

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



BRIEF HISTORY 2003

By Dean Powell, Publicity Officer
& Honorary Archivist

January

Wednesday January 8th

BBC Studios, Cardiff

A section of the Choir was invited to participate in a special edition of “This is Your Life” to be filmed at the BBC Studios in Llandaff. It was, in fact, the last episode of the programme hosted by Michael Aspel. This was the second time for the Choir to appear on the programme and it showcased the career of Welsh rugby international and British Lion Jonathan Davies. The Choir of 39 choristers joined forces with baritone Aled Jones to perform “Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau” to a very surprised celebrity audience including Max Boyce and Stuart Cable.

Saturday January 25th

H.G.Wells Centre, Woking

The Choir made its first visit to this venue in Woking to help raise funds for the town’s Young Musician Competition.

February

Tuesday February 11th

Warwick Castle, Warwick

The open-air concert in Warwick took place amid rather chilly weather. The venue was the spectacular Warwick Castle. Owing to the unavailability of the new Accompanist, Janice Ball, the faithful Bryan Davies took up the roll superbly. The Choir gave another first class concert which also featured comedian Freddie Starr.

March

Saturday March 1st

Left Bank Centre, Hereford

A traditional “Welsh” feel was adopted for the concert over the border in Hereford to celebrate St David’s Day. The Choir made its first visit to the Left Bank Village Centre on the riverside in Hereford to perform to a capacity banquet hall of dinner guests. Due to the unavailability of the Accompanist, the Choir was delighted to welcome former accompanist for 17 years, Jennifer Jones, back to the Treorchy family where as always she gave a wonderful performance both at the piano and on the harp. Soloists for the evening with choristers Dean Powell and Ray Daniels.

Thursday March 20th

St Peter’s Church, Pentre

A concert was organised by the church in aid of the St Peter’s Church Fund. The Choir was joined on stage with soloist Derek Donovan.

April

Saturday April 12th

Civic Centre, Aylesbury

A concert was organised by Robin Woodruff in aid of the Blackberry Farm at the Civic Centre. What was particularly significant about the concert was the fact that the

soloist for the evening was Susan Coates whose late father, Reg was instrumental in bringing the Choir in contact with the Great House in Chippenham and with whom they enjoyed such a close association.

Friday April 18th

Parc & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

The Choir and Band combined forces once again for the 37th Good Friday Concert at the Parc & Dare Theatre. This year the band was conducted by Craig Rogerts.

May

Saturday May 17th

Oakengates Theatre, Telford

Another piece of choral history this evening as Assistant Conductor, Edgar Taylor, conducted his first full concert in Telford. What was also surprising was the fact that Janice Ball was unable to accompany the Choir either, therefore the accompanist was Bryan Davies. This means a totally “new” musical team led the Choir on this very successful concert in aid of Choir funds. It was also a special night for Keith Davies (2B) who made his concert debut.

Friday May 30th

St David's Hall, Cardiff

The Choir was delighted to accept the invitation of the International Rotary Clubs to perform at their Conference in St David's Hall. Almost a thousand delegates attended the performance which featured soprano Ros Evans, baritone Ray Daniels and tenor Dean Powell who gave the first public performance with the Choir of “Stars” from Les Miserables. Also on stage was young harpist Deian Sion.

June

Saturday June 14th

Castle Theatre, Wellingborough

The concert in Wellingborough as held in aid of The Samaritans. This marked the Choir's first visit to Wellingborough and joining them on stage was guest soprano Justine Platts.

Wednesday June 19th

Labour Club, Tynewydd

The Choir made a visit to “clubland” for a fundraising concert for themselves. Following negotiations with the Club Committee, the Choir performed a full concert at the Labour Club for Choir funds. Edgar Taylor conducted the performance which also features Choir soloists Dean Powell and Ray Daniels.

Saturday June 28th

The Abbey, St Dogmaels.

