

1975

17th May – Vivaldi's 'Gloria' and Mozart's 'Requiem'

Conductor – D. Parkyn Marshall

Soloists – (Gloria) Margaret Jones (soprano), Muriel Churcher (alto)

(Requiem) Brenda Raine (soprano), Jean Kelly (alto), Robert Tully (tenor), Robin Makepeace (baritone) (known collectively as The Croft Singers)

The Vrayne Orchestra (Pamela Willson – leader)

The choir was some 85 in number and the programme announced that the committee had 'reluctantly decided to set some restrictions on further growth in membership'.

There is the first listing of a singer who still sings with us today – Michael Grave.

This performance was well received by the Hexham Courant under the head line:

'Ryton concert is a triumph of team work'

"Ryton Choral Society and the Vrayne Orchestra....provided an evening of sheer musical delight....Integrity and authenticity abounded and the choir, perhaps finding even greater inspiration from an orchestra in top form, showed considerable versatility. It provided great power in the climax of the Mozart, vigour and discipline in the contrapuntal choruses of both works, and beautifully sensitive nuances and subtleties in the lyrically expressive sections....There were many moments of breath-catching beauty in this performance, the flexibility and phrasing of the 'Lacrymosa' and 'Hostias' provided a very moving experience, whilst, at the opposite extreme, the 'Dies Irae' taken at a really exciting speed, was swung with stunning power and savagery. The final double-fugue 'Cum Sanctis Tuis' was superb. The many subject entries were exact and made without unstylish heaviness as the other voices eased to allow prominence to each important part; the semiquaver runs were clearly articulated and fairly danced along to the big adagio cadence with its flourish of brass and kettle-drums.

The performance was a personal triumph for the conductor, Derrick Parkyn Marshall, whose authoritative control was evident throughout. Once again, his musically detailed preparation and uncompromisingly high standards provided Ryton with a memorable occasion."

This concert was repeated on **May 21st** at Hookergate Secondary School with Ursula Bell providing the continuo in place of the Vrayne Orchestra.

6th December – Carols and 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo' (Flanders & Horvitz)

Conductor – D. Parkyn Marshall

Soloist – Stan Gaynor

The choir was joined by the City of Newcastle upon Tyne Youth Orchestra, conductor – Christine Ballantyne.

Jack Edmondson's ever-enlightening notes tell of the choir having made recordings for Tyne Tees Television that were to be used for the Epilogue slot. The choir were 'anxiously awaiting transmission'!