

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



BRIEF HISTORY 2011

By Dean Powell, Publicity Officer
& Honorary Archivist

January

Saturday January 15th

The Anvil, Basingtoke

“A Concert of Harp & Hymn” opened 2011 at The Anvil, Basingtoke where the Choir joined forces with Hampshire County Youth Choir, harpist Benjamin Creighton-Griffiths and soprano Iona Jones. The Choir was of course conducted by Janice Ball with Helen Roberts as Accompanist and Dean Powell as Master of Ceremonies for the entire evening. The concert was organised by the Rotary Club of Basingtoke and with 2,300 people in the auditorium, it was certainly a night to remember for all concerned.

Conducted by Keith Clark, the Hampshire County Youth Choir performed a selection of folk songs and spirituals, largely unaccompanied and to great effect. Iona Jones charmed the audiences as always with her vocal technique and charm, while child prodigy Benjamin Creighton-Griffiths – no stranger to the Treorchy Choir – gave another thrilling performance on the harp.

Tonight the stars of the show were undoubtedly the Treorchy Male Choir who once again excelled themselves and received thunderous and overwhelming applause following every performance. Opening with *Laudamus*, the response from the very start was clear – this was an audience of Treorchy fans! The beautiful new arrangement of *Calon Lan* to *The Rose* was spectacular, and the first section was rounded off with *Gwahoddiad*. For the second selection of items, the Choir sang *Love Could I Only Tell Thee* to thrilling effect, followed by *Adiemus* which clearly surprised and enchanted the audience of “traditional” music lovers.

During the second half the Choir again pulled out all the stops with *Let It Be Me*, *What Would I Do Without My Music* and the first public performance of *When I Fall In Love*. In conclusion they performed the *Les Miserables* medley which resulted in a standing ovation. As a grand finale, the Treorchy men combined with the Hampshire County Youth Choir for an outstanding performance of *You Raise Me Up*. Magical!

Saturday January 29th

St George’s Church, Bristol

For the return engagement in St George’s Church, Bristol, new arrangements were made owing to the unavailability of Dean Powell. The role of the Master of Ceremonies was filled by Gareth Evans and Ray Daniels performed his solo contributions. The buses left Treorchy at 3.30pm but on reaching Bristol, the congestion of the traffic considerably slowed the buses. On nearing the venue the buses failed to pass the parked cars on each side of the road, so the choristers walked to the concert hall.

The concert opened with *With A Voice of Singing* followed by *Calon Lan* (to *The Rose*), *Y Darlun* and *Llef*. The response to this group from the capacity audience in this acoustically beautiful venue, left no doubt of their appreciation. Kate Woolveridge sang the solo part in Karl Jenkins’s new medley which included *Benedictus* which was performed for the first time. The audience again revealed their

enjoyment of the first performance. The operatic group of *Divine Brahma*, *Speed Your Journey* and *Nessun Dorma* closed the first half with thunderous applause.

The second half started in a lighter musical mood with the *Abba Medley*, *Let It Be Me*, *When I Fall In Love* and *What Would I Do Without My Music*. It left the enthusiastic audience in a more reflective and deeply moving mood. Throughout the concert Kate, Ray and Gareth's contributions were greatly received. The final group of *Les Miserables* was overwhelmingly appreciated to such an extent that they demanded an encore. In humbleness and pride at such a reception from the fantastic crowd, *Senzenina* and *Men of Harlech* were performed, followed by *We'll Keep A Welcome* which brought this most enjoyable and satisfying engagement to a close.

February

Thursday February 2nd

Vale Hotel, Hensol

The Choir was invited to provide pre and post entertainment for the television programme "Come Dine With Me" in the Vale Hotel, Hensol. On arrival of the venue, alighting from the Welsh Rugby Coach, it was made known that there was no piano available. Despite this inconvenience the Choir performed competently under the direction of Helen Roberts.

During the performance many photographs were taken by newspaper journalists and tv networks who were covering the evening's events. With the end of the pre-entertainment, the choristers enjoyed the facilities of the venue which were made available through the generosity of Robert Harris and the Wooden Spoon charity.

For the post-television programme arrangements were made to provide a piano by Dennis Young who was driven home to pick up his own portable piano. Again there were some difficulties in that the guest's dining room was not big enough to actually accommodate all of the choristers and a piano! The programme featured many famous rugby players including Robert Jones, Colin Meeds, Robert Sidoli and Jason Lennard. After listening to their amusing rugby memories, the Choir finished their contribution to the evening's festivities.

There were a few problems but as always the choristers met them with a cheerful disposition and did not deter the Choir from performing to their expected standard. This was clearly displayed by the very warm reception from the delighted audience.

Wednesday February 23rd

Capel Horeb / Acapella Studio, Pentyrch

For the first time the Choir visited Capel Horeb, Pentyrch which has now been totally transformed into a state-of-the-art recording studio renamed Acapella. It was here that the Choir recorded a selection of items to be released on a new CD entitled *A Royal Tribute*. The album was recorded by The Band of the Welsh Guards, for which they signed a £1million record deal, and also featured the likes of The Choir of Westminster Abbey, Hollywood star Michael Sheen and operatic tenor Wynne Evans.

The album was being released to coincide with the Royal Wedding of HRH Prince William and Kate Middleton.

