't ask for a luxurious life,
the world's gold or its fine pearls:
I ask for a happy heart,
an honest heart, a pure heart.

(Chorus)
A pure heart full of goodness
Is fairer than the pretty lily:
None but a pure heart can sing,
Sing all day and sing all night.

If I wished for worldly wealth,
It would swiftly go to seed;
The riches of a virtuous, pure heart
Will bear eternal profit.

There is also a Spanish-language version of Calon Lân which is often sung in Y Wladfa in Patagonia:

Yo no pido vida ociosa,
Perlas ni un galardón:
PIDO UN CORAZÓN ALEGRE,
Un honesto corazón.

Calon lân yn llawn daioni,
Tecach yw na'r lili dlos:
Dim ond calon lân all ganu
Canu'r dydd a chanu'r nos.

Si quisiera la riqueza,
Pronto pierde su valor;
Más un corazón bien limpio,
Cada día es mejor.

René Griffiths: Heno Mae'n Bwrw Cwrw

René Griffiths is a singer, songwriter and guitarist from Patagonia. His ancestors are the Welsh settlers who travelled to Patagonia in 1865, and he still speaks and sings in Welsh and Spanish. He now lives in Cardiff, and you can hear the mix of his cultural backgrounds in his music with Argentine Rhymes and Celtic tunes. His original lyrics for this song are about celebrating with friends and the beginning of a party which is soon in full swing with lots to eat, drink and fun to be had! We have given you alternative lyrics about the journey to Patagonia and the excitement of crossing the Altantic.

Journey to Patagonia
Journey to Patagonia
South of the Equator
Cross the Atlantic,
fulfil your dreams!

Let's Go!
Vamonos

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Piazzolla: La Muerte del Ángel

Piazzolla is one of Argentina's most famous composers. His work is regularly performed today all over the world, and has been arranged for many different groups of musicians from large orchestras to smaller tango bands. Piazzolla himself played the bandoneon, which is a type of accordion, and played in many groups and bands for which he wrote his music. He even played with Carlos Gardel, who taught him a lot about tango and the music of Argentina.

La Muerte del Ángel comes from a series of 'Angel' pieces which really changed the traditional sound of tango. This has a very dramatic and dark sound, with intense rhythms driving the music forward. It was based on a play called Tango del Ángel, which was about an angel who tried to heal the broken spirits of people in a house in Buenos Aires, but dies in a knife fight.

Andean folk tune: Chacarera

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMYO_D-RdBE

The Andes are the longest continental mountain range in the world, along the western edge of South America. The Chacarera is a dance which originated in Santiago del Estero, near the Andean mountains where there is a rich folk culture. The Chacarera is considered the rural counterpart to the more famous and sophisticated Tango. Generally, it is played by soloists or in small groups with a singer, guitar and violin.