

CODI LLAIS

Raising Voices Across Cardiff

Final Report - Spring 2026

CODI
LLAIS
CAERDYDD



RAISE
YOUR
VOICE

In spring 2026, CF Music Education, with the support of Cardiff Council and the Welsh Government National Plan for Music Education, delivered a unique and unforgettable experience for young performers in Cardiff. Since the launch of the project in February, classrooms, halls and playgrounds were filled with singing, as over 10,000 pupils found their voices through Codi Llais — one of the largest youth music projects ever staged in the city. In this final report, you'll discover what was accomplished, the challenges and lessons learned along the way, the impact, and the legacy that continues.



A City Comes Together in Song

"Well – 'what a night' as they say!
A truly professional, slick, well-
thought through event with
music and wellbeing right at the
heart of it all."- Mari Pritchard -
National Music Service for
Wales.

The starting point for the project was to use the power of music to support building confidence in oracy and literacy, encouraging children not only to find their voices, but to raise them.

At its heart, 'Codi Llais - Caerdydd' was more than a performance, it was about confidence, creativity, belonging — and the power of collective voice. On 15 April 2026, over 1,300 young people stepped onto the stage at the Utilita Arena Cardiff for a spectacular live performance — many experiencing a moment like this for the very first time. Lights up. Feel the beat. A city singing as one.

PROJECT JOURNEY & KEY MILESTONES

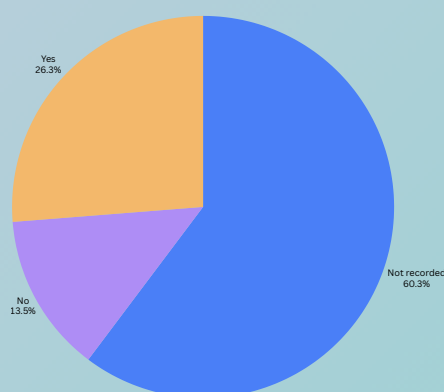
From classroom to arena, here's how Codi Llais unfolded across the city — reaching over 10,000 pupils and culminating in an unforgettable performance.

Milestone	Details	Date	Impact
Programme Launch	CF Music vocal practitioners began working in schools across Cardiff	September - November 2025	48 schools engaged, 10,000+ pupils reached through access to the resources
Teacher CPD & Resources Developed	Free bilingual resources and professional development delivered	Sept 2025 - Apr 2026	Teachers supported with online training and briefings - gained confidence to embed singing in school life
Songwriting Workshop	Pupils co-created the Codi Llais Anthem with professional artists	February 2026	Original song reflecting themes of identity, confidence and belonging
Event Launch	Cabinet Member for Education- Sarah Merry joined Bronwen Lewis and pupils to launch the Codi Llais Song and announce tickets on sale for final performance	February 2026	Branding and logo of project launched through press release and social media
Arena Performance	1,300 young people performed at the Utilita Arena Cardiff	15 April 2026	Life-changing experience for many; city-wide celebration
Legacy Resources Released	Anthem released on Spotify and Charanga Cymru	June 2026	Lasting impact beyond the event; accessible to schools across Wales

A TRULY CITY-WIDE CELEBRATION

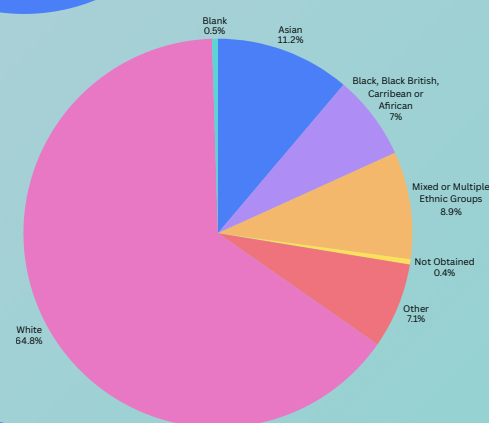


Codi Llais reached across Cardiff, bringing together representation from 48 schools, with 26 schools involved in the final performance. Participants came from diverse communities and both Welsh and English-medium settings. The participating schools collectively serve a highly diverse and socio-economically mixed population, including areas of both significant affluence and some of the most deprived communities in Wales. With over one quarter of residents from ethnically diverse backgrounds and around one in five pupils eligible for free school meals, this breadth of participation was central to the project's vision: ensuring equity of access, reflecting the diversity of Cardiff, and creating a genuine sense of shared cultural experience.

