



RECORDING *BLODEUGERDD*—*Song of the Flowers*

by Betty J. Belanus

In much the same fashion that Meredydd Evans describes the unselfconscious process that led to the 1954 Folkways recording, *Welsh Folk Songs* (see page 79), producer Ceri Rhys Matthews set out to capture musical moments in the new 2009 collection, *Blodeugerdd—Song of the Flowers: An Anthology of Welsh Music and Song* (SFW-CD-40552). Recorded mostly in a fifteenth-century gatehouse in the Preseli Hills of West Wales, the collection features individuals or musical duos who have never recorded together in the past. The objective was to create a snapshot at this point in time of a particular set of musicians—Welsh by either birth or circumstance. Like the 1954 recording, it does not set out to define, nor redefine the music of Wales. Matthews describes the process of the recording in this excerpt from the CD's liner notes. Visit <http://www.folkways.si.edu> for more photos from the recording sessions and information about the recording.

"A momentum grew over the period, and as musicians came and went, met each other, passed the time, heard each others' tunes and songs, so a shape emerged: a bigger story, the story of who they were. The story of their 'us.' Each piece was recorded especially for this anthology and the

The recording sessions for *Blodeugerdd—Song of the Flowers: An Anthology of Welsh Music and Song* took place in a fifteenth-century gatehouse. Photo by Ceri Rhys Matthews

whole gives one small musical snapshot of what this place sounds like. . . .

"*Blodeugerdd* is but one tale of any number that could be told of the musical story of Cymru/Wales today. It is representative of the music made by musicians who do not try to tell the story of a nation. They tell instead their personal stories, which but for this anthology would remain in the kitchens and parlors and pub back-rooms of these musicians and their friends.

"These small individual narratives are the grains of sand in which the whole of the land may be seen, with its towns, mountains, and beaches; its rivers, rocks and stones; its lovers, friends, families, and homes. Taken together, these songs make a snapshot of a hive of activity. The story of a posy of wildflowers."