

# TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



## BRIEF HISTORY 1956

By Dean Powell, Publicity Officer  
& Honorary Archivist

## JANUARY

**Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Rehearsal Room, Treorchy**

As the tenth anniversary year of the Choir dawned, the BBC broadcast “Saturday Night Out TV” from the rehearsal room featuring Gwyn Thomas and Robert Beatty and Master of Ceremonies Alun Williams.

**Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Olympia Stadium, Cardiff**

The Choir held a fundraising concert for the St Johns Ambulance Appeal.

## FEBRUARY

**Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Bethlehem Chapel, Treorchy**

The Choir made their first commercial recording of *Sospan Fach* and *March of the Men of Harlech* for Qualiton Records in Bethlehem Chapel, Treorchy.

**Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Welfare Hall, Glynneath**

In a fundraising concert for the Aberdare National Eisteddfod, the Choir was incorrectly advertised as the “Royal Treorchy Male Voice Choir”. Also on the bill was Sam Griffiths and Haydn Parfitt.

**Tuesday February 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Rehearsal Room, Treorchy**

The Walt Disney Film Co, visited the rehearsal room to record and film the Choir as part of a section of a documentary highlighting many aspects of Welsh life.

## MARCH

**Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Park Colliery, Cwmparc**

As part of the Walt Disney Film, the Choir filmed on location at Park Colliery while dressed as miners.

**Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Kings Hall, Aberystwyth**

In the fundraising concert for Aberystwyth Football Club, the Choir appeared for the first time with soprano Lucille Graham and bass Michael Langdon.

**Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Salem Chapel, Llwynypia**

Norma Powell Davies and Tom Griffiths joined the Choir for a fundraising concert in aid of Llwynypia OAP Group.

**Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy**

A combined Celebrity Concert was held in Treorchy with the Cwmparc Library and Institute Ladies Choir, conducted by Glyn Jones. Also featured was soprano Victoria Elliot.

**APRIL**

**Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Noddfa Chapel, Ynysybwl**

The Choir travelled to Ynysybwl to perform in aid of the local OAP Group.

**Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Cory Hall, Cardiff**

A BBC Welsh Home Service Broadcast for the programme “Cenwch I’m Yr Hen Ganiadau”.

**Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Regal Cinema, Llanelli**

The Choir was reunited with the Hywel Girls Choir (Conductor Hywel Williams) in a concert which also featured bass Edward Plunkett.

**Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Gaumont Theatre, Cardiff**

The Choir joined Joan Stuart, Howell Glynne and James Johnson at the Gaumont Theatre Cinema in Queen Street, Cardiff for a concert in aid of the Furniture Trades Benevolent Fund.

**MAY**

**Wednesday May 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Rehearsal Room, Treorchy**

The Choir recorded hymns and part songs to be broadcast on the BBC Home Service in Nigeria.

**JUNE**

**Friday June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Polikoff Hall, Treorchy**

The Choir appeared with the BBC Welsh Orchestra (conductor Rae Jenkins), Osian Ellis and John Morgan in a BBC Light Entertainment’s “Everyman’s Music” programme introduced by Alun Williams.

**JULY**

**Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Christchurch Park, Ipswich**

For the Choir’s second visit to Ipswich, they again appeared in Christchurch Park. Also appearing was Len Tibbs, George Clary and the Wizards on Wheels from Germany.

## AUGUST

### Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup>

#### National Eisteddfod of Wales, Aberdare

At this year's National Eisteddfod the three competing choirs were regarded as the "giants" of their field in Wales – Treorchy, Morryston Orpheus and Pendyrus. It was a glorious moment in Treorchy's history when they once again claimed the First Prize at the National Eisteddfod with 274 points over Morryston's 268 and Pendyrus's 258. In fact they beat their opponents with points not only accumulatively but on each individual item. The occasion marked their first victory over Morryston, themselves a renowned and internationally famous choir, but also brought to an end their unbeaten record of consecutive wins.

The adjudicators were E.T.Davies, J.Morgan Nicholas, Redvers Llewellyn, Haydn Morris and Tylorstown-born composer, conductor and Head of Music at BBC Wales, Mansel Thomas. During this competition E.T.Davies's composition *Y Gwynntoedd* and J. Morgan Nicholas's own work *Mawr Yw Yr Arglwydd* were two of the three test pieces performed. On receiving the first prize of £175, the Welsh Guards Challenge Cup and a gold medal donated by Dr Charles Dawe, John Haydn Davies had led the Choir to their third consecutive win.

### Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup>

#### Stag Square, Treorchy

On their triumphant return from the National Eisteddfod in Aberdare, the Choir performed to hundreds of people at Stag Square, Treorchy.

## SEPTEMBER

### Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Salem Chapel, Porth

The Choir was joined by contralto Norma Proctor and elocutionist Kay Feethan.

### Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup>

#### Polikoff Hall, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast "Cenwch Yr Hen Ganiadau" for the BBC Welsh Home Service.

## OCTOBER

### Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup>

#### The Pavilion, Porthcawl

The Choir gave their debut performance at the Miners' Musical Festival, better known as the Miners' Eisteddfod in Porthcawl Pavilion. For their first entry they literally stunned the adjudicator, Dr Haydn Morris, not only by their fine performance, but also by their choice of such an intricate classical piece. John Haydn had decided on the *Dies Irae* from Cherubini's *Requiem in D. Minor* and scored an impressive 95 points compared to the three other choirs who remained faithful to the more traditional choir repertoire. In second place was Pendyrus (*Salm Bywyd*) with 92

points, followed by Beaufort (*Iesu o Nazareth*) with 90 points and finally Ystradgynlais (*Nidaros*) with 90 points.

**Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Temple of Peace, Cardiff**

The Choir broadcast BBC "Children's Hour".

**Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Birmingham Town Hall**

For their third visit to the annual concert by the Cymmrodorion Society, the Choir was again welcomed by their Honorary Member D.O.Griffiths. Also performing on stage was Sam Griffiths and contralto Marjorie Thomas.

## NOVEMBER

**Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Salvation Army Citadel, Pentre**

The Choir welcomed elocutionist Herbert Jones for his first appearance with them on stage. The concert, in aid of the Citadel Funds also included contralto Agnes Jenkins-Griffiths.

**Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Capital Cinema, Carmarthen**

A concert was held in aid of the Carmarthen Blind Society and featured soprano Carmen Prietto, bass Robert Ivan Foster and cornet player Keith Caldwell. The soloists came from USA, Canada or New Zealand. Accompanying them was Florence Holloway.

## DECEMBER

**Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>**

**St Basil Church, Bassaleg**

For the first time to Bassaleg the Choir raised funds for St Basil's Church in concert with avid T. Davies (bass) and F.J.Meyer (organ soloist).

**Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Horeb Chapel, Treorchy**

The Choir appeared in a carol concert for the Sisterhood of the Chapel,

**Thursday December 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Bethlehem Chapel, Treorchy**

The Choir broadcast on the BBC Welsh Home Service. The programme was called "Ar Brynhawn Sul."

**Sunday December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Bethesda Chapel, Ton Pentre**

Organised by the Chapel Authorities of Ton Pentre, a fundraising concert for the Hungarian Relief Fund was held with the Choir, Roy Meredith and Hebron Children's Choir.