The CD was produced by Nick Patrick, arranged by Richard Cottle and promoted by the dear friend of Treorchy Male Choir, Jeff Chegwin, who has worked so closely with Adrian Munsey on previous recordings by the Choir. Janice Ball conducted the Choir while Helen Roberts accompanied, along with the backing tracks already recorded by the Band of the Welsh Guards. It was also the first official engagement for Paul Knight (1T).

During a relatively short three-hour recording session, the Choir performed *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*, *God Bless The Prince of Wales*, *Cwm Rhondda* and a new arrangement of *Lift Me Up* to the tune of *Calon Lan* (which was only presented to the choristers on the night!). It was another successful recording session and the producer was clearly very impressed by the quality, sound and sheer professionalism of the Treorchy outfit.

March

Saturday March 5th

China Street, Llanidloes

Anyone who had pre-conceptions that tonight's concert would be in a quiet chapel with a moderate audience was certainly not prepared for what awaited their arrival at Llanidloes. It was the Choir's first performance at this venue and was certainly one that choristers will never forget. To say the whole of Llanidloes and beyond turned out for the concert is an understatement. The glorious nonconformist chapel building burst at the seams with almost 900 people, many of whom were forced to stand alongside the rear wall, or sit in uncomfortable places just to hear the performance. The entire evening has a thrilling sense of excitement, plenty of Welsh hwyl and overwhelming applause and cheers. Two standing ovations was a clear indication of the success of the night.

Conducted by Janice Ball with Accompanist Helen Roberts, Organist David Geoffrey Thomas, Mezzo Soprano Kate Woolveridye, Baritone Ray Daniels and Tenor / Master of Ceremonies Dean Powell, the Choir gave an absolutely magnificent performance which was surely ranked as one of the best in recent times. The concert itself was organised by Alun Moses, the son of the late Second Tenor chorister Jack Moses, with all of the proceeds donated to the Rotary Club of Llanidloes.

With A Voice of Singing, *Y Darlun*, *Lord's Prayer* and *Llef* set the scene for the opening selection of items, with the Welsh pieces in particular receiving the loudest applause. For the second time the Choir introduced a medley of Karl Jenkins songs, featuring Kate as soprano soloist, which although subdued were also well-received. The final selection of the first half created the first semi-standing ovation with *Divine Brahma*, *Pearlfishers Duet* and the magnificent *Nessun Dorma*.

Soloists Ray Daniels and Kate Woolveridge gave a spectacular duet of *All I Ask Of You* from *Phantom of the Opera* while Ray also performed *Music of the Night*. David also flexed his fingers and thumbs for another performance of Widor's *Toccata* on the

chapel organ. Dean Powell was also certainly well received with the fun-loving audience who enjoyed his quit-witted style and humour throughout.

Finlandia and *Calon Lan* opened the second half, followed by another tremendous selection of items in *Let It Be Me, You Raise Me Up* and the all-time favourite, *What Would I Do Without My Music*. As a grand finale, *Les Miserables* absolutely rose the roof, resulting in multiple encores of *Senzenina, Men of Harlech* and *We'll Keep A Welcome*. This really was an unforgettable night of sheer class.

Thursday March 24th

Hoddinott Hall, Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay

A debut performance at the Hoddinott Hall saw the Treorchy Male Choir join forces with Cantorion Creigiau and their conductor Mair Roberts in celebrating the choir's 40th anniversary year. Mair, who was Treorchy's soprano soloist for almost twenty years and is now an Honorary Lady Member, was eager for the Rhondda men to join her choir in the celebratory night of musical entertainment.

Although Treorchy Male Choir only sang two selections of songs, they were nonetheless effective and very well received. Performing from the Choir stalls, they performed *With A Voice of Singing, Y Darlun, Calon Lan, You Raise Me Up* and *Nessun Dorma* to rapturous applause. Their performance culminated with another glorious selection of *Les Miserables* medley.

Concluding the concert, both choirs combined for a performance of *Unwaith Eto'n Nghymru Annwyl* (soloist Mair Roberts) and *Tydi a Roddaist*, bringing the enjoyable evening to a thrilling conclusion. With a buffet reception at Pentyrch RFC clubhouse, Dean Powell spoke on behalf of the Treorchy Choir to congratulate Mair and Cantorion Creigiau on their ruby anniversary. A presentation of a cut crystal glass clock, suitably engraved, was presented to Mair from Vice Chairman, William Thomas.

Saturday March 26th

Birmingham Town Hall

An invitation from the Lord Mayor of Birmingham to perform a Charity Concert at one of the country's greatest concert halls, was not an opportunity to be missed. Treorchy Male Choir quickly accepted the engagement to return once more to Birmingham Town Hall. The auditorium, having undergone a £35million refurbishment, is simply perfect for a live performance. Acoustically magnificent, with a superb, almost breathtaking setting, this provided a great opportunity for the Choir to flex its vocal muscles for a large crowd of more than 700 spectators. With Janice Ball at the helm, accompanied by Helen Roberts, organist David Geoffrey Thomas, Mezzo Soprano Kate Woolveridge, Baritone Ray Daniels and Tenor / Master of Ceremonies Dean Powell, the concert was a success from the opening bar.

