

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



BRIEF HISTORY 1961

By Dean Powell, Publicity Officer
& Honorary Archivist

JANUARY

Wednesday January 11th

Holton Road Church, Barry

The second visit to this venue took place at the start of the year with soloists Agnes Jenkins Griffiths and Sam Griffiths

Wednesday January 25th

Hope Chapel, Blaina

A concert was organised by the Nantyglo and Blaina Urban District Council with soprano Mrs P Devonald-Tong and baritone Sam Griffiths.

FEBRUARY

Sunday February 19th

Workmen's Hall, Ynyshir

A fundraising concert was held in Ynyshir in aid of the Workmen's Hall Fund and featured Sam Griffiths and Herbert Jones.

Tuesday February 21st

Noddfa Chapel, Treorchy

The Choir made another record for the Qualiton Record Company of Pontardawe.

Tuesday February 28th

T.W.W.Studios, Cardiff

The Choir travelled to Cardiff to film a programme for T.W.W.Television called "Amser Te" which was broadcast at 6.15pm on St David's Day.

MARCH

Thursday March 16th

Jerusalem Chapel, Ton Pentre

A concert was held in aid of Ton and Gelli Boys Club Building Fund with soloists Beryl Watts (soprano), Gwyn Thomas (boy soprano) and elocutionist Herbert Jones.

Thursday March 28th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir made an "All Together" radio broadcast with Alun Williams.

APRIL

Thursday April 21st

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

A crowd of VIP guests from Imperial College, London, visited Treorchy and were entertained to an evening performance at the rehearsal room.

Saturday April 23rd

Tabernacle Chapel, Llandovery

A concert in aid of chapel funds saw the Choir share the stage with Anita Thomas (soprano), Evan Lloyd (bass), Rhiannon Caffrey (elocutionist) and Sam Griffiths.

MAY

Saturday May 2nd

Polikoff Hall, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast an “Aelwyd y Gan” programme for the BBC.

Thursday May 6th

Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, Cardiff

A performance was held in aid of Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

Wednesday May 12th

Salem Chapel, Canton, Cardiff

A concert was held to celebrate the centenary of the chapel and featured the Choir with mezzo soprano Iona Jones, baritone Richard Rees and harpist Elinor Mair Owen.

AUGUST

Monday August 1

John Haydn Davies was presented with the M.B.E. by Her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Saturday August 12

National Eisteddfod of Wales, Rhosllanerchrugog

The Choir journeyed north for the keenly contested National Eisteddfod of Wales being held in Rhosllanerchrugog. The village produced such fine musicians as composer and conductor Arwel Hughes, who was about to become the Head of Music at the BBC and his brother John, was the organist at Noddfa Chapel, Treorchy.

The competition saw two old foes face one another on the eisteddfod stage, the “new” Treorchy Male Choir was once again up against the “old masters” of Morryston Orpheus. The adjudicators W. Matthews Williams, Meirion Williams and James Williams were staggered by the high standard of musicality. Treorchy gained a total of 183 points with the Orpheus attaining second place with 169. It was a very worthy winning conductor who stepped on the stage to receive the first prize of £200 and the Welsh Guards Challenge Cup.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday September 9th

Wood Street Church, Cardiff

The Choir appeared in a fundraising concert for the Boys Brigade, featuring the Brass Band of the 88th and 99th London Boys Brigade.

Saturday, September 16th

RAF Station, St Athans

A concert was held to commemorate the 21st Anniversary of the Battle of Britain featuring RAF Drill Flight, Boys Entrant Band, RAF Police Dog Show, Judo Club, Searchlight Tatroo, Sgt Quinney (trampoline) and St Athan Band.

Sunday September 24th

County Pavilion, Newtown

A concert was held to raise funds for the British Empire Cancer Research and also featured soprano Ava Junes and tenor Alberto Remedios.

OCTOBER

Thursday October 5th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

A group of German dignitaries were welcomed to the rehearsal room.

Thursday October 12th

James Smith Hall, Rhymney

A concert was held in aid of the Rhymney Youth Band and featured the band with conductor R. Nash, Novello Benjamin and Sam Griffiths.

Saturday October 20

Ninian Park Stadium, Cardiff

The Choir and John Haydn Davies once again led the singing at the international football match between Wales and England at Ninian Park, Cardiff.

Saturday October 28th

Salem Chapel, Llangenech

For the first visit to Llangenech, the concert was held to raise funds for the local cricket club and feature soprano Anita Williams and bass Evan Lloyd.

NOVEMBER

Thursday November 14th

Arrarat Chapel, Cardiff

A concert for chapel funds featured contralto Marilyn Hartnell and Herbert Jones.

Tuesday November 21st

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir made an "All Together" programme with Alun Williams for the BBC.

Thursday November 23rd

Libanus Chapel, Treherbert

A concert was held in aid of the Royal College of Nursing and featured Marilyn Hartnell (contralto) and Sam Griffiths.

DECEMBER

Thursday December 6th

St Matthews Hall, Treorchy

The Choir performed a local concert in aid of the Spastic Society.

Sunday December 20th

BBC TV Studios, Cardiff

The Choir made a TV broadcast called "Gwyr y Gan".