



## Musical Director - Fred Nicholas



Fred was born on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 1952 in Tonypany in the Rhondda Valley . He attended Hendrecafn Primary School before progressing to Tonypany Grammar School . On completing his education he joined the teaching profession and is currently Head of Music at Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive School. He has one son, Huw, who sings in the second tenor section of the choir. Fred lists his hobbies as music, food, drink and pool.

Fred joined the choir in 1978. The choir turned to Fred to help them out of a difficult situation. As he makes clear, "I was asked to conduct the choir to prepare them and take them on a tour of Miami in the United States . Initially I only joined on a three month trial". So what does our Musical Director choose as his favourite song? "There are so many, Babylon 's Wave, Bring him home, Nidaros, Anthem etc".

Fred has difficulty in naming just one memorable moment with the choir. He has a number of memories which instantly come to mind as he explains. "Performing Babylon 's Wave in Bethania Chapel when the organ joined in the final section 'Woe unto thee'. I also remember singing Morte Christe at Shaughnessy Heights United Church . Then there was singing on the steps of St David's Hall, Cardiff at the end of the 1999 Rugby World Cup final – an instant Gymanfa. Having the privilege of presenting the late Arthur Hayward Snr with his Life Membership Certificate. Singing 'Castilla' in competition in Bream Sands and taking first place". Of all the places he has been with the choir he lists Vancouver and Vernon as his favourite venues

What are his personal feelings of being the Musical Director of Cambrian Male Voice? He replies, "Being given the pleasure of camaraderie, that spine chilling thrill of producing wonderful sounds, the tension of competition and the endless humour and quick wit during rehearsal and on the bus".

When asked to describe Cambrian Male Voice in five words Fred states, "Experiencing life on the edge. More than five words are needed".

Our thanks to Fred for providing the above information and allowing us to use it on this website.

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