Launching into *With A Voice of Singing*, the Choir was assured of another successful night of song, given the surroundings, the perfect diction and tuning and of course the rousing responses to every item by this appreciative audience. *Laudamus*, with organ accompaniment, was another crowd-pleaser, followed by a selection of Karl Jenkins

compositions. David rose the roof with another performance of Widor's *Toccata* on this mighty organ, while the Choir concluded the first half in magnificent fashion with *Divine Brahma*, *Pearlfishers Duet* and *Nessun Dorma*, much to everyone's delight.

The second half of the concert opened with *Finlandia*, followed by the new version of *Calon Lan*. One of the many highlights was a performance of *What Would I Do Without My Music* as part of a selection of popular arrangements including *Let it Be Me* and *You Raise Me Up*. However, nothing prepared the performers or audience alike for the finale of *Les Miserables*, followed by *Senzenina* and *Men of Harlech* which saw the audience once more explode into unprecedented applause. To conclude, the Choir led the audience through *We'll Keep A Welcome* to the two National Anthems. Another great night, where over £4,000 was raised for the various charities supported by Cllr Len Gregory, the Lord Mayor of Birmingham.

April

Wednesday April 6th

Treorchy Comprehensive School

Talented schoolchildren throughout the Rhondda are helping to make an annual music competition another outstanding success. The Treorchy Male Choir Junior Musician of the Year Competition is now celebrating its sixth year and well over a thousand children have taken part to date.

This year a further 19 primary and junior schools in the two valleys have signed up to the competition whose patron is Welsh bass-baritone Bryn Terfel MBE. The aim of the competition is to encourage children to participate in a musical activity and enjoy performing as soloists. It also allows schoolchildren an extra incentive to practise and improve their standards of singing or playing an instrument.

Following a series of preliminary heats in each of the schools, the 38 competitors will enter Semi Finals at Porth County Comprehensive School or Tonypany Community College before the final 20 appear in a Grand Final at Treorchy Comprehensive School on Wednesday April 6th.

Each of the schools hold their own "X-Factor" style auditions before members of the Treorchy Male Choir hold a preliminary heat to decide which singer and instrumentalist goes forward to the final. All entrants who perform in the heats receive a certificate. The finalists will receive a certificate, trophy and tickets for themselves and an adult to a day out in London to see a current West End show.

The two winning finalists of one singer and one instrumentalist will each receive £200 prize money each. They will also receive the Treorchy Male Choir Competition Trophy to be retained by their school for one year and have the opportunity to share the stage with the Treorchy Male Choir at the Good Friday Concert in the Park & Dare Theatre.

The Grand Final has an impressive list of adjudicators, including Professor Trevor Herbert of the Open University, Conductor of Cantorion Creigiau Mair Roberts, Conductor of Bridgend Male Choir John Jenkins, Conductor of the Four Counties

Youth Choir Derek Holvey and Janice Ball, the Conductor of the Treorchy Male Choir.

Special guest for the evening will include BBC Broadcaster and Honorary Member of the Choir, Roy Noble. The Choir performed *Adiemus*, *The Rose* and *What Would I Do Without My Music* to a very enthusiastic crowd.

Sunday April 17th

Carreg Cennen Castle, Llanidloes

It was on a glorious sunny day that the Choir ventured west to the pretty Welsh town of Llanidloes and followed the narrow country roads to the stunning sight before us. Carreg Cenneg Castle, the ruined medieval fortress on the horizon, high above the valley floor, was the most impressive place we could have imagined. We ventured up hill on foot to the peak of the castle, with its stunning views and the sheer drop below to the valley floor. It was here that the Choir, dressed in a black suit and shirt, lined up for a series of photo shoots.

Following an hour of relaxation on the hilltop and time to walk around the dramatic ruins of the castle. The spellbinding views from the sharp hilltop and the romantic 13th century buildings created by the Welsh Princes of Deheubarth, made this a place to enjoy and remember.

With the arrival of a helicopter it was time to line up on the cliff's edge and perform *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau* on several occasions. The helicopter swooped low and close, often causing choristers and conductor alike, to lose their balance, as the filming took place. This will be used on a Sky HD documentary called *The History of Britain*, to be shown later that year.

Friday April 22nd

Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

The Choir returned to its hometown theatre for the annual Good Friday concert with the Parc & Dare Band under its new conductor Martyn Ford. As always the Choir gave a stunning performance of a varied repertoire of music that clearly thrilled the audience. Highlights in the opening half included *Calon Lan* (to *The Rose*) followed by a performance of *Unwaith Eto'n Nghymru Annwyl* with Dean Powell as soloist. Other highlights included *Adiemus* and *You Raise Me Up* with a joint performance of *Senzenina* (Dean Powell as soloist owing to the absence of Ray Daniels) and *Men of Harlech*.

The second half opened with a joint performance of *Llanfair*, followed by the Choir's performance of *Divine Brahma*, *Speed Your Journey* and *Nessun Dorma*. A selection of light arrangements followed in *Somewhere Over The Rainbow*, *I Dreamed A Dream* and *What Would I Do Without My Music*. To conclude, the band and Choir performed *Finlandia* and *Cwm Rhondda*.

