

Huw Stephens

It's a real pleasure to welcome you here today as we shine a light on someone whose voice is not just recognisable, but reassuringly present wherever music is being made, stories are being told, and talent is being championed.

It's an honor to take a moment to reflect on his journey and the difference he continues to make.

Huw Stephens is one of Wales' most recognisable broadcasting voices, a passionate champion of new music and an avid advocate for Welsh talent. Across radio, television and live events, Huw has focused his career on discovering and promoting emerging artists, becoming a key figure in the UK's cultural life and a powerful ambassador for creative voices from Wales.

Born and raised in Cardiff, Huw began his career in hospital radio before becoming the youngest-ever presenter on BBC Radio 1 at the age of 17. Since then, his work has spanned BBC Radio 6 Music, BBC Radio Cymru, BBC Radio Wales and BBC Radio 4, where his programmes range from cutting-edge music discovery to in-depth cultural features. As a fluent Welsh speaker, he has consistently championed Welsh-language music alongside English-language acts, helping to elevate the profile of homegrown talent on the world stage.

Huw is the founder of *Sŵn Festival*, Cardiff's flagship celebration of new music, and of the *Welsh Music Prize*, which he helped establish to recognise the best albums made in Wales each year. His live presenting work includes BBC Glastonbury coverage, *BBC Young Jazz Musician*, and *Other Voices*, where his natural warmth and deep musical knowledge have made him a trusted guide for audiences and artists alike.

A thoughtful curator and storyteller, Huw also fronted major BBC TV series such as *The Story of Welsh Art* and *Wales: Music Nation*, exploring the country's creative legacy. His award-winning Welsh-language documentary *Anorac* earned four BAFTA Cymru Awards, including Best Presenter, and cemented his reputation as a thoughtful and passionate advocate for Welsh identity and creativity.

Huw regularly engages with our students and alumni, using his platforms to amplify their voices, and we look forward to working more closely together. In October 2023, he joined us at the Dora Stoutzker Hall to interview the legendary bassist Pino Palladino as part of the first *Cardiff Music City Festival*—an event that brought the industry, audiences and artists together in celebration of musical talent and conversation.

Honoured Guests, I present to you Huw Stephens as a Fellow of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.