

# History of "Yma o Hyd"

The song's first verse tells us about Magnus Maximus, the Roman Emperor who had his army in Britain until the year 383 AD.

It was most likely Gwynfor Evans (a historian and the first Member of Parliament for Plaid Cymru in Westminster) who gave Dafydd Iwan the idea that the history of Cymru (Wales) started in that year - 1600 years ago.



With Henry VIII's Acts of Union ('unifying' Cymru under the English crown) from 1536 onwards, officials in the public sector had to speak English. Some of them completely turned their back on Cymraeg (the Welsh language).



In the 1980s most coal mines in Wales were closed by Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister of the UK ("er gwaetha 'rhen Fagi a'i chriw"/"despite old Maggie and her crew"). Many coal miners lost their jobs and had to leave their communities to find work. Through this many communities lost their Welsh speakers.

Dafydd Iwan wanted to write a positive song about the history of Cymru to show that Cymru and Cymraeg are 'yma o hyd' (still here) despite all the threats over the centuries.

Since publishing the song in 1983, Welsh medium education developed. The Welsh Language Act of 1993 gives equal status to Cymraeg and English. And we've got the Senedd.

By now the song has become an anthem for the Welsh football team and a song for us to celebrate and take pride in Cymru and the Cymraeg.



# Yma o Hyd - the song by Dafydd Iwan

Dwyt ti'm yn cofio Macsen,  
Does neb yn ei nabod o;  
Mae mil a chwe chant o flynyddoedd  
Yn amser rhy hir i'r co';  
Pan aeth Magnus Maximus o Gymru  
Yn y flwyddyn tri-chant-wyth-tri,  
A'n gadael yn genedl gyfan  
A heddiw: wele ni!

## Cytgan / Chorus:

Ry'n ni yma o hyd, x2  
Er gwaetha pawb a phopeth, x3  
Ry'n ni yma o hyd, x2  
Er gwaetha pawb a phopeth, x3  
Ry'n ni yma o hyd.

Chwythed y gwynt o'r Dwyrain,  
Rhued y storm o'r môr,  
Hollted y mellt yr wybren  
A gwaedded y daran encôr,  
Llifed dagrau'r gwangalon  
A llyfed y taeog y llawr  
Er dued yw'r fagddu o'n cwmpas  
Ry'n ni'n barod am doriad y wawr!

## Cytgan

Cofiwn ni Facsen Wledig  
Adaen ein gwlad yn un darn  
A bloeddiwn gerbron y gwledydd  
'Mi fyddwn yma tan Ddydd y Farn!  
Er gwaetha pob Dic Siôn Dafydd,  
Er gwaetha 'rhen Fagi a'i chriw  
Byddwn yma hyd ddiwedd amser  
A bydd yr iaith Gymraeg yn fyw!

## Cytgan

You don't remember Macsen,  
Nobody knows him;  
One thousand and six hundred years  
Is a time too long to remember;  
When Magnus Maximus left Wales  
In the year 383  
Leaving us a whole nation  
And today - look at us!

## Chorus:

We are still here x2  
Despite everyone and everything x3  
We are still here x2  
Despite everyone and everything x3  
We are still here.

Let the wind blow from the East  
Let the storm roar from the sea  
Let the lightning split the heavens  
And the thunder shout "Encore!"  
Let the tears of the faint-hearted flow  
And the servile lick the floor  
Despite the blackness around us  
We are ready for the break of dawn!

## Chorus

We remember that Macsen the Emperor  
Left our country in one whole piece,  
And we shall shout before the nations  
'We'll be here until Judgement Day!'  
Despite every Dic Siôn Dafydd  
Despite old Maggie and her crew,  
We'll be here until the end of time,  
And the Welsh language will be alive!

## Chorus