



An appreciative audience returned to the Pre-Covid levels at the Hub, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks on April 1st'23 to hear the world premiere of the first arrangement of Grace Williams' Fantasia on Welsh Nursery Tunes for a Concert Symphonic Wind Band. Grace Williams, generally regarded as Wales's most notable female composer, and the first British woman to score a feature film, studied music under Ralph Vaughan Williams at the Royal College of Music in London.



Grace Williams

She was evacuated to Grantham, Lincolnshire during the second world war, from where she published her most popular work Fantasia on Welsh Nursery Tunes in 1940 and performed by orchestras around the world. It was modelled on Sir Henry Wood's Fantasia on British Sea Songs or the Fantasias on folk tunes by Ralph Vaughan Williams.



Grace Williams

Liveryman William Jones, now playing Alto Sax with the Chalfont Concert Wind Band, played in the brass section of its recording on the 1969 Music For Pleasure, 12" Vinyl LP, by the National Youth Orchestra of Wales.





During the COVID pandemic lockdown he wondered whether the Fantasia could be arranged for a Concert Symphonic Wind Band and embarked on a journey which culminated with its premiere at the Chalfont Concert Wind Band's Spring Concert of a Musical Tour of the British Isles. With a Welsh Judge and the Royal College of Music trained Welsh musicians in the audience, there's a suggestion that it might enter the repertoire of the Band of the Welsh Guards.

