

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



BRIEF HISTORY 1950

By Dean Powell, Publicity Officer
& Honorary Archivist

JANUARY

Monday January 15th

Hebron Chapel, Ton Pentre

A fundraising concert organised by the Hebron Young People Society, was led by Rev W.D.Morgan and £9.6.4 was donated to Choir funds. Soloists were boy soprano Trevor Hughes, Mrs W.D. Morgan and Ieuan Morgan

Saturday January 20th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir recorded the BBC Home Service "Choral Exchange" programme with three French choirs in Lille.

FEBRUARY

Saturday February 18th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

Following the success of its appearance on "Student Songs" during the Christmas period, the Choir was invited to appear on four consecutive Saturday night programmes called "All Together" with presenter, Alun Williams. It was the start of a long-standing friendship with the broadcaster as the Choir appeared on 32 of his programmes over the coming years. For the first broadcast the Choir was joined by baritone John Morgan who was accompanied by John Wills.

Saturday February 25th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

An "All Together" programme was broadcast with John Morgan and John Wills.

Saturday 25th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

On the same evening as the "All Together" programme the Choir recorded *Harlech* and *Dewch I'r Ior* for the BBC children's programme, "Owain Glyndwr".

MARCH

Tuesday March 1st

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast the programme "Dewi Sant" on St David's Day for the BBC.

Saturday March 4th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

An "All Together" broadcast with Alun Williams, featuring baritone John Morgan and his accompanist Winifred Davey.

Saturday March 11th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast "All Together" with Alun Williams as presenter. Once again it featured baritone John Morgan and his accompanist Winifred Davey.

Sunday March 12th

Workmen's Hall, Abercynon

In support of the Abercynon Colliery Sports Fund the Choir performed in the village hall with contralto Mary Jarrad and tenor Heddle Nash.

APRIL

Thursday April 27th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir was joined by Pendyrus Male Choir and Cefn Mawr Male Choir to broadcast "Music Hour – Old Favourites" for the BBC.

MAY

Saturday May 6th

Eisteddfod, Sennybridge

The Choir entered the Semi-National Eisteddfod. Of the five competing choirs, Rhymney came first, rather ironic given how the adjudicator teased the audience with a glowing account of the time he spent as a youth in the village. Ystalyfera were placed second and Beaufort third. There was some comfort for Treorchy however as Manselton Male Choir came last but went on to win the first prize at the National Eisteddfod three months later, while Treorchy themselves came second. Although John Haydn continually repeated his motto of "If you lose say little, if you win say less", there was an undeniable truth that this competition was anything but fair

Thursday May 18th

Polikoff Assembly Hall, Treorchy

The Choir joined the famous entertainer Wilfred Pickles for a BBC broadcast called "Pleasant Journey."

Tuesday May 30th

Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

Treorchy was the only Choir to enter the South Wales Chair Eisteddfod, but adjudicators Ivor Owen of Swansea and Madam Dilys Wynne-Jones of Caernarfon felt their performance was fully deserving of the first prize of £50.

JUNE

Monday June 5th

Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, Cardiff

The Choir joined forces with the BBC Welsh Orchestra, conducted by Arwel Hughes, with soprano soloist Elizabeth Evans. The broadcast called "Welsh Hills" was for the BBC Transcription Service.

Saturday June 24th

Eisteddfod Field, Llanharan

The Choir entered the Semi-National Eisteddfod at Llanharan, again facing no opposing choir, but being awarded the first prize. The adjudicators that day were Professor Joseph Lewis and Alan Bush, Professor of Composition at the Royal

Academy of Music in London. He was so enamoured with the Choir that he presented John Haydn with the original manuscript of his composition *Owain Glyndwr* which he dedicated to the Treorchy Male Choir.

Saturday June 24th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast an “All Together” programme with Alun Williams.

JULY

Saturday July 1st

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast an “All Together” programme with Alun Williams.

Saturday July 8th

Castle Grounds, Cardiff

At the invitation of the Cardiff Corporation the Choir performed in the grounds of Cardiff Castle with soprano Brenda Trotman and baritone soloist Sam Griffiths.

Saturday July 8th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast an “All Together” programme with Alun Williams.

Saturday July 15th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast an “All Together” programme with Alun Williams.

Sunday July 23rd

Ramah Chapel, Treorchy

A public rehearsal was held of items for the forthcoming National Eisteddfod in Caerphilly. The soloists were Maud Hughes-Davies and David Davies.

Sunday July 30th

Libanus Chapel, Treherbert

A public rehearsal was held of items for the forthcoming National Eisteddfod in Caerphilly. The soloists were Maud Hughes-Davies and Marilyn Hughes-Davies.

AUGUST

Sunday August 6th

Hermon Chapel, Treorchy

A public rehearsal was held of items for the forthcoming National Eisteddfod in Caerphilly. The soloists were Idris Higgon and George Thomas..

Saturday August 12th

National Eisteddfod of Wales, Caerphilly

Following a mid-day rehearsal in the Glyncoli Road School, ten coaches set out to conquer Caerphilly, and the same mixture of enthusiasm and nervousness rushed through the 153 choristers. They performed *Baich Damascus*, *Deryn y Bwn* and *Cysga*

Di for the capacity crowd of almost 10,000 people. The scores were Manselton (277 points), Treorchy (272 points), Rhymney (252 points), Pendyrus (248 points) and Rhos (246 points). Despite all efforts, they once again received second prize, but their work was not in vain. This intense rehearsal and preparation was a formidable method of perfecting the art of choral singing.

OCTOBER

Saturday October 28th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

A BBC broadcast called “Host a Guest” took place at the rehearsal room. The Choir welcomed the Ipswich Girls Choir, conductor W.H. Dixon to participate in the broadcast.

NOVEMBER

Thursday November 2nd

Bodringallt Chapel, Ystrad

A fundraising concert took place in Ystrad with soprano Sarah Price and baritone Sam Griffiths where £5.5.0 was donated to the Choir.

DECEMBER

Monday December 18th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

An “All Together” programme was broadcast from the rehearsal room with present Alun Williams which was to be broadcast on Boxing Night.

Thursday December 21st

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The final engagement of the year was a BBC Broadcast for their programme “Music Hour” with the BBC Welsh Orchestra, conducted by Rae Jenkins, soloists Gwynne Griffiths, Tom Griffiths and Tom Hopkins.