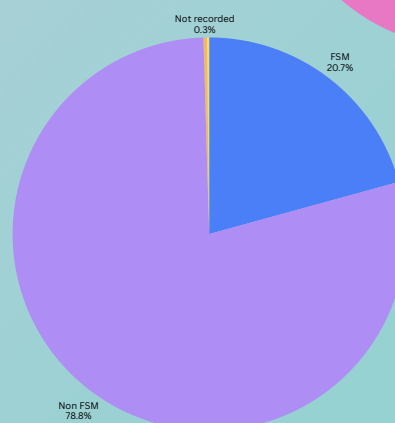


English as an additional language

Ethnic Group



FSM Split



Free at Point of Access

The project was offered free of charge to all schools across Cardiff thanks to the support of Cardiff Council and the Welsh Government National Plan for Music Education, engaging children from years 5 to 9. This included singing and song writing resources, online CPD for teachers, and bespoke school visits from CF Music vocal practitioners. All schools received access to resources regardless of their ability to participate in the final performance, and fully funded tickets were provided for children from low-income families, reducing barriers to participation.



26 SCHOOLS, ONE VOICE

West Cardiff

- Radyr Comprehensive School
- Radyr Primary School
- Pentyrch Primary School
- Danescourt Primary School
- Bryn Deri Primary School
- Ysgol Gynradd Gwaelod-y-Garth
- Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr
- Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf

North & Central

- Whitchurch High School
- Whitchurch Primary School
- Birchgrove Primary School
- Llanishen Fach Primary School
- Thornhill Primary School
- Lakeside Primary School
- Ysgol Melin Gruffydd
- Ysgol Y Wern

East & South

- Ysgol Bro Edern
- Llanedeyrn Primary School
- Ysgol Y Berllan Deg
- Ysgol Glan Ceubal
- Roath Park Primary School
- Lansdowne Primary School
- St Monica's C/W Primary School
- Cantonian High School
- Pencaerau Primary School
- St John Lloyd R.C. Primary School

The Codi Llais Anthem: A Song written by Cardiff voices

At the centre of the project was something very special — an original piece of music created with pupils, for pupils. In February, students were invited to the studio in Chapter to a dedicated songwriting workshop. Over two weeks they worked alongside Bronwen Lewis to shape bilingual lyrics, melody and ideas, exploring themes of identity, confidence, self-expression and belonging.

'It felt amazing knowing that something we helped write was sung by everyone in the arena - it made me feel really proud.' — Pupil participant



When the anthem was performed at the arena, it became more than just a song. It became a shared voice — a moment of connection across hundreds of young people on stage: 'Raise your voice, let the whole world hear, We are stronger when we sing together.'

Since then, Bronwen has invited the CF Music Senior and Junior choirs to perform alongside her on her tour for another unforgettable experience.