Saturday May 7th

The Abbey, Tewkesbury

The magnificent Gothic setting of Tewkesbury Abbey created the perfect ambience for the Choir's performance following a thirty-year absence from this venue. The concert was organised by Infinity Music Record Producer Adrian Munsey and his colleague from Beyond Management, Mike Gower. Together they decide to arrange the event to coincide with the unofficial launch of the first draft of the Choir's new album, "Timeless".

The cathedral was filled to capacity and with a large Choir on stage and such exceptional acoustics, the performance was indeed one of the highlights of the entire year. Janice Ball and Helen Roberts led the evening, with Kate Woolveridge as mezzo soprano soloist and Ray Daniels as baritone. Dean Powell also undertook his soloist duties and despite problems with the microphone system, carried out his Master of Ceremonies role to perfection.

The concert had some incredibly thrilling moments, as Janice took full advantage of her surroundings, particularly with the haunting melodies of *Benedictus*, *Pearlfishers Duet* and *Nessun Dorma*. The audience was particularly thrilled by *You Raise Me Up* and *What Would I Do Without My Music*, both of which also feature on the new album, followed by the grand finale of *Les Miserables* medley.

Thursday May 19th

Parc Primary School, Cwmparc

Once again a small selection of choristers visited Parc Primary School, Cwmparc as part of the annual War Memorial Service. The event remembers those who lost their lives in the 1941 bombing raid by Nazi fighters over the Rhondda where twenty eight residents lost their lives. The choristers performed *Gwahoddiad* and the school band performed under the baton of Tony Davies (2B).

Saturday May 21st

Assembly Room, Worthing

A return to the Assembly Rooms in Worthing saw one coach of choristers travelling early to the seaside town as they had decided to stay overnight, while the second coach joined them later in the day. On reaching the evening venue, the Choir was welcomed by Honorary Lady Member and concert organiser Jeanne Gray for a rehearsal before the arrival of more than six hundred people who packed the auditorium.

With Janice and Helen as music staff, Kate Woolveridge performed as Mezzo Soprano, Ray Daniels as baritone and Dean Powell and Master of Ceremonies and Comper.

The performance was another memorable event as the excellent acoustics and warm, welcoming atmosphere of the audience added to the special ambience of the concert. Once again the audience appeared thrilled at the many new "favourites" on offer including *Calon Lan* to *The Rose*, *What Would I Do Without My Music*, *Adiemus*, *Pearlfishers* and *Nessun Dorma*. Ray performed *Music of the Night* as a solo item which delighted the audience.

The second half proved equally as successful with *Les Miserables*, *Senzenina* and *Men of Harlech* resulting in rapturous and prolonged applause. The Choir left the stage safe in the knowledge that it had once more “conquered” the south coast town and members enjoyed an entertaining evening at a local club followed by drinks in the centre of the busy town.

Wednesday May 25th

St David’s Hall, Cardiff

Treorchy Male Choir was delighted to share the stage at St David’s Hall with their famous Honorary Lady Member Iris Williams. The internationally renowned Welsh singer undertook a short tour through Wales to promote her new album and had expressly asked for the Choir to join her at the largest venue of the tour. Unfortunately, a general lack of publicity meant that the auditorium was less than half full, but those who attended were still in for an absolute treat and the entire evening was a huge success.

The Choir featured throughout the first half of the concert with Janice Ball as Conductor, Helen Roberts as Accompanist, David Geoffrey Thomas as Organist and Dean Powell ensured the consistent flow of the entire event as Master of Ceremonies. For a full hour the Choir performed to the highest possible standards, resulting in tumultuous applause from the appreciative Welsh audience. With so many highlights, not least of which the operatic section with *Pearlfishers* and *Nessun Dorma*, other memorable moments included *Calon Lan*, which was well-loved and *What Would I Do Without My Music*.

During the first half, the guest artists made an appearance on stage to loud cheering and applause and stood amongst the Choir to perform a joint item called *There’s a Song in the Air*. When the Choir left the stage at half time, many of the choristers joined the audience and watched Iris Williams excel for the remainder of the concert. It was a memorable evening for chorister Paul Knight as he made his debut performance on stage with the Choir.

Saturday June 4th

Millennium Stadium, Cardiff

With an astonishing 33,000 people attending Wales’s magnificent rugby stadium to watch Wales vs Barbarians, the Treorchy Male Choir combined in a 1,000-voiced mass choir to entertain the crowd. With early morning rehearsals in the stadium under the baton of Honorary Member Dr Haydn James, seventy members of the Treorchy Choir attended the event in glorious sunshine and high expectation of an enjoyable game. With several hours interval, and some drinks at the nearest public house, the men returned to the Stadium less than an hour before kick-off to join their comrades in song for a thirty-minute concert performance. Including many of the Welsh favourites from *Cwm Rhondda* and *Calon Lan* to *Llef* and *Delilah*, the large crowd of predominantly Welsh people, clearly enjoyed the site and sound of the sea of voices prior to the game’s commencement.

Thursday June 9th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir was delighted to welcome members of Only Boys Aloud to the rehearsal room this evening. The Choir of young men was established following the massive success of Only Men Aloud and the Conductor of both organisations, Tim Rhys Evans, brought a selection of choristers to the Treorchy rehearsal.

