

# TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



## BRIEF HISTORY 1948

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& Honorary Archivist

## JANUARY

### January

At a Committee Meeting it was proposed by William Wiltshire to publish a monthly pamphlet on the activities of the Choir. With a sub-committee of Keri Williams, Richard Williams, Ernest Lewis and W.J. 'Donna' Griffiths, the first edition of *Excelsior: The Voice Of The Treorchy & District Male Choir* was produced. It continues to enjoy a world-wide distribution.

## APRIL

### Sunday April 1st

#### Bethlehem Chapel, Treorchy

The Choir gave its first Celebrity Concert at Bethlehem Chapel, Treorchy, with soprano Linda Parker and baritone William Parsons. One of the songs performed was "Close Thine Eyes", and its composer Ieuan Rees Davies was a member of the audience. He was invited to conduct the item by John Haydn Davies. The concert coincided with the publication of the first edition of *Excelsior*. The opening lines by John Haydn Davies referred to the "new Choir", "The King is Dead, Long Live the King!"

## MAY

### Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

The Choir entered the competition arena for the first time by appearing at the Whitsun Treorchy Eisteddfod in the Park & Dare Theatre with the test piece *Nidaros* and gained second prize for which they received £20. The adjudicators were Dr Sumpson and Ivor Owen.. Pendyrus won the competition. Treorchy never lost to Pendyrus again.

## JUNE

### Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Eisteddfod (Welfare) Field, Llanharan

The Choir won its first semi-final eisteddfod competition in Llanharan with *Nidaros* where the adjudicator, Professor Joseph Lewis of the Guildhall School of Music, called Treorchy "A fine Choir. The singing throughout was most expressive. The dynamic passages were intense. A really fine performance."

### Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Blaen-y-Cwm Chapel, Treherbert

The Choir performed at John Haydn Davies' chapel with soloists Miss Bick, Tom Griffiths and Idris Higgon. A total of £10 was raised for chapel funds

## JULY

### Sunday July 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Ramah Chapel, Treorchy**

Tonight's concert at Ramah Chapel was significant because it introduced a new baritone soloist to the Choir, named Sam Griffiths. He was joined by soloists Haydn Parfitt and boy soprano John Hughes. A total of £15 was raised for Choir funds.

### **Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Salem Chapel, Cwmparc**

Another fundraising event for the Choir with £5.8.0 raised for the accounts. Soloists were William Wiltshire, Cas Powell and Marilyn Davies.

## **SEPTEMBER**

### **Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Eisteddfod Field, Pontllanfraith**

Once again the Choir won a semi-national eisteddfod, this time held in Pontllanfraith where the adjudicator was Douglas Robinson, the Chorus Master at Covent Garden. The Choir was presented with £40 and the Burgess Cup.

### **Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Hermon Chapel, Treorchy**

The Choir performed with soloists Eunice Jones, Cas Powell and Tom Griffiths for another fundraising concert which raised £13.4.5 for Choir funds.

## **OCTOBER**

### **Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, Cardiff**

The Choir made its first radio broadcast on a programme called "Export Only" for the BBC.

## **NOVEMBER**

### **Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Bethesda Chapel, Ton Pentre**

Organised by the Loyal Order of the Moose, a concert was held in Ton Pentre with Emlyn Lewis and John Hughes. A total of £10 was donated to the Choir funds.

### **Wednesday November 10<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, Cardiff**

A second radio broadcast of Welsh choral music for the BBC took place in Cardiff with soloists David Evans and Brynmor Howells. A total of £31 was given to the Choir for its growing funds.

### **Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Moriah Chapel, Tonypany**

For the final concert of the year the Choir was joined by singers Marilyn Davies, Betty Baxter, Jack Hughes and Sam Griffiths.