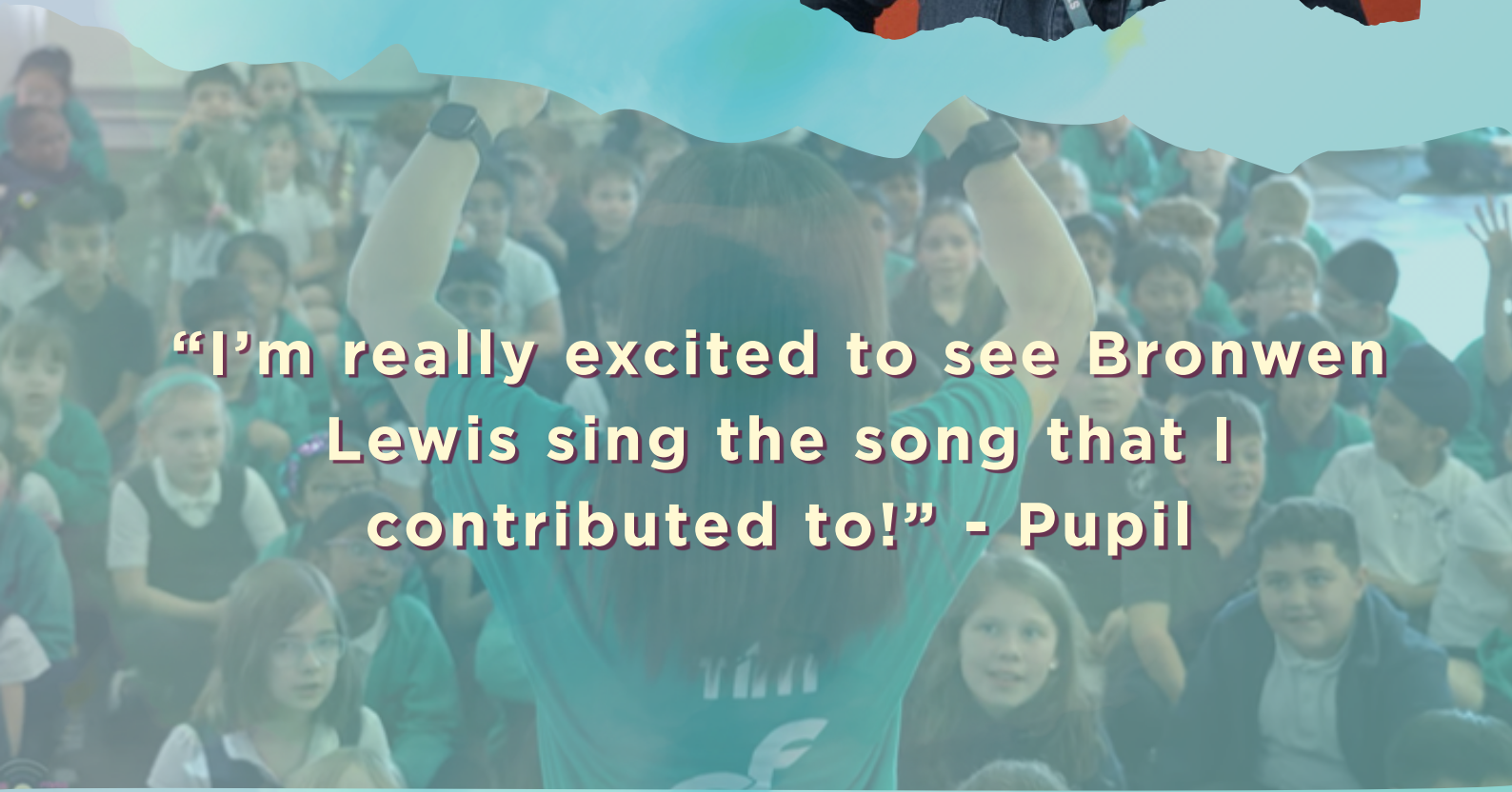


“I know the children have really enjoyed being part of this project, where they can celebrate being Welsh, and seeing that English songs can be translated into Welsh, and songs they recognise already. For the girls who were part of writing the song with Bronwen Lewis, to see someone who has made a living from writing and singing in Welsh has helped them think about their future, and raise confidence, and enjoy performing, with loads of children from across Cardiff.” - **Class teacher, Ysgol Gynradd Melin Gruffydd**

“Thank you for inspiring my son to sing and be part of Codi Llais. He loved the workshops at school and performing rock and pop songs in two-part harmony on stage—it was a truly unforgettable experience and I cried watching him singing and dancing with his friends. CF Music should be incredibly proud! Will this be an annual event?” - **Parent**