He explained to the Choir the incredible importance of encouraging young men who enjoy the art of choral singing to ensure Wales's proud tradition as the Land of Song is maintained and enhanced for the future. A film crew also accompanied the young singers who joined in the ranks of their individual sections with the Treorchy men for a breathtaking performance of *Gwahoddiad*.

Saturday June 18th

The Stiwt, Rhosllanerchrugog

For the second time the Treorchy Male Choir ventured from their hometown, the undisputed musical capital of south Wales to the musical capital of the north – Rhosllanerchrugog. Another combined concert with the Rhos Male Choir had been arranged and once again Treorchy appeared on the stage at The Stiwt in the centre of the town and just a stone's throw away from Welsh composer Arwel Hughes's birthplace, Arwelfa. As guests of the Rhos choristers, Treorchy performed one section of music in the first half and two sections in the second half and clearly their performance of more contemporary and classic works rather than traditional Welsh music, absolutely enthralled the crowd.

From the opening items of *With A Voice of Singing*, the ingenious arrangement of *Calon Lan to The Rose* and *Bryn Myrddin*, the audience was clearly mesmerised by the standard of performance, scale of music and the over all "showmanship" of this entertaining Welsh Choir. During the second half they further enhanced their reputation with *Nessun Dorma*, *What Would I Do Without My Music*, *You Raise Me Up* and of course the incredible *Les Miserables*. Dean Powell ensured they were well entertained with plenty of Welsh humour, while Jan and Helen led the Choir through a truly memorable and triumphant concert.

To conclude this hugely enjoyable experience, both choirs combined on stage for two Welsh items that have such close connotations with Rhos. Firstly, *Gwahoddiad*, whose arranger John Tudor Davies, the Life President of Rhos Male Choir, was in the audience. Finally the Choir performed Rhos native Arwel Hughes's iconic *Tydi A Roddaist* before both Choirs left the stage to sustained applause and cheering.

Friday June 24th

It was with great sadness that a large contingency of the Choir bid a fond farewell to Life Member and Fifty Year Member Len Gale who passed away the previous week. Len, who had retired from the Choir on his fiftieth year, was remembered with great love and affection by his fellow choristers as displayed in the moving tribute written by Dean Powell which featured in his eulogy. The Choir paid their final respects to Len at St David's Church in Ton Pentre, where he'd worshipped all of his life. Choristers also performed *Gwahoddiad* at the graveside in Treorchy Cemetery.

Tuesday July 12th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir welcomed a film crew to the rehearsal room from BBC Wales. They were producing a programme relating to the history and culture of Wales to be broadcast later in the year.

Saturday July 19th

St Michael's Church, Somerton

The return to Somerton after four years was welcomed by the audience and choir alike. This engagement was of significant importance to Janice Ball and Helen Roberts as this is the venue they their made their debut as Conductor and Accompanist in 2007.

With the public queuing at length to enter the beautiful parish church, the building was soon filled to capacity and they began the series of rapturous applause as the choristers walked into position on stage. This was the last engagement before the summer holiday and the audience was clearly overwhelmed by the performance which was amply displayed by their tremendous ovations.

The soloists were Ray Daniels and Iona Jones who charmed them with their solo items and duet, while being entertained by Gareth Evans as Master of Ceremonies. The Choir left the stage to a sustained, ebullient appreciation. The relaxing hour was spent in a convivial atmosphere with the most delicious of buffets at a local hostelry.

Tuesday September 5th

Timeless

The world famous Treorchy Male Choir released its most contemporary album to date which effortlessly blends classical and contemporary songs on a stunning new multi-track album called 'Timeless'. The album celebrates a "new" Treorchy Male Choir as you've never heard them before, with fresh new arrangements and breathtaking harmonies. It's the first release of new recordings from the choir in 10 years and has been eagerly anticipated by the public.

From glorious operatic arias to much loved show tunes and African chants, to the haunting music of their homeland, "Timeless" showcases the very best of the Treorchy Male Choir and reinforces its reputation as the "master choir of them all". Featuring highlights such as "Nessun Dorma" and "The Pearlfishers Duet", to "You Raise Me Up" and "Bring Him Home", the album also has plenty of surprises on offer, including the Zulu warrior chant "Senzenina" and contemporary Welsh composer Karl Jenkins' mesmerising "Adiemus". With guest soloists Kate Woolveridge and Iona Jones, both favourites of the Welsh National Opera, "Timeless" is testimony to the Choir's continued success.

The 100-strong amateur choir, formed way back in 1883 in the heart of the industrial Rhondda Valleys, have an outstanding record of success, including unequalled competition wins, Royal Command Performances, celebrity concerts, world-wide tours and award-winning albums. Produced by composer Adrian Munsey and Gareth Williams of Music Infinity, “Timeless” marks the Choir’s 90th release, making it undoubtedly the most recorded male choir in the world.



The Choir, a charitable organisation has entertained audiences at some of the most famous and prestigious venues all over the world. Highlights have included the Sydney Opera House, Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall and the Washington National Cathedral to name but a few. They have shared the stage with some of the world’s best-loved entertainers, from Ella Fitzgerald, Julie Andrews and Burt Bacharach to Wales’s very own Sir Tom Jones and Dame Shirley Bassey.

