

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



BRIEF HISTORY 1954

By Dean Powell, Publicity Officer
& Honorary Archivist

JANUARY

Annual General Meeting

The resolution of the Annual General Meeting was to rename the Choir, the Treorchy Male Choir.

FEBRUARY

Thursday February 25th

Libanus Chapel, Treherbert

At the concert in aid of Ynyswen Methodist Church, the Choir was again joined by contralto Agnes Jenkins-Griffiths who became a regular soloist. Also on stage was baritone John Davies.

APRIL

Wednesday April 14th

Avon Lodge NUM, Blaengwynfi

Haydn Parfitt (tenor) and Harry Price (bass) joined the Choir on stage in Blaengwynfi in aid of the NUM Lodge.

Friday April 16th

Temple of Peace, Cardiff

The Choir made "With Heart and Voice" for the BBC

Monday April 26th

Sophia Gardens, Cardiff

The Choir made its first television programme called "Easter Parade" at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff

MAY

Sunday May 9th

Aberaman Hall, Aberaman

The Choir's visit to Aberaman saw soloists Sam Griffiths and Della James (contralto) perform in the concert which was held in aid of Aberaman OAP Branch.

Sunday May 16th

Eisteddfod Marquee, Cardigan

The Choir was asked to perform at the Semi-National Eisteddfod Concert. Also on stage was soprano Patricia Baird, John Cameron (bass) and Brychan Powell (tenor). The accompanist was Charles Clements.

Sunday May 30th

Odeon Cinema, Llanelli

At the concert in Llanelli the Choir joined Hywel Girls Choir on stage. Conducted by J Hywel Williams and accompanied by Joan Richards, a lasting friendship existed between the two choirs.

JUNE

Thursday June 3rd

Cory Hall, Cardiff

A BBC "Songs for Everyone" radio broadcast was made.

Saturday June 5th

Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

At a concert in the Park & Dare Theatre, the Choir shared the stage with their friends of the Glasgow Police Choir (conductor Farquhar MacDonald). Also performing were soloists Haydn Parfitt (tenor) and James McAulay (baritone).

AUGUST

Saturday August 7th

National Eisteddfod of Wales, Ystradgynlais

With a rehearsal in the school at 1pm, they arrived at Ystradgynlais at 3.30pm for the Chief Male Voice Choir Competition. They competed once more against Pendyrus (who performed first) and entered the eisteddfod marquee filled with enthusiasm for battle as adjudicators W. Matthews Williams, Dr Haydn Morris and J.M. Nicholas looked on. One of Dr Morris's own compositions was a test piece in the competition. The test pieces were *Nidaros*, *Henffych Groff Diymwad* and *Salm Bywyd*.

Once again they won the first prize of £200, the Welsh Guards Challenge Cup, a baton donated by Arthur Harris J.P. of Sydney, Australia, and a golden medal from the Cleveland Orpheus Male Choir in the USA. They gained 266 points, five ahead of Pendyrus. It was the Choir's second consecutive win and hundreds of people awaited their return to the Rhondda as the celebrations continued until the early hours.

OCTOBER

Saturday October 9th

Salem Baptist Church, Ferryside

In a concert held for chapel funds, the Choir was joined by Agnes Jenkins-Griffiths and Haydn Parfitt.

Thursday October 15th

Saron Chapel, Ynyshir

The Chapel's 12th Annual Celebrity Concert saw the Choir perform with Paul Aseiak (tenor) and Irene Jones-Morley (organist)

Thursday October 28th

Horeb Chapel, Treherbert

A concert in aid of the Methodist Mission of Blaencwm, with the Choir sharing the stage with bass Harry Price and tenor Haydn Parfitt.

NOVEMBER

Saturday November 13th

Market Hall, Brecon

The Choir was joined on stage with the Brecon Youth Choir, mezzo-soprano Ettore Adami and baritone John Davies.

Thursday November 25th

Polikoff Hall, Treorchy

At a broadcast in the Polikoff Canteen, Treorchy, the Choir performed Thomas Wood's *The Merchantmen* for the first time with the BBC Welsh Orchestra (conductor Rae Jenkins).

DECEMBER

Sunday December 12th

Welfare Hall, Blackwood

A concert was held in aid of Blackwood and Pontllanfraith OAP Group where the Choir was joined on stage by Haydn Parfitt and John Davies.

Sunday December 19th

Treorchy

A carol concert was held in Treorchy.

Monday December 27th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir recorded an "All Together" programme with Alun Williams.