

# Fitting celebration for virtuoso male choir

By IFAN PAYNE

## REVIEW

**THE TREORCHY** male choir marked their 1,000th public performance with a celebratory concert at St David's Hall on Saturday evening.

Under the direction of their conductor John Cynan Jones, this chorus sings with discipline and a beautifully blended and balanced tone.

On Saturday evening, accompanied by pianist Jennifer Jones, the repertoire of the Treorchy choir ranged with equal facility over the music of Grieg, Faure, Welsh folk songs in beautiful arrangements by Mansel Thomas, and a

selection of show tunes arranged by Mike Sammes, of which *Send in the Clowns* in particular created a moving effect.

If there was any minor quibble it arose from a strength, in that by displaying the virtuosic full-toned, hushed pianissimo of this 120-strong choir, John Cynan Jones misjudged the tricky acoustics of the hall and occasionally allowed the sound to fall below the ambient noise level.

Also on hand to help with the celebrations was the Cantorion Creigiau,

accompanied by Kate Burnett, which gave ample indication of why this choir has developed such a strong reputation in recent years.

One could only marvel at the skill with which their conductor, Mair Roberts, produced fluid phrasing and such light and rhythmic singing from the Cantorion.

The versatile Mair Roberts also doubled as the striking soprano soloist for the evening.

Continuing the custom of providing employment for local TV announcers, the concert was engagingly and wittily introduced by Arfon Haines Davies.