

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



BRIEF HISTORY 1962

By Dean Powell, Publicity Officer
& Honorary Archivist

JANUARY

Thursday January 4th

College of Advanced Technology, Cardiff

For the opening concert of 1962 the Choir appeared on the BBC competition "Let The People Sing".

Sunday January 7th

BBC TV Studios, Cardiff

The Choir broadcast a "Gwyr y Gan" television programme.

Thursday January 11th

Bethlehem Chapel, Treorchy

The Choir performed with soprano Anita Williams and bass Richard Rees.

Wednesday January 24th

Trerhondda Chapel, Ferndale

A concert was held in aid of Capel Wesley Church Funds with soloists Herbert Jones and Sam Griffiths.

FEBRUARY

Thursday February 1st

St Basil Church Bassaleg

A fundraising concert for church funds saw the Choir perform with regular soloists Sam Griffiths and Herbert Jones.

Thursday February 8th

Capel v Ton, Tonyrefail

Another fundraising concert was held for a local chapel, this time featuring contralto Marilyn Hartnell and Sam Griffiths.

Tuesday February 12th

Fernhill Institute, Treherbert

The first concert in this venue was held in aid of the Treherbert Fire Fund.

Wednesday February 21st

Town Hall, Maesteg

A British Legion Benevolent Fund was organised by the Maesteg Branch and featured Sam Griffiths and Herbert Jones.

Friday February 23rd

Sandsfields School, Port Talbot

The Choir broadcast a BBC Festival of Welsh Music programme with the BBC Welsh Orchestra, conductor Charles Groves.

MARCH

Sunday March 9th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The choir entertained staff of the Imperial College, London.

Wednesday March 21st

Hope Chapel, Bridgend

Due to the ill health of Tom Jones, the pianist of the Royal Welsh Male Choir Mary Carpenter Edwards, accompanied the Choir. Also on stage was Marilyn Hartnell and Herbert Jones.

APRIL

Saturday April 14th

Soar Chapel, Llwynhendy

A concert was held in aid of the Llanelli National Eisteddfod fund and also feature Ponrhydyfen Pennillion Singers, Gari Nicholas, Anita Williams and Harding Jenkins.

Tuesday April 17th

Wesley Church, Neath

A fundraising concert for chapel funds was held in Neath with soloists Norma Jones Morris (soprano) and contralto Florence Cousins.

MAY

Sunday May 1st

Penyrheol Community Centre, Caerphilly

For the first concert in this venue, the Choir raised funds for the Caerphilly Arts Festival. The stage was shared with Herbert Jones and soprano Elvira Henry made her debut appearance with the Choir.

Tuesday May 17th

Cathays Methodist Church, Cardiff

Chairman for the concert was Edward Peace MBE, Lord Mayor of Cardiff. Also on stage was contralto Kay Liddiard and Herbert Jones.

Saturday May 21st

Eisteddfod Field, Cardigan

The Choir returned to the Semi National Eisteddfod at Cardigan where they once again performed *Matona Fy Annwlyd* and *Y Refali*, beating three of the fellow “musical giants” of Wales at the time. The adjudicators observed: Treorchy came first with 184 points, followed by Morryston (176 points), Manselton (171 points) and Rhos Orpheus (170 points).

Friday May 27th

BBC TV Studios, Cardiff

The Choir broadcast a TV programme called “Hen a Newydd”.

JUNE

Friday June 10th

BBC TV Studios, Cardiff

The Choir filmed a TV programme called “People Who Sing”.

AUGUST

Saturday August 11th

National Eisteddfod of Wales, Llanelli

The Welsh town, where they had claimed the Blue Riband in the days of the “old Treorchy” Choir in 1895, was now the location for a competition featuring a very different Rhondda choir. The adjudicators were D.T. Davies, W. Matthews Williams and Mansel Thomas and it was with satisfaction that the Treorchy men had given their best performance prevailed, but disappointed that another choir had given a better one. The choir lost to the new Rhosllanerchrugog Male Choir and it was John Haydn who was the first on stage to congratulate the conductor of the winning Choir. Rhos (191), Treorchy (180), Morriston (173), Manselton (170)

SEPTEMBER

Saturday September 15th

RAF Station, St Athan

A concert was held to mark the fiftieth anniversary of military aviation. It featured Stan Stennett, the Boy Bando f St Athan, Judo Team and Gymnastic Display.

Thursday September 20th

Social Hall, New Tredegar

The concert, featuring Sam Griffiths and Herbert Jones was in aid of the First Tredegar Scouts Group.

Thursday September 27th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

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

Saturday September 29th

Baptist Church, Ross on Wye

Prior to the concert in Ross, chorister Ron Dowling collapsed during the journey on the Choir bus. Sadly he died without regaining consciousness.

OCTOBER

Saturday October 6th

Town Hall, Birmingham

The fifth visit to the Town Hall was again under the auspices of the Cymmrodorion Society and featured tenor Gerald Davies.

Wednesday October 17th

Salem Chapel, Nantyffyllon

A concert was held for Seion, Dyffryn and Siloah Church Funds and featured soprano Avril Harding, Herbert Jones and accompanist Anthony Lewis.

Saturday October 20th

Ninian Park, Cardiff

Once again the Choir and John Haydn Davies's services were called upon to lead the congregational singing at Ninian Park, this time for the international football match between Wales and Scotland.

Saturday October 27th

Brangwyn Hall, Swansea

The Choir made a recording for the BBC.

NOVEMBER

Thursday November 1st

Technical Hall, Cross Keys

A concert was held in aid of the NUT Orphanage Fund featuring Elvira Henry and Sam Griffiths.

Thursday November 22nd

Bethania Chapel, Treorchy

A concert for chapel funds was held with Betti Jones (soprano) and Richard Rees (bass).

DECEMBER

Thursday December 6th

Workmen's Hall, Nantymoel

A concert for Ogmore Valley OAP Fund featured Sam Griffiths and Herbert Jones.

Thursday December 13th

Albert Road Church, Neath

A fundraising concert for chapel funds was held with soloists Sam Griffiths and Herbert Jones.

Thursday December 20th

Welfare Hall, Ynyswen

The concert in aid of Ynyswen Welfare Hall also featured Agnes Jenkins Griffiths and Jessie Owen.