Spokesman Dean Powell explained, “Treorchy Male Choir is a pioneer in the Welsh choral tradition by being the first to embrace popular music into its repertoire in a radical approach to reach wider audiences through combining both contemporary and classical melodies. Timeless is a celebration of the diverse mixture of music currently performed by the Choir in such settings world-wide. It once more exemplifies the sheer talent of this musical ensemble and underlines its incredible versatility as the choir displays a supreme ability to perfect a diverse selection of compositions.”

List of Tracks:

1. Adiemus
2. You Raise Me Up
3. Divine Brahma
4. From Far Inside The Shrine (Duet from The Pearl Fishers)
5. Nessun Dorma
6. Faraway Place
7. Hymn from Finlandia
8. Y Darlun
9. Let It Be Me
10. Over The Rainbow
11. Bring Him Home
12. I Dreamed A Dream
13. Stars
14. Do You Hear The People Sing
15. Senzenina
16. What Would I Do Without My Music

Saturday September 20th

No. 8 Centre, Pershore

The return to Pershore proved to be an interesting and successful one. Before the performance of a new item, *In Memoriam*, the Conductor explained the reasons behind this work being incorporated into the Choir's repertoire. The Jenkins family had commissioned the arrangement of the song and dedicated it to the memory of Gwilym and Frances Jenkins, the parents of Nick Jenkins (2T) who were lifetime devotees of the Choir. The Choir gave the initial performance before Nick's elderly aunt and members of the family. This magnanimous gesture displayed their profound gratitude and admiration together with the pleasure the Choir has given to the populace over the years. The Conductor presented a framed copy of "In Memoriam" to a member of the Jenkins family.

Tonight marked a special occasion for Mark Williams (1T) as it was his first concert appearance. The venue was of limited size which led to a cosy and friendly ambience throughout the entire evening performance. From the first rendition of the Choir, the response was warm and very gratifying. This happy atmosphere was enhanced by Gareth Evans as Master of Ceremonies with his amusing repertoire. The solos and duets were performed by Iona Jones and Ray Daniels who enraptured the audience who responded with rapturous applause.

The singing of the Choir completely enthralled the audience and they demonstrated their complete enjoyment of the performance with a thunderous standing ovation.

Saturday September 27th

The Pavilions, Plymouth

Following a two-year break the Choir returned to The Pavilions in Plymouth for another memorable and enjoyable performance. One of the Choir coaches reached the Devon sea-side resort early in the day and booked into their accommodation in the Jury's Inn. The second coach of choristers arrived later in the day and both groups met at the Pavilion for a rehearsal.

The evening concert, held in aid of Choir funds, was another outstanding success. Soloist for the evening was Kate Woolveridge and the Choir was led by Janice Ball and Accompanist Helen Roberts with Dean Powell performing his Master of Ceremony duties following a break of two concerts.

The concert was well-received to an appreciative audience in what is a difficult auditorium to perform in given the restricted acoustics of the building. Nevertheless, items such as *What Would I Do Without My Music*, *Bryn Myrddin*, *Nessun Dorma* and the *Les Miserables* medley resulted in rapturous applause.

Dean Powell also performed extensive soloist duties this evening by singing *Little Welsh Home* as well as Stars and led the encore with *Senzenina*. A small medley was also performed of *Take a Chance On Me* and *Slipping Through My Fingers*.

The Choir decided to perform *In Memoriam* in memory of the four Welsh miners who lost their lives that week following a tragic accident underground at the Gleision

Colliery. Choristers also agreed to donate a substantial amount of their fee to the fundraising campaign and a bucket collection took place in the auditorium.

Following the concert members enjoyed the hospitality afforded to them once again at the RAOB Club on North Hill where staff and members also made sizeable donations to the fundraising effort. On the following day the remaining choristers enjoyed a few hours at Chepstow RFC where a further donation was made. In total the Choir donated £1,100 to the Gleision Memorial Appeal.

Thursday October 6th

Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

Treorchy Male Choir's 30th Annual Autumn Concert took place at the Park & Dare Theatre before a sell-out audience of family, friends and neighbours. It was an evening of great enjoyment mixed with intense drama and at times fear as the performance progressed, resulting in finale filled with anxiety and worry.

The evening began well enough as the curtains opened on the large Choir to thunderous applause from the local audience. Janice Ball and Helen Roberts led the evening as Conductor and Accompanist with Dean Powell performing to his usual high standards as Master of Ceremonies, ensuring the smooth running of the evening despite the problems that began to become all the more apparent in the second-half of the concert.

The Choir opened with *Bryn Myrddin* and then gave the first performance of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* in Welsh. Choristers and audience then gave a very warm welcome to the guest artist for the evening. Welsh tenor Wynne Evans has performed with most of the country's leading opera companies and his debut album, *With a Song in My Heart* reached the top of the classical charts. However, his regular performance on the car insurance advertisement Go Compare has catapulted him to national stardom. With plenty of good humour and favourite songs, he entertained the audience, accompanied by the talented Jeff Howard.

Following his performance Chairman David Bebb stood forward and made a special presentation to David Powell (2T) who was celebrating his fiftieth year as a chorister. To mark this prestigious landmark, he was presented with a suitably inscribed gold watch from the Choir. The first half concluded with *You Raise Me Up* and *What Would I Do Without My Music*.

