

## In Welsh as well!

StA\*X, Ippepen's Youth Choir based at St. Andrew's Church, sang a rather beautiful lullaby at the Carol Service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. They sang, in Welsh, a short piece written by the contemporary, Welsh composer, Robat Arwyn. The poetic words had been written by Arwyn's mother, he set them to music and recorded the song in 2003.



I have an Aunty who, until very recently, lived in Rhuthun (pronounced Rithin) in the shadow of the beautiful Clwydian Hills in North Wales. Robat Arwyn lives on the other side of the town, only a short walk away. Also, living close by, is the famous Welsh tenor, Rhys Meirion. Arwyn received the Glyndŵr Award in 2022 for an "Outstanding Contribution to the Arts in Wales", previous recipients include Sir Karl Jenkins. He is internationally famous for writing a duet arrangement of Benedictus for Rhys Meirion and Sir Bryn Terfel, recorded in 2005. My wife, Sue, and I have been very fortunate to have got to know Arwyn over the years when we have visited my Aunty. He has written lovely words of encouragement for StA\*X when the choir composed their own song at the start of the Pandemic and, very generously, sent me the original score for his song, "Cân Mair" (Mary's song), for the choir to sing this Christmas. The recording, which features Katie Simmonds, Rose Darnley and Tom Morris, can be found on the Beacon website at [StAX – St Andrew's Youth Choir | \(missioncommunity.org.uk\)](http://StAX – St Andrew's Youth Choir | (missioncommunity.org.uk))

Cân Mair portrays Mary, comforting the baby Jesus after the noise and spectacle of the Nativity scene has settled. She encourages him to sleep and tells him that, when he is older, he will hear all about the angels, shepherds and three kings from the east who bowed down before him!

I feel that the best way to honour Arwyn's generosity and convey our sincere thanks for letting StA\*X sing this beautiful lullaby is let as many people as possible hear and enjoy the piece and, hopefully encourage others to include it in their Christmas carol repertoire. It deserves to be sung widely as this is the reward for a composer. Arwyn's website is: [www.robatarwyn.co.uk](http://www.robatarwyn.co.uk)

Here is a link to a YouTube clip showing Robat Arwyn & Rhys Meirion singing on the highest point of the Clwydian hills (Moel Famau) at sunrise: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7SC5jxJa9s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7SC5jxJa9s). The drone shots of the Vale of Clwyd are rather nice!



If you feel moved to give Arwyn some feedback after hearing Cân Mair, his contact email address is on his website.

# Cân Mair

- by *Robot Arwyn*

Mary's Song

O huna fy mhlentyn ar fynwes dy fam,

Sleep, dear child, on your mother's breast,

Fe'th wyliaf yn dyner, fe'th gadwaf rhag cam;

I'll watch over you tenderly, I'll guard you from harm;

Mae pawb wedi gadael, cawn orffwys yn awr,

Everyone's left, we can rest now,

Paíd crío f'anwylyd cyn hir tyr y wawr.

Don't cry, my dear, dawn will soon break.

Rhyw ddydd fe gei wybod yr hanes i gyd,

One day you will hear all about it,

Am lety'r anifail a'r preseb yn grud;

About a stable and a crib for your bed;

Am lu o angylion a'u cân uwch y rhos,

About a host of angels singing above the fields,

A chwmnî'r bugeiliaid yng nghanol y nos.

And the company of shepherds at dead of night.

Tri brenín o'r Dwyrain, eu gwisgoedd yn wych,

Three kings from the East, in all their splendour,

Tri brenín benliniodd wrth breseb yr ych;

Three kings knelt at the oxen's crib;

Tydi mewn cadachau ar wely o wair,

You, wrapped in swaddling clothes on a bed of hay,

Tri brenín ymgrymodd i faban bach Mair.

Three kings bowed before Mary's little baby.