

# TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



## BRIEF HISTORY 1967

By Dean Powell, Publicity Officer  
& Honorary Archivist

## JANUARY

**Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Graddfa School, Ystrad Mynach**

A concert was held to raise funds for the Graddfa School Band Fund featuring the band and Choir. Ieuan Morgan of Treorchy and G. Barrar conducted the band.

**Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Gwyn Hall, Neath**

A concert in aid of the Neath Hospital Society of Friends.

## FEBRUARY

**Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Zoar Chapel, Merthyr Tydfil**

The Choir performed with Harry price and Herbert Jones in a concert organised by the Mendicants of Merthyr Tydfil.

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

**Lister Hall, Dursley**

The concert was organised by the Dursley Community Centre Fund and featured Sam Griffiths and Herbert Jones.

## MARCH

**Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Brangwyn Hall, Swansea**

The Choir appeared in a St David's Day Festival Concert with Anita Marvin, Bois y Blackboard, Jean Williams and Mynydd Bach Girls Choir.

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

**City Hall, Salisbury**

The concert before 1,600 people, featured soloists Sam Griffiths and Herbert Jones.

**Friday March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy**

For the second consecutive year the Choir joined forces with the Parc & Dare Band to hold a Good Friday Concert.

## APRIL

**Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup>**

**BBC Studios, Cardiff**

The Choir made a BBC radio broadcast with Patricia Kearne.

**Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Colston Hall, Bristol**

A concert in aid of the Salvation Army Bristol's Easton Road Corps. Compere for the evening was A. Vaughan Davies and featured elocutionist Harry Simmons and the band itself.

**Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**BBC Studios, Cardiff**

The Choir made a BBC broadcast with Kenneth Bowen and John Barrow.

**Tuesday April 25<sup>th</sup>**

**T.W.W. Studios, Pontcanna, Cardiff**

The Choir made a television broadcast from the Pontcanna Studios.

## MAY

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

**Eisteddfod Pavilion, Cardigan**

The Cardigan Semi National Eisteddfod was another milestone in the Choir history because for the first time since its post-war reformation it was conducted by someone other than John Davies. Although he had ably assisted with the preparation for the entry itself, it was John Cynan Jones who lead the Choir to victory, with the faithful Tom Jones at his side. The adjudicators were Warwick Braithwaithe, D.T. Davies and Leon Forrester. Treorchy gained the first prize with 183 points followed by Pontarddulais (173), Duvant (169) and Manselton (167

## JUNE

**Sunday June 11st**

**St George's Church, Cwmparc**

The Choir appeared in a Civic Sunday Service.

**Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Guild Hall, Portsmouth**

The Choir shared the stage with soprano Barbara Shell and the Southsea Silver Band (Conductor F. Monk).

## AUGUST

**Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup>**

**National Eisteddfod of Wales, Bala**

Under the baton of its Associate Conductor the Choir entered the National Eisteddfod in Bala. John Cynan Jones observed the 100-strong Choir intently before the first opening bars of the piano part. It was an incredibly difficult 24-bar introduction to the first piece by Bach and at the piano, for the first time, sat someone other than Tom Jones. The post-war accompanist had been too ill to attend and so it was decided to invite the niece of a chorister, the young student Marion Williams who also came from Treorchy, to deputise on his behalf. Her performance, which received the acclaim of the adjudicators, was truly outstanding.

Victory was again Treorchy's as they claimed the first prize of £500, the Welsh Guards Challenge Cup and the Ivor E. Sims Memorial Medal. Their 276 points beat rivals Pontarddulais (274), Duvant (254) and Rhos Orpheus (253). This was the Choir's last competition entry.

## SEPTEMBER

**Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Comprehensive School, Treorchy**

A concert was held for members of the visiting Bratislav Orchestra.

**Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Moriah Chapel, Cilfynydd**

Contralto Jean Allister shared the stage with the Choir.

**Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Bethel Independent Chapel, Penclawdd**

The Choir performed in Penclawdd with Glenys Dowdle (soprano) and Donald Pilley (tenor).

**Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Lewis Girls School, Ystrad Mynach**

A concert organised by the Rhymney Valley Music Club featured Herbert Jones and John Elwyn Jones.

## OCTOBER

**Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy**

The Choir appeared on the "Victor Spinetti Show" for television.

**Thursday October 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Methodist Chapel, Blackwood**

A concert was held in aid of Bedwellty OAP Association with Herbert Jones and John Elwyn Jones.

**Thursday October 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Noddfa Chapel, Ynysybwl**

A concert was held in aid of Ynysybwl OAP Association and featured Betty Jones-Reeves and Nancy Valentine.

**Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Rehearsal Room, Treorchy**

The Choir made a BBC TV recording.

## NOVEMBER

**Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Sophia Gardens, Cardiff**

The Choir made a BBC TV broadcast called "Sing Me A Song" which also featured Elizabeth Vaughan, Roland Jones, BBC Welsh Orchestra and Welsh star Ryan Davies.

**Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup>**

**The Coliseum, Aberdare**

The Choir helped raise funds for Fedw Hir Hospital Day Room with Sam Griffiths and Herbert Jones.

## **DECEMBER**

**Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Bethania Chapel, Tonypany**

A concert was held to raise funds for Llwynypia Boys Club and featured Bessie Morgan and George Hitchin. The Choir experienced adverse weather conditions to reach their destination!

**Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Polikoff Hall, Treorchy**

The Choir entertained unemployed blind people from the Rhondda.