

Jack Harries

Musical Director write-up

Jack is a proud native of Maerdy in the Rhondda Fach. He was educated through the medium of Welsh at Ysgol Gynradd Llyn Y Forwyn and later at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda (formerly Ysgol Gyfun Y Cymer).

Jack's passion for music and singing was identified and nurtured from a very young age at school. At age 6, Jack started studying brass with one of the most widely known and respected brass band conductors in Wales, Craig Roberts, who is currently the Musical Director of the Lewis Merthyr Brass Band. He furthered his brass studies with David Elliot and later Steve Martin at comprehensive school.

At the age of 13, he began studying the piano with Stewart Roberts MA LRSM PGCE, formerly Musical Director of Côr Meibion Pendyrus and Treorchy Male Choir.

At Ysgol Cwm Rhondda, Jack also studied voice with a renowned vocal coach, Angela Morris-Parry DipRWCMD. He studied music at GCSE and A-Level and was a key member of the successful school choirs, winning first prize at the Urdd National Eisteddfod in 2014.

When Jack was just 14, he became the youngest-ever member of the renowned Pendyrus Male Choir. From the very first rehearsal, Jack's love and enthusiasm for the unique sound of a male choir were ignited. As a member of the 1st tenor section, Jack was proud to become a double winner of the Cardigan semi-national Eisteddfod in 2017 & 2019. During the last few years, Jack has often conducted Pendyrus in concerts and rehearsals, deputising for the MD and accompanying the choir on several occasions. Jack is now a proud member of the World-Famous Treorchy Male Choir.

He is also the Vice President of his local male choir, Côr Meibion Morlais, and he has conducted them and Caerphilly Male Choir in both rehearsals and concerts. As a choral conductor, the highlight of Jack's career to date was conducting Côr Meibion Pendyrus in a capacity concert at the Welsh Pavilion during the choir's visit to the 'Festival Interceltique de Lorient' in Brittany, France, in 2018.

Jack proudly supports the Loud Applause Rising Stars. This unique, non-profit organisation identifies, nurtures and supports up-and-coming talented young Singers and Musicians across South Wales. LARS was formed in 2015 and is run by a dedicated group of volunteers. Since its inception, LARS has helped over twenty young performers; some of these have gone on to professional performing careers. LARS is entirely free to its Rising Stars. Their sole aim is to give them a stepping stone towards a professional performing career. They help our Rising Stars in three main ways: Mentoring, Stage Opportunities and Bursary Funding.

Jack served as a County Borough Councillor for the Maerdy Ward at Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council between May 2017 and May 2022 and worked as an Administrative Assistant and Community Liaison Officer at Senedd Cymru between November 2019 and August 2024. Jack has since taken a sabbatical from work before embarking on the next chapter in his career.

Jack was the Musical Director of Abercynon Male Choir from January 2020 to July 2024. He became Musical Director of the Tonyrefail Ladies Choir on 13th August 2024.