The Choir made its first visit to St Dogmaels in aid of the James Llandoch Society. The concert was held in the open air and for the first time Andrew Badham and Edgar Taylor shared the responsibilities of conducting the Choir while Jennifer Jones

appeared once more as guest accompanist. The soloist for the evening was Justine Platts.

July

Sunday July 13th

International Conference Centre, Birmingham

The Choir was invited to perform at the opening ceremony of the International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis at the International Conference Centre in Birmingham.

Friday July 18th

The Forum, Bath

The Choir was reunited with the Silver Ring Choir of Bath for the evening performance at The Forum. The concert was held to raise funds for the Silver Ring Concert Tour Fund. During the evening the Conductor, Grenville Jones, introduced his assistant accompanist Helen Roberts to the Treorchy Choir as she will study music at Cardiff and has agreed to become part of the Treorchy musical team during her time in Wales.

September

Friday September 12th

Football Club, Ton Pentre

The Choir returned again to “club land” to perform a concert in aid of their own funds. The concert featured soloists Dean Powell and Ray Daniels.

Friday September 26th

Forum Theatre, Malvern

A concert was held in Malvern in aid of Choir funds and featured soloist Susan Black with her accompanist Carole Davies.

October

Saturday October 4th

Baptist Church, Yeovil

The Choir was delighted to accept this invitation as it marked the first major concert in the newly refurbished South Street Baptist Chapel. Soloist for the evening was guest soprano Susan Coates.

Thursday October 9th

Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

The 22nd Annual Autumn Concert took place at the Park & Dare Theatre where the Choir was joined on stage by their new mezzo soprano soloist Kate Woolveridge.

Saturday October 18th

Comprehensive School, Llantwit Major

The Choir was delighted to perform at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School with the RAF St Athan Volunteer Band under the conductorship of Alan Bourne. It was a

special night for the band as it marked the launch of their new CD albu, “Ding Dong Christmas.”

Friday October 24th

Hawthorn Leisure Centre, Pontypridd

The Choir undertook its first engagement in Hawthorn Leisure Centre with guest soprano Eloise Routledge who will be touring to Australia with the Choir in 2004. Compered by BBC presenter Peter Johnson, the concert was held in aid of the Crossroads for Carers scheme.

November

Sunday November 2nd

Rhondda Sports Centre, Ystrad

The Choir appeared in the Remembrance Sunday Concert organised by the Rhondda Branch (Treherbert) of the Royal British Legion. Also on stage was the Welch Regiment Band (Conductor Phillip Coomer) with soloists A. Leek and Gareth Nash.

Saturday November 15th

Dorking Halls, Dorking

The Choir made its first visit to Dorking with a very small attendance by the choristers of just 50 members. The concert also featured soloist Samantha Cole.

Wednesday November 18th

Earls Court, London

The unofficial concert engagement at Earls Court, London took place over two days and was organised by Philip Edmunds (1B). A group of 40 choristers were invited to perform at the Mortgage and Insurance Brokers Conference, staying overnight in the city centre. The enjoyable two-day event saw plenty of small performances in the conference centre to a very enthusiastic crowd.

Thursday November 19th

Earls Court, London

A second day of performances at Earls Court, London.

Monday November 24th

St David's Hall, Cardiff

The Choir was invited to perform in St David's Hall to mark the Year of the Disabled with all proceeds in aid of Cerebal Palsy Association. It was an historic moment for the Choir as Deputy Accompanist Helen Roberts performed publicly for the first time. Also on stage was Elinor Bennett, Elin Rees, David Harding and Andrews Matthews.

December

Saturday December 20th

Queen Elizabeth Hall, London

The Choir performed a celebrity concert for the Stars at Christmas charity event in aid of SOS. It was the first concert for several choristers, including Arthur Miles (1T), Keith Jacka (2B), Huw Evans (1B) and Keith Bevan (2T). The celebrity concert

featured a whole host of well known celebrities including Eastender's star John Bardon, George & Mildred's Brian Murphy, Nicholas Parsons, Susan Penhaligan, Julie McKenzie, The Bachelors, Cantemus Choir, Elaine Paig and Dame Vera Lynn.