

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



BRIEF HISTORY 1958

By Dean Powell, Publicity Officer
& Honorary Archivist

JANUARY

Thursday January 23rd

Cory Hall, Cardiff

The Choir broadcast an edition of “Aelwyd Y Gan” for BBC.

FEBRUARY

Thursday February 6th

Trerhondda Chapel, Ferndale

The Choir travelled to Ferndale for a concert which featured Nanw Morgan (soprano) and for the first time they performed with rising Welsh tenor Stuart Burrows. The artists were accompanied by Ifor Davies.

MARCH

Friday March 1st

St Peter’s Hall, Cardiff

The Choir broadcast “On St David’s Day” for BBC

Thursday March 13th

The Coliseum, Aberdare

The concert was held in aid of an OAP Group and featured contralto Lynne Richards and Arnold Davies (baritone).

Saturday March 29th

Technical College Hall, Birkenhead

The Choir was reunited with contralto Constance Shacklock with accompanies Leonora Mills.

APRIL

Friday April 4th

Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

A concert in aid of the Treorchy OAP Building Fund took place and was chaired by Dr Fergus Armstrong. Artistes for the evening were Berry Parry (soprano) and bass Howell Glynne.

Thursday April 10th

Zoar Chapel, Merthyr Tydfil

The Choir was joined by Haydn Adams (tenor), Arnold Davies (baritone) and organist Glynne Jones for the concert held in aid of the Merthyr Eisteddfod Fund.

Saturday April 26th

Drill Hall, Cardiff

At the Drill Hall, the Choir was joined by the 6th Welsh Battallion Band, Ossie Morris and boxer Jack Petersen.

MAY

Saturday May 3rd

Cory Hall, Cardiff

A fundraising concert was held in aid of Urdd Gobaih Cymru and featured Rachel Thomas and Parti Pennillion Pontypridd.

Thursday May 22nd

Polikoff Hall, Treorchy

The Choir made "Aelwyd y Gan" for BBC, presented by Emrys Cleaver and featuring Dorothy Lewis, Robert Thomas, Gwilym Phillips and the BBC Welsh Orchestra (Conductor Arwel Hughes).

JUNE

Thursday June 26th

St Peter's Hall, Cardiff

The recorded another "Aelwyd y Gan" for the BBC.

Saturday June 28th

Llandaff Cathedral

The Choir had the honour of appearing in the first Llandaff Festival of Music where the 97 choristers sang Cherubini's Requiem. Soloists for the evening were Patricia Kearne (contralto) and organist Anthony Lewis.

JULY

Friday July 18th

RAF Base, St Athan

The Choir broadcast from the St Athans RAF Base for a BBC "Friday Night is Commonwealth Night" on the eve of the start of the actual games. Other artistes included Doreen Hulme and John Houston.

AUGUST

Saturday August 9th

Eisteddfod Marquee, Ebbw Vale

They returned to the National Eisteddfod of Wales in Ebbw Vale and beat Pendyrus (180 points) and Beaufort (176 points). The adjudicators were Dr Haydn Morris (whose composition was a test piece), Kenneth Thomas and Arwel Hughes, the respected Welsh composer and Head of Music at BBC Wales.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday September 13th

Brangwyn Hall, Swansea

The Choir appeared in the Festival of Wales Civic Concert with Norma Proctor, accompanist Dilys Morgan Lloyd and the Ystalyfera Prize Band.

Sunday September 21st

St James Hall, Lampeter

For the Choir's trip to Lampeter, they were joined on stage by Agnes Jenkins-Griffiths and Sam Griffiths.

OCTOBER

Saturday October 4th

The Pavilion, Porthcawl

On returning to the Miners' Eisteddfod to win their third consecutive first prizes, the Choir sang *Agnus Dei* from "Missa Regina Coeli" by Jacobus Kerle and gained 94 points, ahead of Pendyrus with 90 points for their performance of *Sons of the Desert*.

Thursday October 16th

Bethlehem Chapel, Ogmores Vale

The Choir was joined again by Agnes Jenkins-Griffiths and Sam Griffiths.

Wednesday October 22nd

Welfare Hall, Garnant

A fundraising concert was held for Cwmmaman OAP Group and featured elocutionist Master Gary Nicholas, Lynne Richards (contralto) and soprano Alma Jones Nicholas.

Friday October 24th

Noddfa Chapel, Treorchy

The Choir made the "Holiday In Wales" record for Qualiton.

Sunday October 26th

Salvation Army Citadel, Pentre

To mark Qualiton Record Company's 100th recording, the Choir and the Cory Band combined to record *God Bless The Prince Of Wales* and *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*, which concluded at 5.40pm. Mr Edwards then dashed to the studio to cut and process the record through the night, with copies available in the Cardiff shops by the following morning. Completed within 16 hours 20 minutes it was recognised as the shortest recording-selling time of any record in history up to this time.

NOVEMBER

Sunday November 9th

Capitol Cinema, Carmarthen

Organised by the Carmarthen Music Society, the concert was held in Carmarthen Blind Institute and featured John Dobson (tenor), Patricia Johnson (mezzo soprano) and baritone John Lawrence.

Thursday November 13th

The Coliseum, Aberdare

A concert was held in aid of the Aberdare Juvenile Concert and featured Agnes Jenkins Griffiths and Sam Griffiths.

Friday November 28th

Cory Hall, Cardiff

The Choir performed in aid of the Electmeal Industrial Benevolent Fund and were joined on stage by Elizabeth Bowen (soprano) and Llewellyn John (tenor).

DECEMBER

Friday December 12th

St Peter's Hall, Cardiff

The Choir broadcast "Aelwyd y Gan" for the BBC.

Thursday December 18th

Noddfa Chapel, Treorchy

The Choir made another record for Qualiton.

Sunday December 21st

Tabernacle Chapel, Treorchy

A carol concert was held in Treorchy.

Sunday December 28th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast the "Mid Day Music Hall" for BBC.