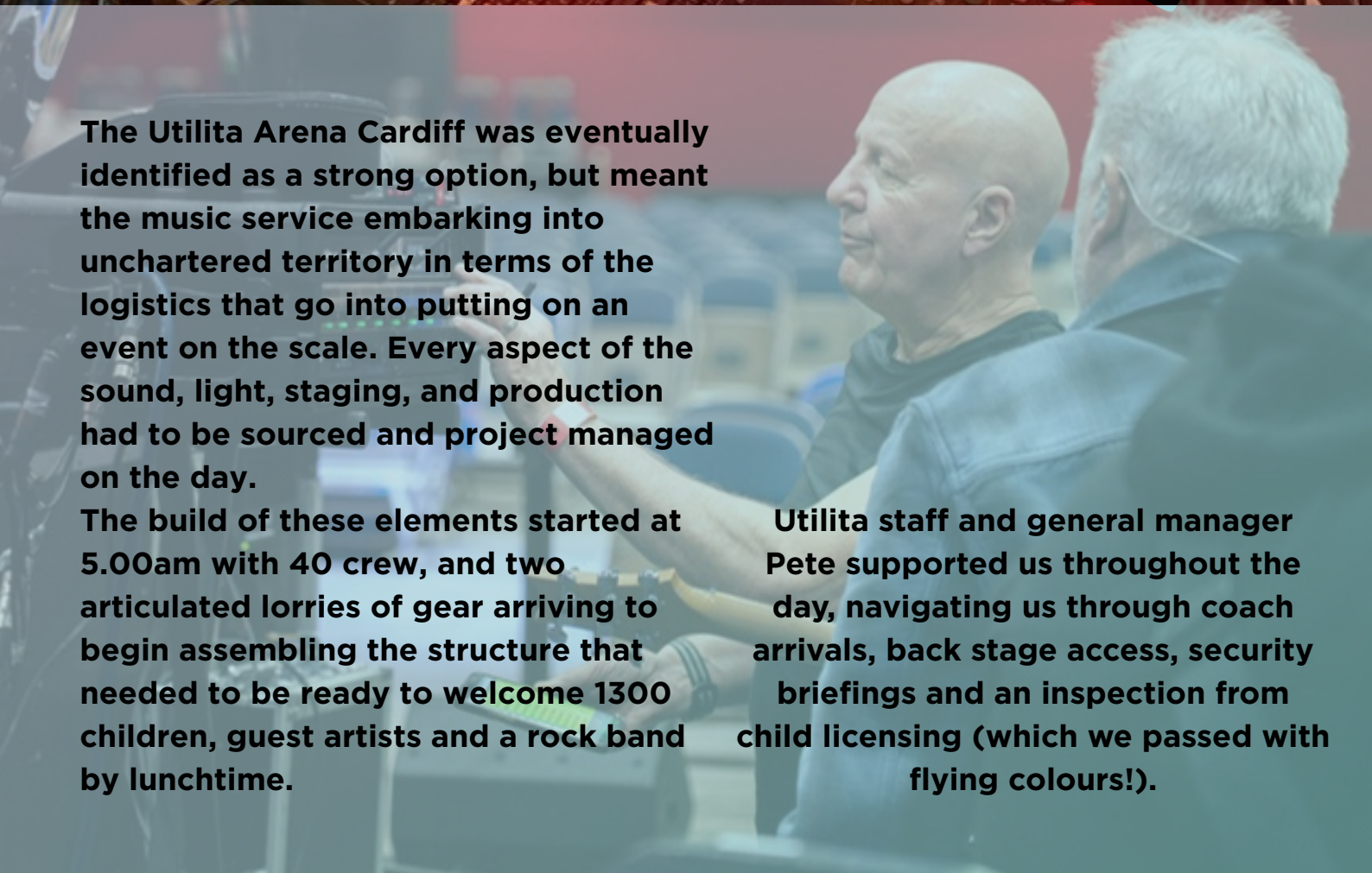
“I’m really excited to see Bronwen Lewis sing the song that I contributed to!” - Pupil





FINDING OUR VENUE AND BUILDING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

One huge challenge from the outset of the project was finding a venue that would fit the ambition, but allow us to keep the experience as inclusive as possible. Acoustics that suit a rock singer and a band are not the same as those that suit a large children's choir. With St David's Hall still under refurbishment, the options in terms of the capacity needed to be measured against was what was appropriate for young children and families.



