

A **Gymanfa Ganu** (Welsh pronunciation: [\[kə'manva 'gani\]](#), *Singing Festival*), is a Welsh festival of sacred hymns, sung with four part harmony by a congregation, usually under the direction of a choral director. The service of hymns is a method of worship, and the message is received through the words of the hymns.

In Wales, more than a thousand Cymanfa Ganu are held each year. Many villages and towns have more than one Gymanfa Ganu a year, as often many separate chapels in towns and villages hold their own. Some large annual events occur in some chapels and take place at festivals such as the **National Eisteddfod of Wales** and the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. Some are occasionally held in theatres and concert halls. Cymanfa Ganus are held across the world - wherever people of Welsh heritage live, significantly in Patagonia (Argentina), where there were significant Welsh settlements from the 19th Century. In some of these areas Welsh is still spoken as a main language in daily use, usually together with Spanish. 21% of the population of Wales speak Welsh. Outside Wales, in the UK there are Cymanfa Ganu in London, parts of the West Midlands and other areas where there are still chapels using the medium of Welsh.

There are enclaves of Welsh in North America also, and each year, they too have a Gymanfa Ganu. Besides Ontario, you can find them in western provinces such as Alberta, in states such as Wisconsin, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The tradition is kept alive in cultural organizations such as Cymdaithas Madog (Education course for the Welsh language), Welsh Heritage Week (cultural event) and the North American Festival of Wales. The latter is held every year in a different North American city over the Labour Day Weekend.