To open the second half of the concert Dean Powell, dressed as a vicar, gave an outstanding recitation to the hugely enthusiastic crowd. At that point the Choir performed four religious items, *Old Time Religion*, *Adiemus*, *Benedictus* and *The Lord's Prayer*, at which point it became obvious that the Conductor was unwell and unsure of her surroundings or the music which was to be performed.

Ffion Jones, the winner of the Singer's Category of the Junior Musician of the Year Competition thrilled the crowd with her performance of *Popular* from *Wicked*. Wynne Evans then returned to the stage to share some anecdotes and perform several more items. During his performance Dean Powell and Secretary Frederick O'Brien went backstage to ensure the Conductor was not unwell, but it became apparent that she

was suffering with severe memory loss and was unsure of her surroundings. Despite the best efforts, she insisted on returning to the stage and conducted *Les Miserables* brilliantly, with the Secretary turning the pages on the lectern for her. Wynne Evans also returned for a thrilling joint finale performance of *Nessun Dorma* marking the end of the concert.

Paramedics were called to the theatre and the Conductor was taken to the Royal Glamorgan Hospital. Her blood pressure was extortionately high and it was feared that she had indeed suffered a minor stroke backstage at the theatre. Yet, despite her obvious distress she was determined to fulfil her obligation to the Choir, even though she had absolutely no recollection of ever performing that night. Fortunately Janice was discharged on the following day from hospital.

Saturday October 8th

Soar Centre, Penygraig

At 4pm on Saturday afternoon the Choir, dressed in black suits and black shirts with a daffodil, reached the converted Soar Chapel in the centre of Penygraig to perform on an episode of *Songs of Praise* to be broadcast on St David's Day 2012. For the first time the Choir was combined with the hundred voices of the first-class Only Boys Aloud under the leadership of conductor Tim Rhys Evans with Helen Roberts as accompanist. As Janice Ball was still too unwell to attend the engagement, Mr Evans conducted the Treorchy and OBA choirs in a combined and solo performance.

To begin both Choirs sound-recorded and then filmed *Gwahoddiad*, which was undertaken in reasonable time. Following an interval, the OBA left for the evening and the Treorchy men remained to sound-record and then film *Bryn Myrddin*. The producer of the programme brought the proceedings to a close by 8pm and exclaimed how much of a professional outfit the Treorchy Choir was and how we'd surpassed his expectations for such a smooth filming and recording session.

Saturday, October 15th

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

The Choir was delighted to return to Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury where once again they were offered the warmest of welcomes from the capacity audience. The concert, organised for Choir funds by Jeanne Grey, saw Janice Ball and Helen Roberts lead the performance, with Dean Powell as MC and Mezzo Soprano Kate Woolveridge and chorister Ray Daniels performing as baritone soloist.

The concert opened with *Bryn Myrddin*, *Calon Lan* (to *The Rose*) and *In Memoriam* before leading into the selection of Karl Jenkins compositions including *Adiemus* and *Benedictus*. To conclude the first half, a selection of operatic items were performed including *Divine Brahma*, *Pearlfishers Duet* and *Nessun Dorma*. It was during the *Pearlfishers* item that Mark Williams (1T) collapsed on stage and was carried to the dressing room where paramedics treated him. As always, the performance didn't stop and the Choir continued on singing!

In the second half the Choir entertained with *Hallelujah*, *Somewhere Over The Rainbow*, *You Raise Me Up*, *What Would I Do Without My Music* and the *Les*

Miserables Medley. To conclude, Ray sang *Senzenina*, followed by *Men of Harlech* and *We'll Keep a Welcome*. Another hugely enjoyable performance, followed by some informal singing in the marvellous acoustics of the bar!

Saturday, October 29th

Civic Hall, Bedworth

The Choir made a return to Bedworth once again with a concert in the Civic Centre. The capacity audience made known their enjoyment of the performance with a warm reception of each item. With Gareth Evans (Master of Ceremonies) beguiling them with his comical anecdotes and the artists Kate and Ray enthralling them with their superbly rendered solos and duets, the response was most gratifying. The reaction to the Choir, which was small in number, for their performance of *In Memoriam* and *Hallelujah* was well appreciated.

The acknowledgement of the showstoppers of *Nessun Dorma* and *Les Miserables* was manifested by the tumultuous ovations. Despite the unavoidable absence of some choristers the concert was undoubtedly a most successful one

Sunday November 6th

Rhondda Sports Centre, Ystrad

Treorchy Male Choir was delighted to perform once again at the Rhondda and Pontypridd County and Treherbert and District Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance Concert at Rhondda Sports Centre. The Choir gave an absolutely magnificent performance for the packed audience in a thrilling concert compered by John Asquith and featuring tenor Benjamin Vaughan (former 2T) and The Band of the Royal Welsh under their Director of Music Major D. Burton.

All of the performers gave of their best, but many would agree that the men of Treorchy “stole the show” with one of the most impressive concert performances of the year. Opening with a combined performance of Battle Hymn of the Republic with the band, the Choir thrilled the audience with *Adiemus*, *You Raise Me Up*, *Over The Rainbow* and *What Would I Do Without My Music*.

