

AN OBSERVER ADVERTISING FEATURE



Tenby Male Choir – hwyl a hiraeth - the latest CD is here!



Pic. Gareth Davies Photography

This year, Tenby Male Choir celebrates its 40th anniversary. The choir was formed in September 1975 by the late Graham Stubbs accompanied by his wife Patricia. From a small group of enthusiastic men, the choir gradually grew into a choir of over 40. Indeed, in the '80s we were regularly staging over 50 at concerts.

Under the leadership of Graham, the choir went from strength to strength, culminating in several wins and highly commended at established eisteddfodau such as Cardigan, Tumble and the Miners eisteddfod at Porthcawl. The choir also had noted successes at various competitions throughout Wales.

The choir has toured extensively in the United Kingdom and further afield, including Holland, Gibraltar, Yugoslavia, Romania, Southern Ireland, Gran Canaria and Malta. Indeed, we are revisiting Malta this October as part of our anniversary celebrations.

The choir has, as part of the

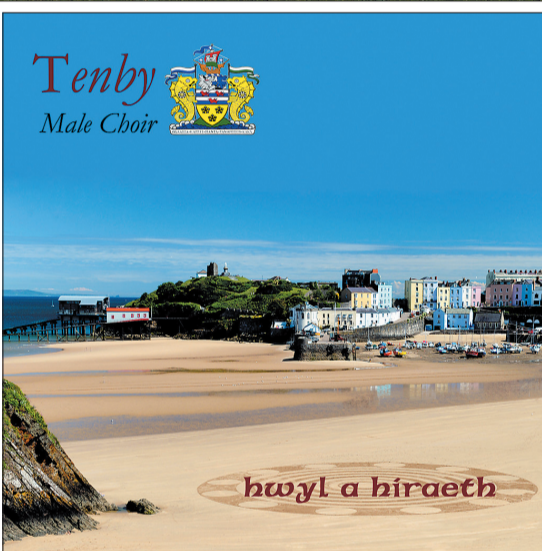
1000 Voices Festival, sung at the Albert Hall on several occasions and have been invited to join the London Welsh 1000 voice celebration at the Albert Hall in 2016.

We must be doing something right, as we have also been invited to appear on the same bill as Only Men Aloud at Pembroke Castle on Sunday, July 5.

Over the last 40 years, the choir has seen many changes, including our soloists. Who can forget the lovely bass voice of Roger Phillips especially in his rendering of 'It's Been a Hard Day's Night', the dulcet tones of tenor Ron Hurlow. Our present soloists include the fine voice of tenor Paul Varallo, founder member Tom Pearce, bass Eric Mullins and the everlasting baritone Duncan Hilling.

At this point, I would like to thank Dr. John Harrison, musical director of St. Mary's, for his contribution to the choir, especially at concerts.

Since the retirement of Graham, the choir has had three musical directors, Claire



Harrison, Christine Shewry and Ian Williams, who is our current MD. When Graham retired, so did his wife Pat - since then we have had two accompanists, the late Ken Hewlings and our present accompanist, Jill Williams. Ian and Jill have certainly put the choir through its paces which has resulted in some memorable concerts in recent years. Brecon Cathedral and the Fishguard Festival are just two which spring to mind. Another result of all the hard

work put in by the Tenby team is the production of our latest CD, aptly titled Hwyl a Hiraeth, which is being launched on Thursday, June 18, at our concert at St. Mary's. Why not come along and enjoy an evening of varied music and take the opportunity to acquire this new CD.

Many thanks to Sacha Clarkson, Richard Mullis, Gareth Davies and Oakwood Recording Studios for their contribution to the making of the CD.

You can also purchase the CD online by visiting our website www.tenbymalechoir.org.

The choir has a very busy 2015, including two celebration concerts, on August 20 when we are joined by the Integra Brass ensemble and later on September 5 when we are joined by Talgarth Male Choir, Cardiff Arms Park Male Choir and the highly-acclaimed, award-winning Goodick Brass Band. Two evenings to note!

The choir is asked by many organisations to undertake fund-raising concerts which has resulted in several thousand pounds being raised each year for various charities. In fact, it looks as if next year is full; such is the demand for the choir's services.

We are often asked to sing at a wedding, which always adds a certain 'je ne sais quoi' to a marriage ceremony.

Should anyone be interested in joining the choir, please come along to our rehearsal and 'see what happens'. We are a group of like-minded individuals, not necessarily soloists, who enjoy singing and socialising. We rehearse at the Tenby and County Club on the Croft on Tuesdays and Thursdays, commencing at 8 pm. Come along and give it a go - what have you got to lose? We look forward to meeting you.

You can meet some of the choir at our Coffee Morning which will be held tomorrow (Saturday) morning at St. Mary's Church House between 10 am and 12 noon.

Chairman, Terry Evans, can be contacted on 01834 844256 and our secretary, David Stewart-Walvin, on 01834 844926.

T.F.E.

"Wilburisms"

"Boys - you're the only choir I know that can sing a single note in eight-part harmony!"



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