

10th April 2021

Dear Friends

Following the cancellation of the Gower Festival last year due to Covid-19, the committee has been meeting each month to prepare for the 2021 Festival with a fine line-up of performers eager to take part. We have all been very keen to present live music and this was strengthened having spoken to some Friends who, without exception, were enthusiastic. The successful vaccination programme gave us hope that it would be possible.

However, we have been dealing with several problems. It is uncertain when restrictions on public activities will be lifted and most of our venues across the peninsula are not available. We have been exploring the running of the whole season at a single Gower venue, but even that would be subject to severe limits on numbers, access and movement, and facilities. We cannot foresee our being able to provide the quality of experience, safety and comfort that our audience and our performers expect and which is a hall-mark of our Festival.

These difficulties, coupled with legal and indemnity considerations, have led us to cancel this year's Festival. I know you will be very disappointed to hear this news, but we will try to find a solution with the hope that we may be able to provide some cultural offering in the autumn.

The performers scheduled for this year had all agreed to give two concerts for the same fee and they are also making themselves available for next year's Festival. The committee has resolved to recognise this exceptional loyalty by offering them an honorarium from Festival reserves as a retainer for their availability next year. In addition, we are delighted to announce that the London Conchord Ensemble are booked to repeat their 2019 Festival Residency, with a vibrant new programme for 2022.

It is a much-used phrase, but the events of last year and this have been truly unprecedented. We thank you for your support and appreciation for what we do. I will write to you again as soon as we have further news.

I know that this news will come as a huge disappointment, but we hope it will not be too long before we can once more enjoy some 'Music for Summer evenings'!

Best wishes to you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "WJ Anderson". The initials "WJ" are written in a large, bold, cursive style, followed by the name "Anderson" in a similar but slightly smaller cursive script.

Bill Anderson
Chairman/Cadeirydd