



Builth Male Voice Choir
Côr Meibion Llanfair-ym-Muallt

Gala Concert

with

Mousehole Male Voice Choir

Shân Cothi

Martha Powell (*Harp*)

Concert Programme

Saturday 8 September 2018



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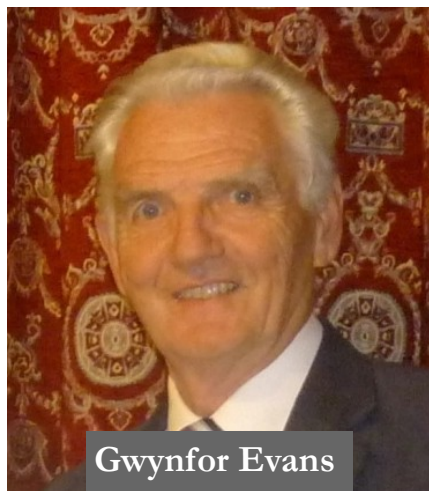
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Builth Male Voice Choir - some personal reflections from Gwynfor Evans (*top tenor*)

When Builth Male Voice Choir was established under the leadership of Jack Francis in 1969, I did not need anyone to persuade me to join. I was brought up in a musical family, my father a choir conductor and my mother the accompanist so singing was almost a requirement but also a very valuable experience. Not only has it given me immense enjoyment and pleasure, but it has been a passport to many other musical

experiences in the four corners of the world. These have involved many visits home and abroad with the Builth Choir but also to many countries around the world with the Comrades and Lions' Choir.

It all began at the Builth Wells Cricket and Rugby Club during the winter of 1968-69. Early photographs will show it was a slightly different setting for rehearsals to what we currently experience! We were known then as "The Builth Wells Cricket and Rugby Male Voice Choir" which I found a bit of a mouth-full when introducing the choir. Thankfully, the name was changed to "Builth Male Voice Choir" in 1977. Putting the original name on badges and ties would have been something of a challenge!



The choir gave its first concert in Garth in 1970. Our signature tune then was “Doctor Foster went to Gloucester in a shower of rain”- in actual fact it was snowing outside and that was at the end of April! Our first concert at the Strand Hall in Builth was in 1973. This was my first concert as compère and for the first twenty five years or so I shared the duties with Elmar Grindley and Eiros Davies; little did I think then that I would still be at it 45 years later!

There have been many memorable trips with the choir, far too many to list here. However, just to mention a few; the visits to the Albert Hall to take part in the Festival of 1000 voices must rank high on the list. Our first visit was in October 1982 and singing the opening number was an experience I had never had before or since and I’m sure that was true for others in the choir. The visits continued in the following years and after something like ten festivals it still gives me a great thrill. During the earlier visits we stayed at hotels like the Regents Palace and Park Court where a number of other choirs stayed as well. Needless to say the “afterglows” that went on well into the night were also memorable - better than the actual concerts? Not really!!

Another memorable concert for me was at the beautiful Church of St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich in October 1996. Ascending into the church from the Cloakroom beneath the church and experiencing the splendour of the scene in front of us certainly took my breath away. With us as guest soloist was non-other than Shân Cothi who had won the Blue Riband at the National Eisteddfod the previous year. I’m sure that Shân has some fond memories of that trip as many of us do!!

There have been so many trips abroad that make it difficult to single out one that stands out. However, for me it has to be the visit to France and Belgium in 2014 to mark the centenary of the start of the Great War. The highlight of the tour for me was the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres where we had the privilege of singing as part of a memorable evening of pipe and brass music in the Ypres Military Tattoo. That highlight was closely followed by

singing at the site of new Welsh Memorial built to commemorate the death of the Welsh poet Hedd Wyn who was killed in the Battle of Passchendaele before he could return to Wales to be honoured for winning the chair at the 1917 National Eisteddfod.



Welsh National Memorial : Flanders

Selecting an event in our own community is equally as challenging but if there has to be one it would be the Jubilee Gala Concert at the Showground in 2002. Jason Howard, who was the guest soloist at the 1000 Voice Millennium Concert at the Albert Hall in 2000 in which Builth Choir took part, was staying at the same hotel in London as the Choir. In the hotel after the concert, he was persuaded to appear at our annual concert at the Showground in 2001. Unfortunately, the concert had to be cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak but thankfully it was rearranged for 2002 and was an outstanding success.

As previously mentioned, a valuable spin off of belonging to the choir is the passport it offers to enjoy other choral experiences. As it is for other members of the choir by now, joining the Comrades Choir has widened the choral opportunities with visits to the four corners of the world. My first visit with the Comrades was to Patagonia in 2007 followed by visits to Canada, America, Austria, Russia and Malta as well as singing with the Lions Choir in South Africa in 2009, Australia in 2013 and New Zealand in 2017

Being a member of the Choir has been sheer enjoyment and a privilege and pleasure and I treasure the honour of being awarded 'Life Membership' of the Choir in 2014. Llongyfarchiadau cynnes iawn a phob dymuniad da i'r dyfodol.

Builth Male Voice Choir

Founded in 1968 Builth Male Voice Choir is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. The Choir has performed all around the UK and Europe – including France, Germany, Ireland, Czech Republic, Netherlands and Belgium. Builth Choir has regularly been invited to take part in Welsh Festival of Male Voice Choirs at London's Royal Albert Hall and in recent years participated in the prestigious Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival. Most concerts are in support of local and national charities and the Choir have been honoured to be invited to sing at weddings and funerals in the local community.



