awen Ymddiriedolaeth Ddiwylliannol Cultural Trust

RHONDDA CYNON TAF

QUARTER 3
PERFORMANCE REPORT

for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

2025–26

This report summarises activities undertaken by Awen Cultural Trust at Y Muni between October and December 2025 – **Quarter 3**.

Summary:
Y MUNI

This quarter was our busiest since reopening, with 5,039 visitors attending Y Muni between October and December. Of these, 4,127 were ticketed attendees, almost double our audience for any previous quarter.

A major contributor to this success was our continued partnership with the **Morfydd Owen Festival**, in collaboration with Parc Arts, Pontypridd Town Council, Pontypridd Museum, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council, YMa and Clwb Y Bont. Returning for its second year, the festival featured three back-to-back sold out performances by Pontypridd-based singer songwriter **Amy Wadge**, bringing new audiences into the venue and significantly widening our regional reach, as shown in the maps below. Amy's enthusiasm for Y Muni and our strong relationship with her has already secured her return for future events.

Original live music remained a strong feature of the programme, with sold out rock shows by **Phil Campbell and the Bastard Sons**, and performances by **Ginger Wildheart and The Wildhearts**, country singer-songwriter **Ashley Campbell**, **Big Mac's Wholly Soul Band**, and a near sell out from Fleetwood Mac tribute act **Seven Wonders**.

For the first time, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council, in partnership with the Royal British Legion, hosted their poignant **Festival of Remembrance Concert** at Y Muni. The evening's performances featured a powerful display of poppies cascading from the venue's rafters, creating a moving tribute in support of our Armed Forces, past and present.

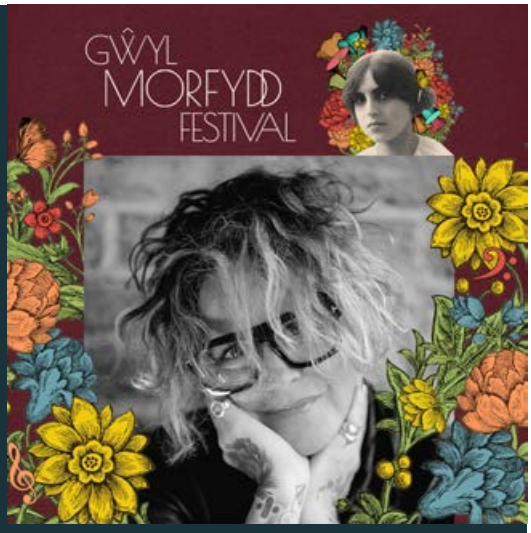
The 20th anniversary of Jonathan Larson's **RENT** was marked with a special screening delivered in partnership with RCT Pride. The team at Y Muni are thrilled to play an active role on the RCT Pride planning committee, which is bringing this year's celebration to Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd, in July. Also in keeping with our commitment to inclusivity, Y Muni is preparing to take part in **'Turning Ponty Blue'** during Dementia Action Week in May, following an initial planning meeting with the Pontypridd Dementia Group in December.

Our Christmas season offered a balance of popular and traditional events, including the sold-out **That Christmas 80s Rock Show**, and **Festive Voices**, a community focused concert showcasing **Pontypridd Community Choir**, **SOW acapella group** and spoken word artist **Dai Woolridge**. With Y Muni taking a proactive role in the Pontypridd Town and Culture Partnership, the team continues to collaborate with other creative and cultural organisations across the town to ensure efforts are coordinated and duplication is avoided.

We continued to champion emerging artists through our monthly band nights, strengthened this quarter by a new booking partnership with Tiwn Media. Comedy nights in Y Festri continued to grow, and we proudly welcomed Hijinx's **House of Deviant**, Wales' first and only learning disabled drag troupe.

Cinema activity also expanded, with monthly family film and craft sessions, relaxed showings and new **National Theatre Live** screenings, which are beginning to develop a loyal audience alongside **Vern's Film Club**. Our regular community offer of **Free Music Fridays**, **Open Mic** sessions and **Music Quiz** nights continues to bring local people together, provide warm and welcoming spaces and offer free access to arts and culture. Thanks to external funding, we enhanced our 'warm hub' offer with complimentary tea and cake at each Free Music Friday event this quarter.

