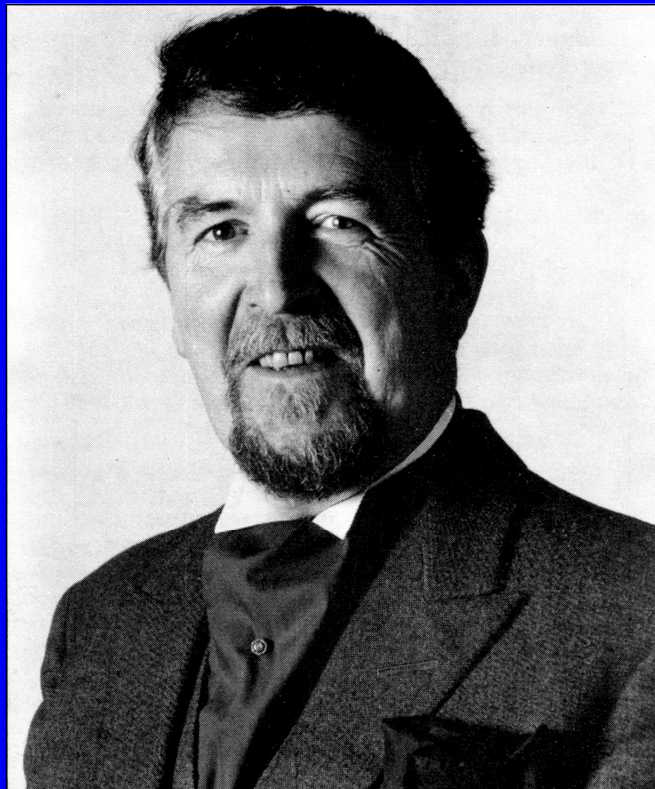


Glynne Jones MBE 1927 — 2000



Musical Director 1962 — 2000

Born in Dowlais Merthyr Tydfil on November 7th. 1927, he was educated at Cyfartha Grammar School, and at the University of Wales, Cardiff, where he graduated in Music and Welsh. His Musical career began in his home town as organist of Moriah Welsh Baptist Chapel for more than 20 years, and music master at the County Grammar School, when he also conducted the Merthyr Philharmonic Choir. But during this time it was as conductor of Rhymney Silurian Singers he will be best remembered, winning three National Eisteddfodau in the late 1950s.

He established the Gwent Music Trust, organised festivals of school music and produced annual rock and pop festivals, while also broadening opportunities for youngsters to fully appreciated music from an early age. In 1978 he was the music adviser for the BBC film *Off to Philadelphia in the Morning*, and became chairman of the Urdd National Eisteddfod in 1986, conducting the Gymanfa Ganu at the National Eisteddfod in Newport two years later, and the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu in Pennsylvania, USA in 1995. He was also the director of a *Welsh Salute to the Bicentenary* in Melbourne, Australia in 1988.

A member of the Welsh Arts Council, the South East Wales Arts Association and Vice president of the Guild for the Promotion of Welsh Music, his life-long commitment to music in education and the community was rewarded with a fellowship of the Welsh College of Music and Drama, followed by the MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List in 1996. For more than 50 years he played a massive role in the history of Welsh music. As a school teacher he was responsible for encouraging talented youngsters to follow successful careers in music. As a musician he was a gifted organist, lecturer and arranger in his own right. But it's as a conductor that Glynne Jones will be best remembered. On stage he showed a remarkable ability to control a hundred men into signing as one voice, commanding the respect and admiration of every performer who had the pleasure and honour of working with him.

With a vast knowledge of music, his wit was razor sharp, which endeared him to every audience. He was much more than a conductor to them, he was a character who played the part of a showman to effect.

For almost 40 years he lead the world-famous Pendyrus Male Choir to greater glory, as their musical director, broadening their repertoire, taking them on magnificent overseas tours and enhancing their popularity still further. Under his baton they became the first Western European choir to tour the Soviet Union in 1979 which included a concert in the Kremlin. Then leading them on tours to Belgium, Canada, Australia and the United States, and an informal concert at the White House.

Mr Jones was one of the "old school" of conductors, from a bygone age when Wales was indeed worthy of the title, the Land of Song