The Choir has a talented and dedicated team of musicians who lead the Choir. Luned Jones has worked with the choir since its early days—first as accompanist and for over thirty years as the Musical Director. Ann Bufton has accompanied the choir for over thirty years, taking over from Luned. Both Ann and Luned were honoured for their services to the choir when they were invited in 2011 to the Queen's garden party at Buckingham Palace. Adrian Morgan is the Assistant Musical Director and also sings top tenor in the choir.

Tonight's Programme

Part 1

Builth Male Voice Choir

Sanctus : Cherubini

Cydgan y Morwyr : Joseph Parry

Shân Cothi

Own selection to be performed by Shân

Mousehole Male Voice Choir

Battle of Jericho : Spiritual arr. Mark Hayes

Four Strong Winds : Ian Tyson arr. Larry Nickel

Hunker Down : Tobin Stokes

(Sponsored by Roger Stephens in loving memory of his wife Jackie, 10 years on)

Calon Lân : Arr. Simon Oran/Nick

Martha Powell

Own selection to be performed by Martha

Builth Male Voice Choir

Bring Him Home : Claude-Michel Schönberg

The Prayer : C Bayer Sager/David Foster

Interval



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Part 2

Mousehole Male Voice Choir

Anthem (*from Chess*) : Andersson / Ulvaeus

Sing Your Way Home : Joseph M Martin

Royal Hudson : Dave Baker arr. Larry Nickel

(*In memory of Pam McGraa 'Nibs' from Bill and all the family*)

Martha Powell

Own selection to be performed by Martha

Shân Cothi

Own selection to be performed by Shân

Mousehole Male Voice Choir

River Song : Roger Emerson.

Lay Up Your Treasures in Heaven : Pepper Choplin

(*Sponsored by the Brittany sub-committee*)

And Can It Be? : Dan Forrest

(*Sponsored by the Brittany sub-committee*)

Joint Choirs

Conducted by Stephen Lanry

We Rise Again : Leon Dubinsky arr. S Smith

You'll Never Walk Alone : Rogers/Hammerstein

Anthems

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in Wales.

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Mousehole Male Voice Choir

Mousehole Male Voice Choir, the best known and largest choir in Cornwall, has 83 members and has performed all over the United Kingdom, in Europe and the USA. Mousehole Male Voice Choir is the second oldest male voice choir in Cornwall and was formed in the autumn of 1909.



The choir members are drawn from all over west Cornwall and are a cosmopolitan group representing many backgrounds, from labourers to head teachers, high flying council employees to painters and decorators, and aged from 16 to 88.

Popular features of the Choir's schedule each year are their open air concerts on the quay in the village, usually three or four times a year. There are usually between 25 and 30 concerts.

The musical team comprises Annette Turton who has been accompanist since 2006, and sets superb standards in playing for the choir. Musical Director Stephen Lawry has been with the choir since 2004 and his assistant, David Williams, since 2010. The accompanist for tonight's concert will be David Ceredig-Evans with guest flautist Maureen Griffiths.

Shân Cothi

Welsh personality Shân Cothi whose classical and music theatre repertoire has enthralled audiences throughout the world. In 2000 Shân was cast as Carlotta in Andrew Lloyd Webber's production of *The Phantom of the Opera* in London's West End. Shân is also an experienced actress, television and radio presenter in Wales. Her career as a singer has

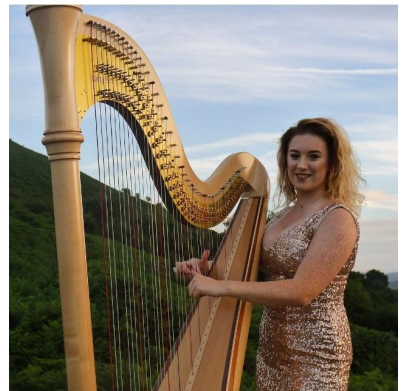


spanned a range of music styles, from opera to oratorio, music theatre to traditional Welsh songs and a host of contemporary projects working with musicians from different musical genres.

In 2008 Shân set up Amser Justin Time Pancreatic Cancer Charity Wales following the loss of her husband Justin Smith and this concert will raise funds to further the essential research needed to support pancreatic cancer patients in Wales.

Martha Powell

Martha is studying music at Cardiff University but grew up in Brecon. She started playing the harp at the age of 7 and since then has gone on to play in many weddings, concerts and events all over the UK. She has performed for Prince Charles and recently opened for Max Boyce on his recent trip to the area. She performs with Cardiff



University Symphony Orchestra and other orchestras around Cardiff. Martha also plays saxophone and piano and plays with Cardiff University Jazz Society and Cardiff University Symphonic Winds but always comes home to play with Brecon Town Concert Band. Martha has recently become a peripatetic teacher around Cardiff and is greatly enjoying this. She is now working on new compositions and arrangements to further build her career.

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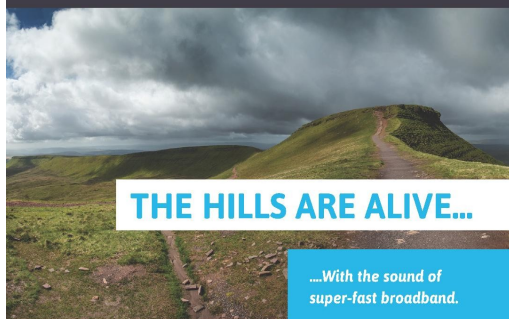
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