

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



BRIEF HISTORY 1959

By Dean Powell, Publicity Officer
& Honorary Archivist

JANUARY

Monday January 5th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir recorded the “Mid-Day Music Hall” programme for the BBC.

Thursday January 15th

Bethlehem Chapel, Treorchy

A concert was held in aid of Treorchy OAP Association with Margaret Nesbitt (soprano) and Richard Thomas (tenor)

Sunday January 19th

New Theatre, Cardiff

In celebration of the life of Welsh composer Ivor Novello, the Choir performed at a concert in the New Theatre, Cardiff, with two of his leading ladies, Oliver Gilbert and Esme Lewis, along with Ivor Emmanuel.

Wednesday January 28th

Hermon Chapel, Nantyglo

A celebrity concert was organised by the Nantyglo and Blaina Urban District Council featuring Griffith Lewis (tenor), Irvine Porter (bass) and Margaret Jones (contralto). The arrival of the Choir was delayed owing to thick fog!

FEBRUARY

Tuesday February 3rd

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast “Welsh Magazine” for the BBC Home Service.

Thursday February 5th

Ebenezer Chapel, Aberkenfig

The Choir performed with soloists Anwen Jones, Bryn Francis and I. Davies.

Friday February 20th

Cory Hall, Cardiff

The Choir broadcast “Aelwyd y Gan” for BBC.

Saturday February 28th

Royal Albert Hall, London

A St David’s Day National Festival organised by the London Welsh Association also featured Ammanford Choral Society, Trevor Anthony, Aberporth Penillion Singers, Aberystwyth Girls Choir, Bwlch y Groes Childrens Party and Ystalyfera Prize Band.

MARCH

Thursday March 5th

Cory Hall, Cardiff

The Choir appeared on the BBC Light Programme “Join In And Sing” with Jack Brown (organist) and William O’Hanagan (piano)

Sunday March 15th

Cory Hall, Cardiff

The Choir appeared on the BBC Light Programme “With Heart And Voice”.

APRIL

Thursday April 9th

Salem Chapel, Llantwit Fardre

In aid of the Salem Chapel Organ Fund the Choir appeared with Agnes Jenkins Griffiths and Sam Griffiths.

Wednesday April 17th

Noddfa Chapel, Treorchy

The Choir made a short-play record for Qualiton.

Thursday April 23rd

Soar Chapel, Merthyr Tydfil

In aid of the local eisteddfod fund, the Choir appeared with Betti Jones (soprano), Hywel Thomas (clarinet) and Glynne Jones (organ).

MAY

Friday May 18th

Cory Hall, Cardiff

The Choir broadcast “Aelwyd Y Gan” for the BBC Home Service.

Sunday May 24th

Grand Pabillion, Llandrindod Wells

A celebration concert of the Golden Jubilee of National Farmers Union with Agnes Jenkins Griffiths and Sam Griffiths.

JUNE

Saturday June 21st

Llandaff Cathedral

The Choir gave the first performance of Mansel Thomas’s *Praise Ye The Lord* at the Llandaff Festival of Music in Llandaff Cathedral. Other artistes included Helen Watts (contralto) and Dorothy Lewis (soprano).

Sunday June 24th

Eisteddfod Marquee, Kington

A fundraising concert for the eisteddfod was held featuring Agnes Jenkins Griffiths and Sam Griffiths.

Wednesday June 15th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

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

AUGUST

Saturday August 8th

National Eisteddfod of Wales, Caernarfon

The Choir journeyed to north Wales for the national eisteddfod leaving Stag Square at 7am and stopping for lunch at Dolgellau before arriving in Bangor by 5pm. The Choir stayed overnight there for a Saturday rehearsal at 2pm in Salem Chapel on Pool Street before venturing to the competition marquee for their performance before 9,000 spectators, with a further 20,000 enjoying the sweltering heat of the “maes”. Adjudicators J. Morgan Nicholas, Llyfon Hughes-Jones and Idris Griffiths were overwhelmed by Treorchy’s performances of *Matona Fy Anwylyd* by Orlando di Lasso and *Cadlef Y Wereriniaeth*, by fellow adjudicator Dr Haydn Morris. The keenly contested event saw two choirs from South Wales battle against two choirs from North Wales and the scoring displayed how incredibly close this compete Treorchy won the £200 first prize and Welsh Guards Challenge Cup with a 178 point lead ahead of Rhos (177 points), Pendyrus (173 points) and Rhos Orpheus (171 points). It also marked the Treorchy Male Choir’s fifth consecutive win at the National Eisteddfod of Wales – beating the previous record held by the Morryston Orpheus Choir of four consecutive first prizes.

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday September 3rd

Gaiety Cinema, Tynant

A concert in aid of Zion Chapel, Tynant featured Agnes Jenkins Griffiths, Sam Griffiths and Herbert Jones.

Saturday September 12th

Baptist Church, Ross on Wye

The Choir was joined by Agnes Jenkins Griffiths and Sam Griffiths in the fundraising concert for the church organ.

Saturday September 26th

The Pavilion, Porthcawl

The Choir gained their fourth consecutive win at the Miners' Eisteddfod, Porthcawl. The most memorable occasion was the performance of the *Coronation Scene* from *Boris Godounov* with soloist Sam Griffiths. Adjudicators were Geraint Evans and Walter Glynn.

OCTOBER

Friday October 2nd

Cory Hall, Cardiff

The Choir broadcast “Aelwyd Y Gan” for the BBC Home Service.

Friday October 9th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

At rehearsals the Choir entertained six dignitaries from West Germany who were guests of Glamorgan County Council.

Saturday October 17th

Town Hall, Birmingham

The Choir made its fourth visit to Birmingham Town Hall, this time with soloists Victoria Elliott and Peter Hayson.

Sunday October 25th

Welfare Hall, Ammanford

The concert in Ammanford was held in aid of Sunshine Home for Blind Babies and was organised by the Moose Lodge. Soloists were Gwyneth Watcyn Davies, Stuart Burros and Jac & Wil of BBC fame.

NOVEMBER

Saturday November 1st

Brangwyn Hall, Swansea

The Choir recorded folks songs and hymns for the BBC Library in London.

Thursday November 13th

Noddfa Chapel, Treorchy

The Choir recorded hymns for the BBC religious service.

Sunday November 16th

Workmen's Hall, Abercynon

A Festival of Remembrance Concert was held featuring the Band & Drums of the 5th Battalion Welsh Guards, Agnes Jenkins Griffiths and Sam Griffiths.

Tuesday November 18th

Holton Road Chapel, Barry

A concert for the chapel organ featured Agnes Jenkins Griffiths and Sam Griffiths.

DECEMBER

Thursday December 3rd

Parc Chapel, Cwmparc

Agnes Jenkins Griffiths and Sam Griffiths joined the Choir again for a Cwmparc OAP and Christmas Gift Fund Concert

Tuesday December 8th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir entertained Hungarian visitors who were guests of the Welsh Office.

Sunday December 13th

Polikoff Hall, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast "Aelwyd y Gan" for BBC Homes Service to be broadcast on Christmas night.

Monday December 21st

Tyntyla Hospital, Ystrad

A carol concert was held for patients and staff at the hospital.

Monday December 28th
BBC TV Studios, Cardiff

The Choir made its third television broadcast called “With Heart and Voice”.