The Utilita Arena Cardiff was eventually identified as a strong option, but meant the music service embarking into uncharted territory in terms of the logistics that go into putting on an event on the scale. Every aspect of the sound, light, staging, and production had to be sourced and project managed on the day.

The build of these elements started at 5.00am with 40 crew, and two articulated lorries of gear arriving to begin assembling the structure that needed to be ready to welcome 1300 children, guest artists and a rock band by lunchtime.

Utilita staff and general manager Pete supported us throughout the day, navigating us through coach arrivals, back stage access, security briefings and an inspection from child licensing (which we passed with flying colours!).

Behind every great rock show...

Another big challenge was bringing together such a large group of young performers who had never sung together, or performed in an arena, in one rehearsal. Absolutely crucial to the success of this was having a unit to 'accompany' that was 'rock solid' (excuse the pun!!). This was achieved by drawing on the amazing skills and sound and light production from the 'Ultimate Classic Rock Show' band, through our link with Luke Bradshaw, our Head of Guitar.



The groundwork done on preparing and producing the rehearsal tracks and pre-show rehearsals, laid solid foundations for the performance; that meant from the the first drum beat we knew that all was in safe hands and the young people could relax and enjoy themselves.



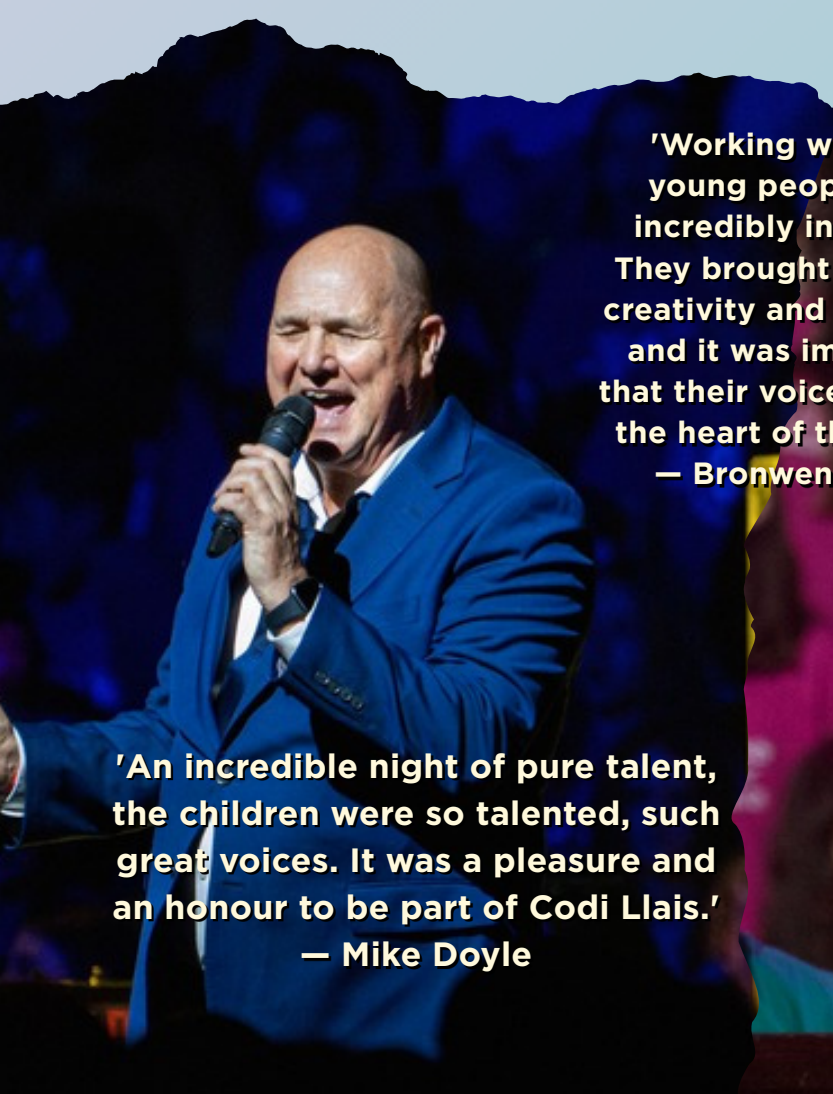
Taking both backing singer and, at times, lead singer roles were our four vocalists Aled Powys Williams, Hollie Clarke, Pete Hughes and Clare Watkins; who not only performed as soloists on the night, but put the schools through their paces in the many weeks leading up to the project.

