

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



BRIEF HISTORY 1963

By Dean Powell, Publicity Officer
& Honorary Archivist

JANUARY

Thursday January 10th

Libanus Chapel, Treherbert

The busiest year in the history of the Choir commenced with an engagement in Libanus Chapel in aid of Treherbert Boys Club and featuring Elvira Henry and Harry Price.

FEBRUARY

Thursday February 7th

Bethany Chapel, Cardiff

A fundraising concert for the chapel building fund saw the Choir join forces with Harry Price and Herbert Jones.

Friday February 8th

St Peter Hall, Cardiff

Sixty choristers travelled to Cardiff to perform on “Aelwyd y Gan” for the BBC with Rhiannon Griffiths, John Stodart and David Lewis.

Thursday February 14th

Sophia Gardens, Cardiff

The Choir made an “All Together” programme with Alun Williams and guests John Morgan, Mary Kendall and Pendyrus Male Choir.

Saturday February 23rd

Welfare Hall, Loughor

In aid of an OAP Fund, the Choir performed with Ceinwen Edwards (contralto) and Margaret Rees (harpist).

MARCH

Monday March 4th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast an “All Together” programme with presenter Alun Williams and performers John Morgan and Mary Kendall.

Thursday March 7th

Welfare Hall, Gilfach Goch

Soprano Elvira Henry and Herbert Jones joined the Choir for a performance in aid of Libanus Chapel.

Saturday March 9th

BBC TV Studios, Cardiff

The Choir filmed the “Rejoice and Singing” programme with Janet Baker and Roland Jones.

Thursday March 14th

Baptist Chapel, Splott, Cardiff

A fundraising concert was held for the church building fund with Maldwyn Phillips (tenor) and Herbert Jones.

APRIL

Thursday April 4th

Methodist Church, Treherbert

The Choir shared the stage with Agnes Jenkins-Griffiths and Betty Richards for a concert in Treherbert.

Monday April 8th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir broadcast two “All Together” programmes with Alun Williams, John Morgan and Mary Kendall.

Sunday April 21st

BBC TV Studio, Cardiff

The Choir filmed another edition of “Rejoice and Sing” for BBC TV with Elizabeth Howells and Duncan Robertson.

Tuesday April 23rd

Sophia Gardens, Cardiff

In celebration of the Centenary of the GWS, the Choir performed over three nights in Sophia Gardens with CWS (Manchester) Brass Band, conductor Alex Mortimer.

Wednesday April 24th

Sophia Gardens, Cardiff

In celebration of the Centenary of the GWS, the Choir performed over three nights in Sophia Gardens with CWS (Manchester) Brass Band, conductor Alex Mortimer.

Thursday April 25th

Sophia Gardens, Cardiff

In celebration of the Centenary of the GWS, the Choir performed over three nights in Sophia Gardens with CWS (Manchester) Brass Band, conductor Alex Mortimer.

MAY

Saturday May 4th

Arts Centre, Doncaster

The Choir travelled to Doncaster for the first time to perform with the Doncaster Wheatsheaf Girls Choir. The first concert was held in the local Arts Centre.

Sunday May 5th

Bradsworth Miners, Doncaster

The second engagement in Doncaster with the Wheatsheaf Girls Choir took place in Bradsworth Miners Hall.

Saturday May 10th

Pontypridd Boys Grammar School

The Choir combined with BBC Welsh Orchestra (Conductor Mansel Thomas) and Bryn Williams to give the first broadcast of a new piece of music called "Calfari".

Saturday May 18th

Blackwell School, Harrow

The Choir enjoyed another weekend visit, this time to Harrow, to perform in a concert with tenor Edgar Evans.

Sunday May 19th

Kodak Hall, Harrow

For the second performance of the weekend the Choir was joined by baritone Glyn Thomas.

Tuesday May 21st

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir made two "All Together" programmes with Alun Williams, John Morgan and Mary Kendall.

Friday May 31st

College of Advanced Technology, Cardiff

The Choir broadcast "Friday Night is Music Night" with Lucille Graham, John Harrison and Treorchy School Brass Band.

JUNE

Monday June 17th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir made a recording for the Austrian radio service.

AUGUST

Sunday August 11th

South Shore Beach Chapel, Tenby

The Choir performed in Tenby to help raise funds for the spire of St Mary's Church. Also on stage was Herbert Jones and tenor Maldwyn Phillips.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday September 7th

Assersihlanlage Park, Zurich, Switzerland

In celebration of National British Week, the Choir was invited by the National Coal Board to perform in a series of events in Zurich in conjunction with the British Industries Fair. At 6pm they gave an outdoor concert at Assersihlanlage Park in Zurich and despite the drizzling weather, saw hundreds of people enjoy the Welsh entertainment on offer.

