



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Swansea
College of Art
Founded 1853



www.jazzheritage.wales

Review of the Year 2020 - Adolygiad o'r Flwyddyn 2020

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)**

BLACK LIVES HAVE ALWAYS MATTERED - Statement from Jazz Heritage Wales:

It is inspiring to see so many young people in the UK demanding a right to know, understand and acknowledge their black cultural heritage. We are saddened that it took the life of George Floyd for all our governments to wake up from historical and cultural amnesia. We at Jazz Heritage Wales recognise this call of the Black Lives Matter movement to the UK government that black lives and heritage do matter, and endorse their demands. On the 28th of August 1963 Martin Luther King Jr. shared his dreams with us... "the dream that one day we would not be judged by the colour of our skin but by the contents of our character..."

As a long-standing registered charity 1068022 since 1998 acquiring many awards, our pioneering research work uncovered many forgotten stories:

- Welsh abolitionists running safe houses for runaway slaves from 1830s
- a fleeing slave arriving in Swansea on a copper ore carrier in 1833 and being set free by the Portreeve on the dockside: story toured to schools with BEFORE FREEDOM
- choirs of freed slaves singing on concert hall platforms from the 1870s
- the cultural exchange between the Welsh and African American musicians and performers during the first jazz age of the 1920s café culture
- historical appraisals of intercultural activism in politics, social and cultural history toured on exhibition panels: STEPPING OUT, CROSSING OCEANS and HOW JAZZ CAME TO WALES.

We endorse the BLACK LIVES MATTER movement and we will continue to learn from all diverse communities, and promote this learning as widely as we can.

A book by Jen Wilson ***FREEDOM MUSIC: Wales, Emancipation and Jazz 1850-1950*** containing all the research work, was published in 2019 by University of Wales Press.

All our research work and details of our archival collections are also available on our website www.jazzheritage.wales

BEFORE FREEDOM is available at www.peoplescollection.wales/learn/freedom-jazz-heritage-wales

Jazz Heritage Wales received the **St. David Award for Culture from the Welsh Government in 2017.**

This has been a year like no other – with the covid crisis and the UK leaving the EU. “Fake News” also dominated the year. A timely online lecture was delivered by Richard Ovendon, the Bodleian Librarian, from which Jazz Heritage Wales was immensely inspired. He stressed the importance of libraries and archives - and ended with these points:

- Education in the broadest sense
- Diversity of ideas if we are to be a plural society and to be aware of the silences
- Fundamental rights
- Fixed reference points for facts and truths
- Essential for cultural and historical identities - stepping stones from the past to the future.

Our archival collection endorses these points and will continue to offer a consistent point of view, deliver diversity and embrace multiculturalism for the benefit of those who come after.

Jazz, like most of the arts, will struggle to assert itself and get back on course, but the arts will flourish again despite the hardships. We have been busy on ZOOM and TEAMS with conferences and meetings; our communities and groups working together despite the odds. **Our most dramatic diary cancellation of 2020 was not being able to move into new premises owing to the lockdown, we missed it by a few days. We shall move (hopefully) in 2021.** We have continued to keep our profile high within the arts. Here’s what we have achieved this year.....

SWANSEA TO HOST DOCUMENTING JAZZ CONFERENCE IN 2022

UWTSD in conjunction with Jazz Heritage Wales will be hosting the Documenting Jazz Conference 2022. The first conference was inaugurated in 2019 by Dr. Damian Evans.

DOCUMENTING JAZZ CONFERENCE JANUARY 2020, BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY

120 delegates attended from 4 continents – 35 countries. Margot Morgan and Jen Wilson represented JHW. It was apparent that the conservation and interpretation of jazz collections reaches beyond the jazz community and breaks into worldwide socio-political and historical academic debate. Our work in Wales generated much interest. Margot was taken to view the extensive BCU Faculty of Arts Design, and Media campus by Professor Tim Wall, Associate Dean for Research and Innovation, who hosted this year's conference. Tim explained the Faculty "has a community of over 200 academic staff developing their research careers and a further 150 doctoral students". Jen delivered the Keynote Interview on her book FREEDOM MUSIC: Wales, Emancipation and Jazz in the main auditorium, interviewed by Dr. Marian Jago.



Photo: © JHW/Margot Morgan

DOCUMENTING JAZZ CONFERENCE 2020

Dr. Damian Evans (left) introduces Dr. Marian Jago from Edinburgh University who interviewed Jen Wilson on her book FREEDOM MUSIC.