They were responsible not only for providing a strong lead for the children to follow, but also keeping them entertained and energised throughout what was a long day for some (not that you would have thought it from the energy in the room, that was still buzzing well into the night).

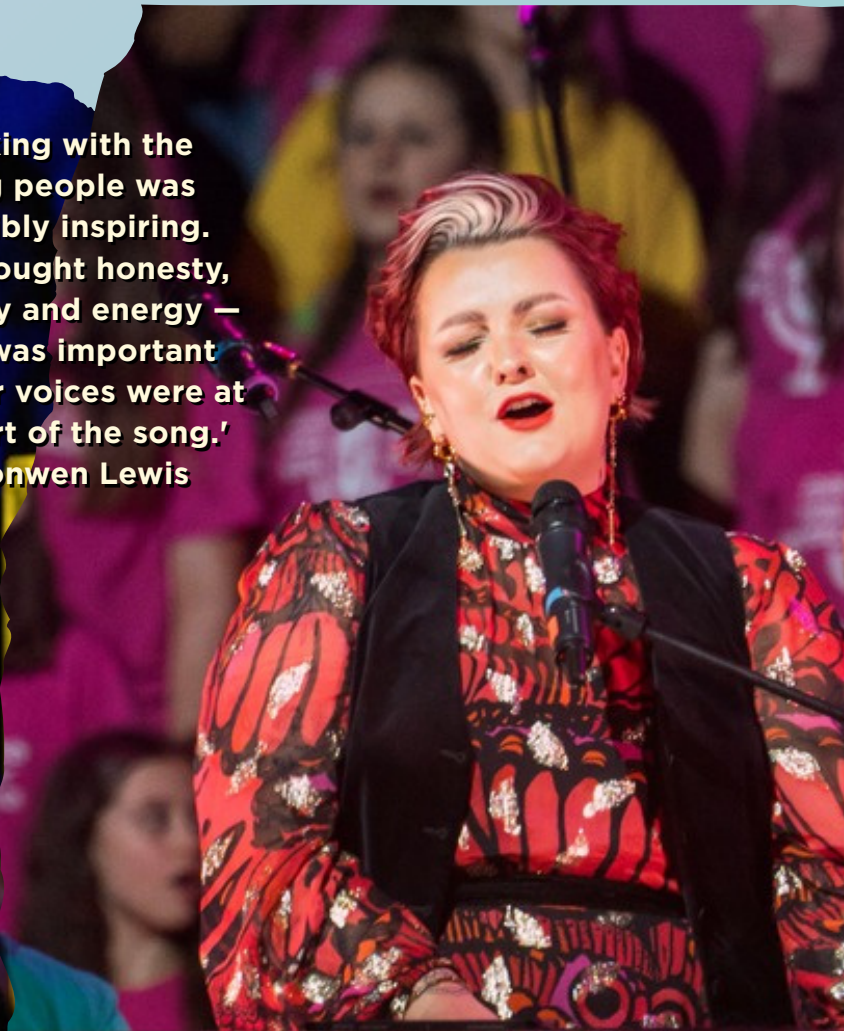
WORKING WITH LOCAL WELSH ARTISTS AND CREATING WITH CONFIDENCE

A highlight of the project was the involvement of leading Welsh artists Bronwen Lewis, Shellyann, and Mike Doyle. Their presence brought energy, professionalism and inspiration — turning the performance into something truly unforgettable. But importantly, this wasn't just about watching artists perform it was the chance to work with them, learn from them, and create with them.