There was no interval for the evening, so the Choir continued with the second selection of *In Memoriam*, *Hallelujah*, *Calon Lan* and a magnificent *Nessun Dorma* before combining once more with the band to sing *Morte Christe*. A Service of Remembrance followed featuring Baroness Gale of Blaenrhondda and a traditional sing-along with the audience as the representatives of the armed forces and their standards provided a colourful display while poppies fell from the ceiling. We will remember them

Saturday November 12th

Leatherhead Theatre

The Choir's debut performance in Leatherhead Theatre was held in aid of the Surrey Region of Wooden Spoon. Organised once more by David Jackson, the Choir was afforded a warm welcome at the intimate theatre that was almost sold-out. In the

audience was none other than BBC newsreader Nicholas Owen who was clearly overjoyed by the performance.

The concert, which featured soprano Iona Jones and Dean Powell as MC and multi-soloist (due to the absence of baritone soloist Ray Daniels) was led by Janice Ball and accompanied by Helen Roberts. Another successful evening ensued with many highlights including *Let It Be Me*, the welcomed return of *My Way*, *Speed Your Journey*, *Nessun Dorma* and *What Would I Do Without My Music*.

It was another historic moment for the Choir as it gave its first performance of *This Is The Moment* from *Jekyll and Hyde* before the thrilling conclusion of the *Les Miserables* medley. Although the Surrey audience appeared subdued, they were in fact thrilled by the concert as was witnessed by the calls for encore!

Following the performance, the choristers entertained the crowd in the theatre bar. Nicholas Owen addressed the men of Treorchy and congratulated them on another outstanding show. Also present was Simon and Anne Gould, the great-grandchildren of William Thomas, the Conductor of the original Treorky Male Choir from 1885 to 1896.

Sunday November 13th

Blaenrhondda / Treherbert War Memorial

Annually members of the Choir attend two Remembrance Sunday concert in the upper Rhondda Fawr to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. This year a selection of choristers sang at the War Memorials in Blaenrhondda and Treherbert, accompanied by members of the armed forces and the standards.

Friday November 25th

Station Road, Treorchy

Treorchy Christmas Parade was a highlight of the year for residents of the Choir's hometown. Stalls, music, parades and the traditional turning-on of the Christmas tree lights, attracted several hundred people to the bridge over to Stag Square. As part of the celebrations a group of choristers performed to a very appreciative audience and as they launched into the Christmas Carols, Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf Cllr Sylvia Jones turned on the lights of the magnificent tree!

Monday, November 28th

Llandaff Cathedral

It was with great honour that the Treorchy Male Choir undertook another prestigious concert for a member of the Royal Family. The evening concert at Llandaff Cathedral for cancer charity Tenovus has become an annual event in the Choir's calendar. What made this year all the more memorable was the fact that the guest of honour was none other than Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, The Most Reverend Archbishop of Wales and the Lord Mayor of Cardiff. What made the "Royal" occasion even more fitting was the fact that it marked the eve of the 116th anniversary since the original Treorky Male Choir sang for Her Majesty Queen Victoria at St George's Hall,

Windsor, a story related by Master of Ceremonies Dean Powell, much to the delight of Princess Anne.

Also featured in the concert was the Tenovus Choir For Life, whose members have either suffered cancer or their close relatives. The Howells Junior School Choir also enchanted the capacity audience in the beautiful setting of Llandaff's iconic building. During the evening both the Archbishop and Her Royal Highness (who was visibly moved by the music) spoke to the audience.

Treorchy Male Choir truly excelled itself this evening and gave a most outstanding performance, one of the highlights of the entire year. The concert opened with *Bryn Myrddin and Calon Lan* to *The Rose*. It was followed by *This is the Moment* from *Jekyll and Hyde*, *When A Child Is Born* and *O Holy Night* with Dean Powell as soloist. The Choir also performed its spectacular *Les Miserables* medley with Kate Woolveridge performing the solo item along with Dean Powell. The magnificent applause was testament to a first-class performance.

In conclusion the men of Treorchy combined with the Howells Junior School Choir to give a truly inspirational performance of *You Raise Me Up* which brought the evening to an unforgettable conclusion.

Saturday December 3rd

Millennium Stadium, Cardiff

The Choir joined forces with a host of other male voice choirs from throughout south Wales to perform at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff prior to the Wales vs Australia rugby international. The 2,000 voices of the massed choir sang a repertoire of traditional favourites under the baton of Dr Haydn James. It was another outstanding performance which added to the atmosphere of the historic event. This was the last rugby international game for the pride of Welsh rugby, Shane Williams, and it was an honour to witness his final try and bid farewell to an outstanding international player.

Wednesday December 21st

Ty Hafan Children's Hospice, Sully

Following a break of three years (owing to adverse weather conditions on both previous occasions), a large group of almost 40 choristers travelled to the Ty Hafan Children's Hospice in Sully to lead the singing for the annual Candlelit Memorial Service. As on previous occasions the choristers sang in a marquee close to the Remembrance Garden for parents, families and friends of young children who had passed away while receiving wonderful end-of-life care at the hospice. The deeply emotional evening saw the choristers perform a selection of solo items as well as lead the congregational singing of Christmas Carols.

Following the service a group of eight choristers were asked to perform *Gwahoddiad* in the bedroom of a beautiful six-month old baby girl who was unlikely to live more than a few days. This deeply emotional and heartbreaking performance for the baby, cradled on her father's chest and surrounded by her family, will never be forgotten by those who were there.