Photo: © JHW/Margot Morgan

JW was pleased and gratified at the response from a full house - and sold books. Margot and JW also shared a dinner table with **Alyn Shipton**, presenter, writer and producer for programmes at the BBC, who declared himself impressed with the work we had achieved at JHW and UWTSD, and who also bought a copy of the book. During the conference JW was approached by **Dr. Patrick Olsen, Cambridge University**, and Editor of the **Duke Ellington Society Magazine**. Dr. Olsen had no idea that Jazz Heritage Wales holds the entire recorded output of Duke Ellington which includes all DE radio broadcasts; the Duke Ellington Society do not hold the complete collection. Morag Stern donated her husband Barry Stern's Duke Ellington heritage collection to Jazz Heritage Wales in 1992. See Morag Stern (below) in 1993 at the opening of what was then called Women's Jazz Archive....



Photo: © JHW/Derek Gabriel. Morag Stern with Jen Wilson and part of the Duke Ellington Collection

CITY BLUE PLAQUE FOR JESSIE DONALDSON

City & County of Swansea in conjunction with Jazz Heritage Wales and UWTSD, will be erecting a Blue Plaque to **Jessie Donaldson**, Swansea Abolitionist, teacher who ran the third Welsh safe house for fugitive slaves in Cincinnati, Ohio. The plaque will be erected on the **UWTSD Art Media & Design Building**, Dynevor Place, where Jessie lived for 47 years from 1799. Jessie and her music featured in Ch.1 of JW's **FREEDOM MUSIC** book. The BBC planned to include Jessie Donaldson in their Antiques Road Trip programme. Now deferred owing to Covid.

Photo: © JHW/Hillary Edmiston family collection

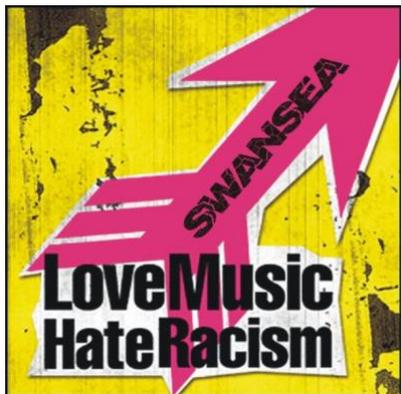


BLACK HISTORY STORIES WALES



[Part of spanglefish.com](http://spanglefish.com) - [Web Sites. For Anyone. For Free. Sign up now!](#)

Peter Alexander contacted us from Black History Stories Wales website. The Jessie Donaldson story has been added to the website.



Richard Rose of LOVE MUSIC HATE RACISM a “broad based organisation that uses the power of music to combat racism and discrimination” added us and our stories to their website.

www.lovemusichateracism.com

WE RECEIVE THE BRITISH LIBRARY ‘RECORDING OF THE WEEK’

FROM THE BRITISH LIBRARY....

**Recording of the week:
Kathy Stobart interviewed
by Jen Wilson**

This is what Sarah Coggrave, Rights Clearance Officer for Unlocking our Sound Heritage, had to say:

“In the late 1980s, Jen Wilson, pianist and founder of Jazz Heritage Wales, interviewed saxophonist and bandleader Kathy Stobart (1925 – 2014).

Now part of the British Library collection [Oral history of jazz in Britain](#) (C122), the audio recording of this interview has recently been cleared for online release as part of Unlocking Our Sound Heritage.

As Data Protection and Rights Clearance Officer, my job involves contacting rights holders and their representatives, in recordings such as this one, to request permission. It’s an extraordinary opportunity to learn more about the voices in the recordings, and as in the case of the Oral history of jazz in Britain collection, discover the rich history of jazz music making in the UK.”

<https://blogs.bl.uk/sound-and-vision/2020/08/recording-of-the-week-kathy-stobart-interviewed-by-jen-wilson.html>



Photo: © JHW/Derek Gabriel. Kathy Stobart

the Swansea abolitionists, and his arriving in Swansea in 1833 and being made a free man. We hope this becomes a reality sometime in the future.

CHANGEMAKERS

Gŵyl gymunedol, treftadaeth, gweithredaeth, y celfyddydau a syniadau.
A festival of community, heritage, activism, arts and ideas.



The Change Makers Festival celebrates Swansea's heritage of activism and social change through heritage and art exhibitions, podcasts, films and creative workshops.

Deb Checkland (Chair), Gail Allen (Treasurer) and Jen Wilson gave filmed interviews for this project, discussing our political and feminist activism during the 1980s. JW set up Jazz Heritage Wales (formerly Women's Jazz Archive) in 1986 after being inspired by working with Swansea Women's History Group 1981-1991.

**DEB CHECKLAND
CHAIR – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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