

# TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



## BRIEF HISTORY 1953

By Dean Powell, Publicity Officer  
& Honorary Archivist

## FEBRUARY

### Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup>

#### Town Hall, Maesteg

The first Choir uniform was worn, including a black blazer with Choir badge, tie and grey trousers, costing £3.10.0 each of which the Choir paid £2. The evening marked the first time for the Choir to hire Brewers Bus Co. to provide transport. The concert, which also featured Sam Griffiths and Idris Higgon, was held to raise funds for Caerau Athletic Football Club.

### Thursday February 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Bodringallt Chapel, Ystrad

A concert was held in aid of Ystrad OAP Association and featured baritone Rev Desmond Price and soprano Eluned Jones-Thomas.

## MARCH

### Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir made a BBC broadcast of “The Rainbow”

### Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Theatre Royal, Merthyr Tydfil

For their first visit to Merthyr, the concert featured contralto Jean Watson and baritone Jess Walters with pianist D.T.Davies.

### Thursday March 31<sup>st</sup>

#### BBC Studios Cardiff

The Choir made a BBC Welsh Home Service Broadcast

## APRIL

### Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>

#### Queen Cinema, Cardiff

The Choir appeared in the Queen Cinema, Cardiff, for the world premiere of “Helen of Troy”.

### Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Salvation Army Citadel, Pentre

A concert was held at the Salvation Army Citadel, Pentre

### Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Tabernacle Chapel, Treorchy

A concert was held at the Tabernacle Chapel in Treorchy

## MAY

### Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>

#### Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

A BBC Recording for the Overseas Service.

**Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup>**

**BBC Studios, Cardiff**

A BBC recording of “Welsh Magazine”.

**Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>**

**BBC Studios, Cardiff**

A BBC recording of “Music Hour”

**Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Eisteddfod Marquee, Cardigan**

In recognition of the National Eisteddfod win, the Choir was invited to perform at the Cardigan Eisteddfod. Held in aid of Choir funds, the guest accompanist was Professor Edward Morgan, with baritone Alfred Orda and soprano Victoria Elliot.

**Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**St Andrews Hall, Glasgow**

Following a growing friendship with Farquhar MacDonald, the Conductor of the Glasgow Police Choir, a tour of Glasgow was organised. Two concerts were held in St Andrews Hall and during the weekend, they enjoyed a boat trip on the steamer Queen Mary II along the Kyles of Bute.

**Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**St Andrews Hall, Glasgow**

The second concert with the Glasgow Police Choir. Also on stage was soloists Idris Higgon and Robert Burnside with accompanist David Anderson and organist Roy Paton. The Lord Provost was also present.

## **JUNE**

**Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Polikoff Canteen, Treorchy**

In a fundraising concert to place a clock on Stag Square in memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the World Wars, a concert was held in Treorchy. Also on stage was soloists Sam Griffiths and Idris Higgon with a harpist Telynores Gwent.

**Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Secondary School, Treorchy**

The Choir performed at the first Treorchy Fair opened by rugby great Bleddyn Williams. Also present was Hermon Drama Group and Cwmparc LEA Youth Club.

**Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Baptist Church, Harrow**

The weekend trip to Harrow took place to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. On stage with the Choir was Sam Griffiths and Idris Higgon.

**Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Granada Cinema, Harrow**

The weekend trip to Harrow took place to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. On stage with the Choir was Sam Griffiths and Idris Higgon.

**Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Kodak Hall, Harrow**

The weekend trip to Harrow took place to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. On stage with the Choir was Sam Griffiths and Idris Higgon.

**Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Bethlehem Chapel, Treorchy**

A Civic Sunday Service was held to mark the appointment of Evan M Davies as the new Chairman of the Rhondda Urban District Council. The charity to benefit from the event was the National Children's Orphanage.

## **JULY**

**Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>**

**BBC Studios, Cardiff**

The Choir recorded the BBC's "Music for Everyone" programme

**Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BBC Studios, Cardiff**

Another recording for the BBC off "Music for Everyone".

## **OCTOBER**

**Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Bethlehem Chapel, Treorchy**

With harpist Osian Ellis, the Choir gave a concert in aid of Ynyswen Welsh School.

**Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Salem Chapel, Ferryside**

For their first visit to Ferryside, the Choir was joined on stage by Sam Griffiths and Idris Higgon.

**Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Town Hall, Birmingham**

The Choir undertook its second visit to Birmingham Town Hall at the request of the Cymrodorion Society. Also on stage was contralto Mary Jarred, tenor Richard Lewis and pianist P. Crammer.

**Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**BBC Studios, Cardiff**

The Choir recorded BBC's "Children's Hour"

## **NOVEMBER**

**Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Polikoff Canteen, Treorchy**

The Choir recorded a programme called "How Many Miles To Babylon" for "BBC from the Opera House" series. They were joined by the BBC Welsh Orchestra, conductor Rae Jenkins.

**Saturday November 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Festival Hall, London**

The Choir made its first appearance at the Festival Hall, London to perform in the Autumn Music Festival of the London Welsh Association. In the audience were Sir David Maxwell Fyfe and Sir Ben Bowen Thomas. Also on stage was organist Charles Clements, Aberystwyth Madrigal Singers, baritone Geraint Evans, harpist Osian Ellis, elocutionist Amy Parry Williams and pianist Meirion Williams.

## **DECEMBER**

**Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Bethany Chapel, Treherbert**

To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bible Society, a concert was held with contralto Angus Jenkins-Griffiths, Burl Morgan, Myra Thomas and baritone William Thomas.

**Sunday December 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Treorchy**

The Choir held a carol concert to mark the festive season.