



Chorister Profile – Roy Gibbins



Roy was born on the 31st May 1955 in Llwynypia Hospital in the Rhondda Valley. He first attended Cwmclydach Junior School, before passing the eleven plus examination and going onto Tonypandy Grammar School. His first job was as a factory cleaner on Treforest Industrial Estate during the summer recess. He then served an engineering apprenticeship with EMI in Treorchy. Having gained his degree he spent a short time with GEC Ltd in Melksham, before his career took a dramatic turn and he became a mathematics schoolteacher at his local Comprehensive. He has recently retired from Hawthorn High School where he held the position of Head of ICT Department. Roy is married to Sandra and they have two children and two grand children. His hobbies include keeping fit, reading, watching historical documentaries, oil and watercolour painting, skittles and the Choir.

Roy joined Cambrian Male Voice Choir in September 2010. He recalls his reasons, " I've always enjoyed listening to male voice choir singing. Before I retired I always said I would like to try to join a choir, to see if I would enjoy it. I took the plunge two weeks after I retired, knowing if I didn't at least try, I would probably regret it for the rest of my life. There was never any doubt in my mind which choir I wanted to join. It was my village choir. I haven't regretted it".

His favourite song is Gwahoddiad. "Whenever we sing this hymn, the hairs on my arms are vertical and the back of my neck is tingling. It's a wonderful hymn to sing and Cambrian sings it with real passion".

In the short time he has been a member, has he a highlight he would care to share? "There has been a few. I remember my first ticking off from Fred when he told me during one practice that I was singing a song "in the wrong notes, in the wrong key and with the wrong words". It helped me focus. I made my debut in the Millennium Centre for the Teenage Cancer Trust Concert in 2010. We were seated on stage before the concert started, and then the curtains opened to reveal a packed audience applauding the choristers. That was a great moment especially as my family were part of the audience". Roy states his favourite venue to date is The Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

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How does he view his membership to the Choir? He answers, "Sharing a love of music with a marvellous group of choristers. I was given an overwhelming welcome when I joined and the encouragement from the other members has been a big help to me becoming more confident to sing out". How would he describe Cambrian Male Voice Choir? He replies, "Song and laughter with a warm and friendly group of men. I am extremely proud to be a member of Cambrian Male Voice Choir"

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