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Erthygl i'r Wasg **Press Article**

Merched yr Awr yn dathlu arwresau Cymru gyfoes

Mae Cŵl Cymru yn ffenomenom cyfarwydd i bawb, ond chwyldro cerddorol arall fydd testun **Merched yr Awr,** rhaglen S4C sy'n dathlu rhai o artistiaid benywaidd mwyaf blaenllaw Cymru gyfoes.

"Mae 'na gymaint o dalent yma yng Nghymru, mae'n braf gweld y sîn mewn lle mor iach a merched yn arwain y ffordd." meddai Alys Williams, un o'r artistiaid.

Tair arwres arall y rhaglen sy'n bwrw'r sgrin ar Ddydd Iau, 21 Mai yw; Lleuwen Steffan, Casi Wyn a Catrin Hopkins. Trwy sgyrsiau personol a di-flewyn ar dafod cawn wybod am eu prif ddylanwadau, profiadau, cyflawniadau a'r dyheadau am y dyfodol.

Trwy ein tywys trwy'r cyfan yn eu geiriau eu hunain, cawn ddod i adnabod y cymeriadau creadigol ac ysbrydoledig yma sy'n serennu o fewn eu genres cerddorol gwahanol. Bydd hefyd perfformiadau ecsgliwsif acwstig neu acapella mewn llefydd sy'n agos i'w calonnau.

I Lleuwen, mae'n amlwg fod dylanwad cerddorol o oedran ifanc iawn wedi bod yn rhan allweddol o'i thaith o Fethesda i Lydaw.

"Ysgol Sul oedd y cychwyn i mi, pan o ni'n blentyn bach iawn. Ond pan o ni'n dod adra 'roedd na o hyd gerddorion yn y tŷ yn ymarfer hefo Dad (Steve Eaves). Pobl fel Iwan Llwyd, Jackie Williams a Les Morrison. O ni'n ffodus iawn ond ddim yn sylwi hynny ar y pryd, dyna oedd fy mywyd i."

Mae Casi hefyd wedi bod yn gerddorol ers plentyndod. Ar ôl blynyddoedd yn Llundain mae'r ferch o Fethel yn rhannu sut mae ei gwreiddiau yn dal i fod yn ganolbwynt i'w chyfansoddiadau a sut beth oedd rhyddhau cerddoriaeth ar label y rapiwr byd-enwog Jay-Z, Roc Nation.

"Ma cerddoriaeth wastad yna, yn ffordd o fyw. Yr hyn sy di 'ngyrru fi ydi, dwi wastad yn teimlo fod gen i bethau sy'n rhaid i fi ddweud, sy'n rhaid i fi sgwennu neu sy'n rhaid i fi eu canu."

Merch arall wnaeth adael glannau'r Fenai am lannau'r Thames yw Catrin Hopkins. Fel rhan o'r deuawd pop electronaidd, Dusky Grey, mae hi wedi gwneud argraff enfawr ar y sîn gerddorol rhyngwladol mewn cyfnod byr iawn. Mae eu trac 'Told Me' wedi ei ffrydio

dros 13 miliwn o weithiau ar Spotify.

Mae Catrin, neu Catty, yn egluro sut y gwnaeth adael gogledd Cymru roi rhyddid iddi.

"Cyn symyd i Lundain, do ni heb allu fod yn agored am fy rhywioldeb. 'Roedd o'n teimlo fel rhywbeth masif i'w wneud, rhywbeth oedd gyda'r potensial i golli teulu a ffrindia amdano. Gan bod 'na gymuned enfawr o fobl LGBTQ+ yn gwrando ar pop, mi wnaeth gwybod fod pobl eraill mewn sefyllfa tebyg yn ddigon cyffyrddus i ddod allan wrth Geth a fi, rili fy helpu i.

"Mi wnaethon ni'n dda, ond byth cymryd y cam nesa. Dwi yn browd o fi fy hun ond dwi'n teimlo fod gen i gymaint mwy i roi a dwi ddim wedi cael yr hyder i neud o'n iawn. Dwi'n teimlo mai wan ydi'n amser i, dwi'n gwybod fod gen i mwy i roi."

Bydd **Merched yr Awr** yn siŵr o swyno trwy gyfleu trac sain bywydau yr artistiaid arbennig yma sy'n arwain y gâd trwy ganu a chreu.

Merched yr Awr
Nos Iau 21 Mai, 9.00
Isdeitlau Saesneg
Ar alw: S4C Clic, iPlayer a llwyfannau eraill
Cynhyrchiad Avanti ar gyfer S4C

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Erthygl i'r Wasg **Press Article**

Celebrating the all-female soundtrack of modern Wales

We're all familiar with the Cŵl Cymru phenomenon, but a new programme on S4C, **Merched yr Awr** (Women of the hour), is about to introduce another musical movement, by celebrating some of Wales's leading female artists.

"There's so much talent here in Wales, it's nice to see the scene in such a healthy place with women leading the way" said Alys Williams, one of the four artists featured in the programme that hits the screen on Thursday, 21 May.

Alys appears alongside three other musical heroines; Lleuwen Steffan, Casi Wyn and Catrin Hopkins. Through frank and intimate conversations, we hear about their influences, experiences, achievements and aspirations for the future in their own words.

Exclusive acoustic and acapella songs performed in places close to their hearts, give a great insight into their creative and inspirational characters, who each reign supreme in their respective musical genre.

For Lleuwen, being immersed in music from a very young age played an important part in her life's journey from Bethesda to Brittany.

"Sunday school was the start for me, when I was a small child. Then, when I came home there were musicians in the house rehearsing with Dad (Steve Eaves). People like Iwan Llwyd, Jackie Williams and Les Morrison. I was so lucky to be around these talented people, but I didn't realise it at the time, as that was all I knew."

Casi has also been into music since childhood. After years in London, the young woman from Bethel reveals how her roots are still the focus of her compositions as well as what it was like to release music on Roc Nation, the label of renowned rapper Jay-Z.

"Music is always there, it's a way of life. What drives me is, I always feel that I have things I have to say, things I have to write or have to sing."

Catrin Hopkins also swopped the Menai Straits for the Thames. In a very short space of time she made a huge impact on the international music scene as part of electronic pop duo, Dusky Grey. Their track 'Told Me' has been streamed over 13 million times on Spotify.

Catrin, or Catty as she is known, explains how leaving North Wales gave her freedom.

"Before moving to London, I couldn't be open about my sexuality. It just felt like something massive to do, something that could potentially mean losing family and friends.

"As there is a huge community of LGBTQ+ people listening to pop, knowing that other people going through the same thing were comfortable enough to come out to Geth and me, helped me massively.

"We did well, but never took the next step and although I am proud of myself, I feel I haven't had the confidence to do it properly, yet. Now, I feel like this is my time. I know I have more to give."

Merched yr Awr plays the soundtrack of these special artists' lives who are leading the way through their music.

Merched yr Awr
Thursday 21 May, 9.00
English subtitles
Available on S4C Clic, iPlayer and other platforms
An Avanti production for S4C