This quarter showed significant progress towards Awen's strategic goals. We made positive steps in boosting cultural activities, creating shared experiences, reducing barriers, supporting wellbeing and social connection and helping local talent grow. The figures below show that Y Muni is becoming a leading venue in the region, offering accessible, high quality arts and cultural events. These activities support the local economy and help bring communities together.

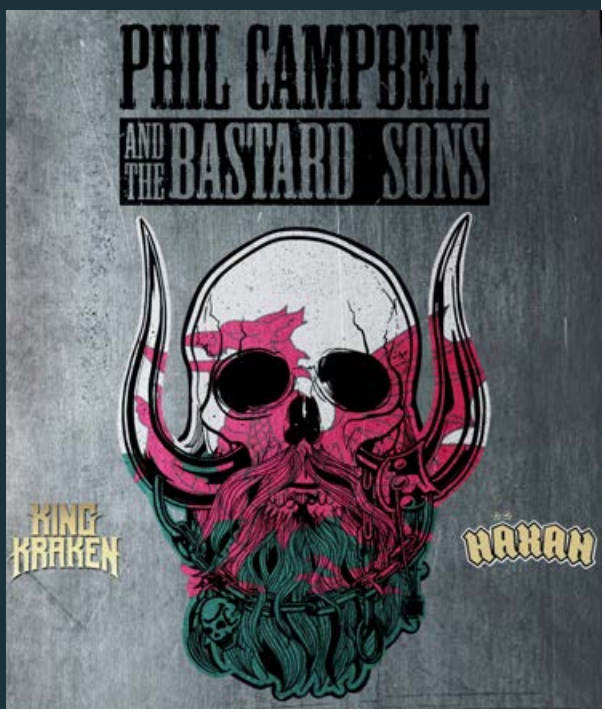

GŴYL
MORFYDD
FESTIVAL

Seven Wonders
The Sound Of
FLEETWOOD MAC

the WILDHEARTS

That
80s
CHRISTMAS
ROCK SHOW

National
Theatre
Live
Jack LOWDEN
Martin FREEMAN
The Fifth Step
Written by DAVID IRELAND
Directed by FINN DEN HERTOG


PHIL CAMPBELL
AND THE BASTARD SONS
KING KRAKEN
HAKAN

Case Study:
Y MUNI

AJ, CWMBACH

AJ, from Cwmbach, was one of our first customers to benefit from the modifications to Y Muni's accessible seating area in the balcony, when she attended Phil Campbell and the Bastard Sons in October.

"Bringing rock and metal to an accessible, local venue, has been a highlight of my 2025. So often acts I like are put on in inaccessible venues, so having Y Muni open and be fully accessible to my needs is wonderful. It opens up my world considerably!

"The staff and volunteers were very helpful. The changing places toilet gave me everything I needed to look after myself independently. The upstairs bar close to the accessible balcony meant I could take time and choose my drink instead of relying on my carer.

"The balcony itself was great. The view wasn't obstructed, and the sound up there was amazing. Often accessible viewing areas have compromised sound. There was room for me to turn in my wheelchair and get behind the row of seats without having to ask people to move, which is another issue I find with a lot of accessible viewing areas."

Customer Feedback:
Y MUNI

"It is my first visit since the venue reopened and the renovation is fantastic."

"My last visit there was in the 90s – it has been absolutely transformed."

Free Music Friday

"Really enjoyed Loafus, great voice, great choice of songs including some of her own – will look out for her again!"

"Great voice, lovely girl – thoroughly enjoyed the Free Music Friday morning with Loafus!"

"Great gig from Tomas Lewis – he was in fine voice today."

"We really enjoyed listening to Tomas this morning thanks!"

Amy Wadge

"My fifth time seeing Amy and being at Y Muni made it extra special. Fantastic night, met some lovely people and saw such amazing talent."

"We came on Sunday for Amy Wadge and drove from Somerset. Fantastic evening, loved it thank you."

"It was a phenomenal show. Congrats to everyone involved! Y Muni is a gorgeous, intimate venue."

The Wildhearts

"Such an amazing night, absolutely awesome."

"Had a fantastic night at Y Muni, a cracking gig."

Ymddiriedolaeth
Ddiwylliannol
Cultural Trust

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Mae Ymddiriedolaeth Ddiwylliannol Awen wedi'i chofrestru yng Nghymru fel cwmni cyfyngedig drwy warant.
Awen Cultural Trust is registered in Wales as a company limited by guarantee.