Sunday September 8th

Lord Mayor's Parade, Zurich, Switzerland

Leaving Military Barracks on Kasernen Street the Choir appeared dressed in miner's overhauls as they marched in the Lord Mayor's procession through the main street of Zurich. This was an absolute spectacle to behold as 85,000 people lined the roads, cheering as the Choir marched and sang

English Church, Zurich, Switzerland

An evening concert was held at the English Church where hundreds of exiles filled the pews.

Monday September 9th

Main Square, Schaffhausen, Switzerland

Schaffhausen, the ancient town near the world-famous Rhine Falls, provided an unforgettable sight to behold. The evening concert was a memorable one and the hospitality afforded the men was second to none.

Thursday September 10th

The Kurplatz, Baden Baden, Switzerland

After an extensive tour of the town, including a meal provided by the Town Council at the Kursaal Restaurant, the Choir gave an open air concert in Kurplatz before a thrilled crowd of spectators.

Wednesday September 11th

Kirchgemeindehaus, Wihtherthur, Switzerland

The concert was partly televised for the Switzerland television network.

Thursday September 12th

Kongresshalle, Zurich, Switzerland

The Choir's main concert of the tour at the famous Kongresshalle in Zurich with the Military Band of the Cameronian Highlanders and the Harmonie Mannechoir of Zurich. A standing ovation from the 3,500 people, complete with stamping of feet, provided a memorable end to a wonderful tour

Sunday September 15th

Atlantic College, St Donats

After only a few days of being home from the tour of Switzerland, the Choir was again on stage, this time on a sunny day at St Donat's where they performed an open-air concert.

Saturday September 21st

T.W.W. Studios, Pontcanna, Cardiff

The Choir made a television broadcast for T.W.W.

Sunday September 22nd

Rhigos Mountain, Treherbert

The Choir filmed a section of a TV programme for T.W.W.

Tuesday September 24th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir made an exchange broadcast recording

Thursday September 26th

Horeb Chapel, Treherbert

The Choir shared the stage with soprano Anita Marvin and the Treorchy & District Brass Band.

Saturday September 28th

Abenhall School, Mitcheldean

The Choir travelled to Mitcheldean to raise funds for the restoration of the bells of the St Michael's Church. On stage were Sam Griffiths and Herbert Jones.

OCTOBER

Saturday October 5th

The Pavilion, Porthcawl

A Choir of 101 voices gained the first prize yet again at the Miner's Eisteddfod in Porthcawl. Treorchy won their fifth consecutive Miners' Eisteddfod against Blaenavon and District and Treharris and District Male Choirs. It would mark the last occasion when the Treorchy choir competed in this eisteddfod, winning a total of five first prizes out of five entries. The adjudicator A.Tusler of Barry later said, "This was the nearest to perfection I have ever heard in this form of choral singing."

Saturday October 12th

Ninian Park, Cardiff

The Choir lead the community singing at the Wales vs England international.

Tuesday October 17th

Rehearsal Room, Treorchy

The Choir made two "All Together" broadcasts with Alun Williams.

Thursday October 24th

Bethlehem Chapel, Ogmores Vale

The Choir travelled to Ogmores Vale for a performance with Elvira Henry and Maldwyn Phillips.

NOVEMBER

Friday November 1st

Bethlehem Chapel, Treorchy

The Choir appeared with soprano Marian Evans and tenor Maldwyn Phillips.

Tuesday November 12th

Welfare Cinema Hall, Beddau

A fundraising concert for the British Empire Cancer Campaign took place in Beddau. Chairman for the evening was Lt Col R.O. Crewe-Read and soloists were Sam Griffiths and Maldwyn Phillips.

Thursday November 14th

Zoar Chapel, Merthyr Tydfil

The Choir was joined by bass Geraint Evans and his accompanist Norman Kay.

Tuesday November 19th

Noddfa Chapel, Treorchy

The Choir recorded "The Valley Sings", their first Long Play (33rpm) multi-track album.

Wednesday November 20th

Noddfa Chapel, Treorchy

The Choir recorded "The Valley Sings", their first Long Play (33rpm) multi-track album.

Thursday November 21st

Noddfa Chapel, Treorchy

The Choir recorded "The Valley Sings", their first Long Play (33rpm) multi-track album.

Thursday November 28th

Bethany Chapel, Tonypany

The Choir was joined by Elvira Henry and Sam Griffiths for the concert in Tonypany.

DECEMBER

Saturday December 7th

Jerusalem Chapel, Resolven

The concert in Resolven saw the Choir perform with Elvira Henry and Herbert Jones.

Tuesday December 10th

Noddfa Chapel, Treorchy

The Choir made a recording with organist Charles Clements.