

## Consolation

A companion piece for *Constellation* and *Contact*: an audio collage based on numerous small individual contributions, devised by Sheena Phillips

*Constellation* evoked our distance from each other and our isolation. *Contact* evoked how different social contact is now from how it was before. *Consolation* will be about what we do – on our own or with others – that helps us get through the pandemic. I'd like to frame your responses around the traditional Welsh song *Ar Hyd Y Nos* (All Through The Night), whose original Welsh lyrics – and beautiful melody – paint a moving picture of how we can all help each other through times of darkness.

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## Instructions

Read this English translation of the original Welsh lyrics:

All the twinkling of the stars says, all through the night: this is the way to a land of glory.

Darkness is another light, which reveals the true beauty of the heavenly family (i.e. the stars) in peace, all through the night.

Oh, how cheerfully smiles a star, all through the night, to light its sister Earth.

Old age is the night, when affliction comes. But to grace our fading, we give our weak light to each other, all through the night.

(with thanks to [https://www.reddit.com/r/learnwelsh/comments/d8pqzi/analysis\\_of\\_the\\_lyrics\\_to\\_ar\\_hyd\\_y\\_nos\\_a/](https://www.reddit.com/r/learnwelsh/comments/d8pqzi/analysis_of_the_lyrics_to_ar_hyd_y_nos_a/))

Feel free to respond to any part or aspect of these lines, in any way you like. You might want to speak or sing some of them, or play around with them instrumentally. You might want to take them only as a starting point and go somewhere quite different melodically or lyrically.

Other materials which might help inspire you:

- Bryn Terfel's performance of *Ar Hyd Y Nos* on youtube
- this [simple arrangement of the song](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tEHG-RFuCRcM274EHd4Q82iLjLsspKO3/view?usp=sharing) (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tEHG-RFuCRcM274EHd4Q82iLjLsspKO3/view?usp=sharing>)

## Technical

- on Android or iPhone, use a voice recording or voice memo app
- on a computer, use Sound Recorder (Windows) or QuickTime (Mac OS) or GarageBand or Audacity (if you are adventurous with new software)

Please send recordings up to a minute or so in length (but they can be much shorter). Over to you!

Sheena Phillips

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