

Arts Council of Wales – Go and See application supporting document

This document tells you more about the project and what can be expected, aiming to be used in a Go & See application. Please use this information in combination with information about your own curriculum and pupils. If there is any specific information about the performance that you would like, please do not hesitate to get in touch with becky@sinfonia.cymru.

Title of Show/Experience:

A Song to Change the World/Cân i Newid y Byd – Presented by Sinfonia Cymru and Music Theatre Wales

About your Go & See experience:

This show is a multidisciplinary performance, combining storytelling and music performed by professional instrumentalists and opera singers.

The story centres around Dame Ethel Smyth, famed composer and Suffragette, who is sent to prison and writes protest song, *March of the Women*. The characters of the story are a combination of fictional and based on historical figures. This includes characters based on those from Smyth's opera *The Wreckers*, two children who stand up to authority in their community for what they think is right. The story touches on themes of activism, protest, familial love, feeling empathy and sympathy for others, with many more takeaways being available to audience members.

Ahead of the experience, a resource pack is sent out which gives more information on the instruments used and what they sound like so that pupils can recognise the instruments on stage. There is a wide variety of music heard throughout the show, i.e. classical music (including choral music and music from opera), folk music with singing, and Welsh language folk songs. The Welsh language folk song and choral song, along with lyrics, pronunciations, and a sing-a-long tracks, are included in the resource pack to encourage pupils to learn the song ahead of the performance.

Resources included support the curriculum in music, language, drama, art, and history.

Language:

This experience is in 25% Welsh and 75% English. The Welsh percentage includes the moments in the story in Welsh and the Welsh folk song that the audience are encouraged to join in with.

This show has a positive experience on the Welsh language, as the story includes a lot of repetition and call and response that – by the end – has pupils saying certain important phrases from the story in Welsh. The pupils are also sent the resources to learn a Welsh folk song in advance.