During the show, Shellyann, 'Y Llais' finalist, talked about how growing up she would dream of performing in a venue such as the Utilita, and that the young people performing tonight should never give up on following their dreams.



'Working with the young people was incredibly inspiring. They brought honesty, creativity and energy — and it was important that their voices were at the heart of the song.'
— Bronwen Lewis



'An incredible night of pure talent, the children were so talented, such great voices. It was a pleasure and an honour to be part of Codi Llais.'
— Mike Doyle

ARTISTIC VISION & DIRECTION



Liz Williams, Project Lead

“It was my vision to demonstrate the power of the voice in shaping not only learning, but also a strong sense of belonging and wellbeing within our schools. Central to this was delivering inspiring vocal workshops, alongside meaningful teacher training and development aligned to the Welsh Curriculum. The bilingual approach ensured content felt authentic, inclusive, and accessible to all. Our Codi Llais song, co-written by Bronwen Lewis and our pupils, perfectly captured the spirit of the project—celebrating self-worth, identity, and shared vision.

Seeing it all come together on the day, in an energy-packed rock gig was unforgettable—it felt both huge and wonderfully intimate, perfectly tailored to the needs of our pupils and schools. There was a real community atmosphere in the arena, supported throughout by the dedication and encouragement of teachers and parents.

I have been overwhelmed by the messages from schools and families, highlighting the inclusivity of the experience and its positive impact on their children - asking if they can do it all again next year! I am absolutely thrilled and extremely proud of everyone involved. Diolch o’r galon.”

With thanks to Liz Williams and our team of vocal tutors, who delivered hours of sessions in schools to help pupils prepare for the event.

