

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



BRIEF HISTORY 1951

By Dean Powell, Publicity Officer
& Honorary Archivist

JANUARY

Saturday January 6th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast an “All Together” programme. Presented by Alun Williams, the soloist was baritone John Morgan with his accompanist John Wills.

Saturday January 13th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast an “All Together” programme from the rehearsal room. Presented by Alun Williams, the soloist was baritone John Morgan with his accompanist John Wills. The Choir was paid 25 guineas for its performance.

Saturday January 20th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast an “All Together” programme. Presented by Alun Williams, the soloist was baritone John Morgan with his accompanist John Wills.

Saturday January 27th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast an “All Together” programme from the rehearsal room. Presented by Alun Williams, the soloist was baritone John Morgan with his accompanist John Wills. The Choir was paid 25 guineas for its performance.

FEBRUARY

Sunday February 4th

Pavilion Cinema, Treorchy

Organised by the Baptist churches of the Upper Rhondda, the Choir was joined on stage by the Baptist Team of Witness, a group of religious guest speakers.

Sunday February 11th

Workmen’s Hall, Ferndale

Organised by Darran Park Tennis Club, the concert also featured Maud Hughes-Davies, Marilyn Hughes-Davies and Tom Griffiths.

Sunday February 18th

Gaiety Cinema, Treherbert

The concert in Gaiety Cinema was organised by Treorchy Cricket Club and featured Sam Griffiths, Marilyn Hughes-Davies and tenor Idris Higgon.

Wednesday February 21st

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

A BBC recording for the London Transcription Service with Dr Dennis Wright.

Monday February 26th

Salvation Army Citadel, Pentre

The concert in Pentre saw the Choir again welcome to the stage Sam Griffiths (baritone) and D. J. Samuels.

MARCH

Thursday March 22nd

Bethania Chapel, Dowlais

The concert in Dowlais saw 100 choristers take to the stage to raise funds for the Moriah Baptist Church Restoration Fund.

MAY

Saturday May 5th

Sophia Gardens, Cardiff

A massed choir concert took place in Cardiff for the Festival of Britain. It featured Manselton, Rhymney and Penrydus Choirs with soloists Idris Higgon, W. Wheeler, Cymro Thomas and Emlyn Lewis.

Saturday May 12th

Royal Albert Hall, London

The Choir made its first visit to the Royal Albert Hall for a performance in a Festival of Britain Concert. Choristers joined a massed choir of eleven others for a performance of "The Rainbow", the story of Dunkirk, under the baton of the eminent conductor, Sir Adrian Boult. It also featured six brass bands along with soloists Jan Vander Gucht and Maurice Bevan.

JUNE

Saturday June 9th

Pentre Colliery Site, Pentre

At a Festival of Britain Concert on Pentre Colliery site, the Choir made its first record. It was a private recording with soloist Sam Griffiths of "Little Liza Jane". The concert also featured Pendyrus, Cambrian, Morlais and Morgannwg Gleeman choirs with the Kalwin Orchestra and Howell Glynn. Conductor was Mansel Thomas.

JULY

Saturday July 7th

Christchurch Park, Ipswich

The Choir spent a weekend in Ipswich at the request of the Ipswich Youth Singers. At the park they joined radio entertainer Leslie Welsh, animal impersonator Percy Edwards, Fred Gooch, Harry Jerome, Heather Popple, Heather Buck, Kathleen Leave and Venice Lewis. The choristers were also asked to sing a number of impromptu songs by Herbert Morrison MP, the British Labour politician to served as Home Secretary and Deputy Prime Minister.

Sunday July 8th

Corn Exchange, Ipswich

An evening concert at the Corn Exchange saw the Choir join forces with the Ipswich Youth Singers, along with soloists Sam Griffiths, Idris Higgon and Coral Girling. A total of 112 choristers performed in the Treorchy Choir.

AUGUST

Sunday August 19th

Bury Knowle Park, Oxford

Organised by the Oxford Entertainments Committee, the concert also featured the Morris Motors Band, conductor Harry Mortimer and tenor Idris Higgon.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday September 9th

Paget Rooms, Penarth

A Battle of Britain Concert held in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fun saw the Choir share the stage with contralto Berry Baxter and Sam Griffiths,

Sunday September 11th

Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, Pontypridd

A return concert in Pontypridd's beautiful park, the Choir sang with Helena Hughes-Brown and baritone John Morgan.

OCTOBER

Saturday October 6th

Tabernacle Chapel, Murryston

The Choir's first performance in Murryston was held in aid of the Police Widows and Orphans Fund. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Alun Williams and the Choir performed with Swansea Police Band, conductor Owen Parker and Vera Terry, soprano.

Saturday October 20th

Town Hall, Birmingham

The Choir made its first visit to Birmingham Town Hall. With eight buses filled with supporters, the Choir performed a magnificent concert with soloists Ruth Packer and Bruce Dargave. The event was organised by the Secretary of the Birmingham Welsh Society, D.O.Griffiths, who was made an Honorary Member of the Choir.

Sunday October 28th

James Smith Hall, Rhymney

In the concert held to raise funds for the Rhymney Male Choir Eisteddfod Fund, the Choir joined forces with soprano Jennifer Vyvyan, bass Howell Glynne and pianist Kay Beddes Havard.

NOVEMBER

Sunday November 11th

Polikoff Assembly Rooms, Treorchy

The final concert of the year was held as an armistice performance of The Rainbow conducted by Frank Wright and accompanied by the Cory Band. Also on stage was Sam Griffiths, Idris Higgon and cornet player Ken Smith.