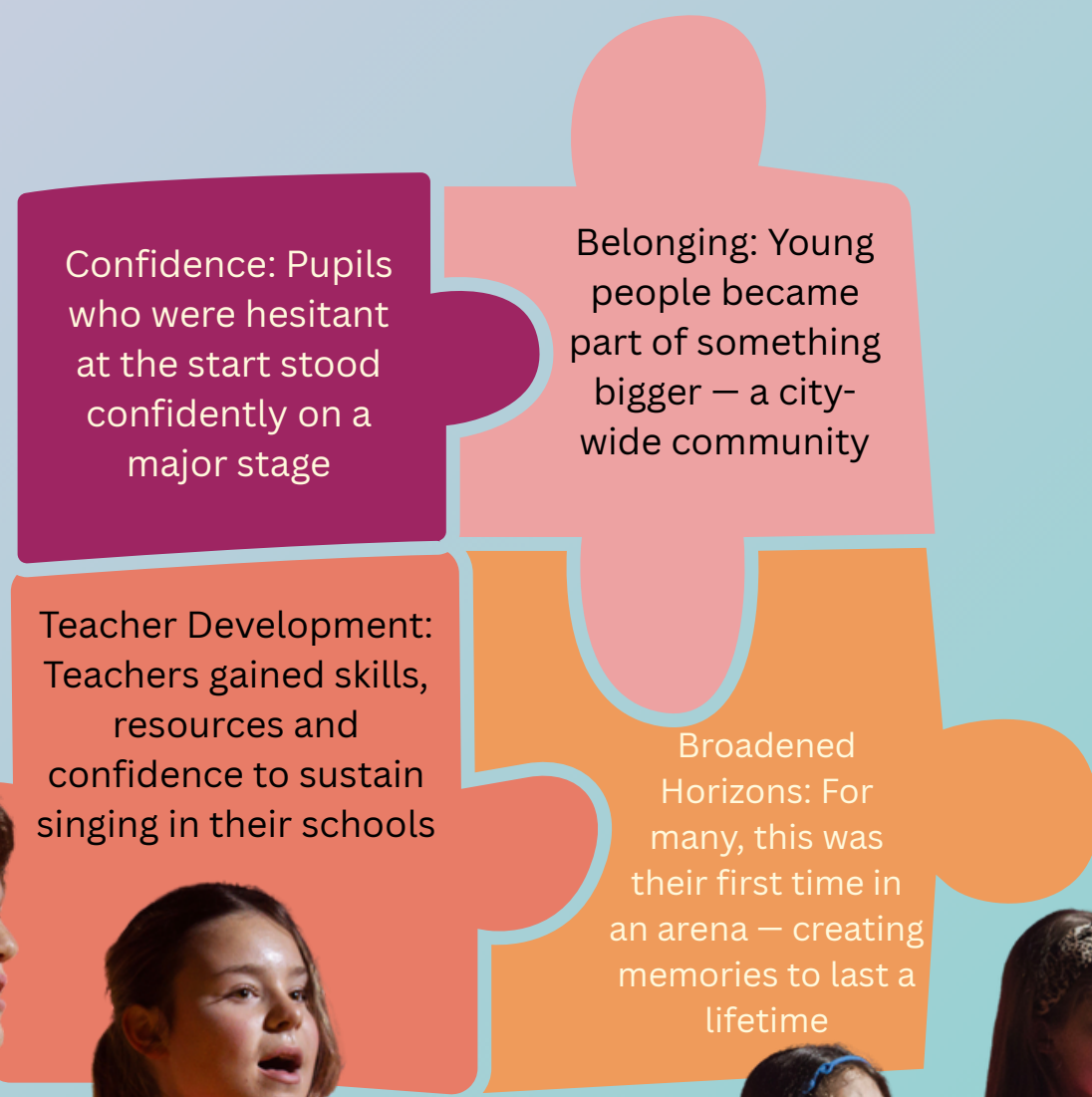
POST-PROJECT

A Lasting Legacy

The Anthem continues to live on through a planned release on Spotify and as a fully bilingual resource on Charanga Cymru, supporting teaching and learning across Wales. Schools can continue to use the song, pupils can revisit and reconnect with the experience, and the impact continues long after the final note.

Real Impact: More Than Music

The effects of Codi Llais extended far beyond performance. From the outset, the vision of the CF Music team was not just the music, but the power music has to unite and build confidence and communities.



Confidence: Pupils who were hesitant at the start stood confidently on a major stage

Belonging: Young people became part of something bigger — a city-wide community

Teacher Development: Teachers gained skills, resources and confidence to sustain singing in their schools

Broadened Horizons: For many, this was their first time in an arena — creating memories to last a lifetime





"Roedd hwn yn ddigwyddiad rhagorol. Diolch yn fawr iawn am y cyfle i'n disgyblion!"

The response to Codi Llais has been overwhelmingly powerful. Parents, teachers, leaders — and most importantly pupils — all spoke of the same thing: joy, energy, pride.

'I wanted to email to reflect on last night's Codi Llais event and to thank you and everyone involved for such an inspiring and impactful experience. Over the past two years we have travelled to London to give our pupils the opportunities to engage in music on a larger scale. What stood out strongly last night was the same energy and ambition that we have on our doorstep. The transition work, bringing schools together through music felt both meaningful and necessary. I was there as a Mum as well as Headteacher. It was equally rewarding to see the impact on both my pupils and my girls - events like this really do broaden horizons.' — Headteacher

"An experience the children will never forget."

"A truly professional, inspiring event."

LEGACY AND LOOKING AHEAD

A Legacy for Cardiff

Codi Llais has laid the foundations for something lasting: a stronger culture of singing in schools, greater confidence among teachers and pupils, stronger connections across education, music services and the cultural sector, and a model for future large-scale city-wide collaboration. But above all, it proved something simple and powerful: when young people are given the chance to raise their voices — they rise to it.

Looking Ahead

This is just the beginning. With momentum established and excitement building, Codi Llais has the potential to grow into an annual celebration of young voices in Cardiff — continuing to inspire, connect and empower future generations.



Codi Llais wasn't just a project. It was a moment — a shared voice — a city singing together. Thank you to every pupil, teacher, school leader, artist, and partner who contributed to making this vision a reality. The voices raised in spring 2026 will echo for years to come, inspiring the next generation to find their voice and sing with confidence.



Gwasanaeth Cerdd
Cenedlaethol Cymru
National Music
Service Wales

