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VOICE CHOIR

**GOLDEN JUBILEE
CONCERT**



— SOUVENIR PROGRAMME 20p —

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STONEHOUSE MALE VOICE CHOIR

Conductor:

MURDOCH McLEAN

Accompanist:

CATHERINE HAMILTON

**GOLDEN JUBILEE
1935 - 1985**

CONCERT

in

PATERSON U.F. CHURCH, STONEHOUSE

on

FRIDAY, 22nd MARCH, 1985

at 7.30 p.m.

Guest Artistes:

RONALD MORRISON - - - Baritone

STEWART HENDERSON - Accompanist

MOIRA LAW - - - - - Elocutionist

— SOUVENIR PROGRAMME 20p —

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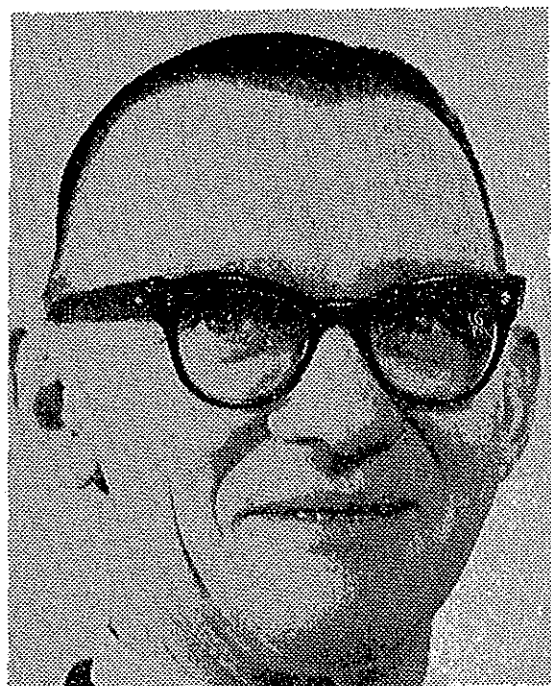
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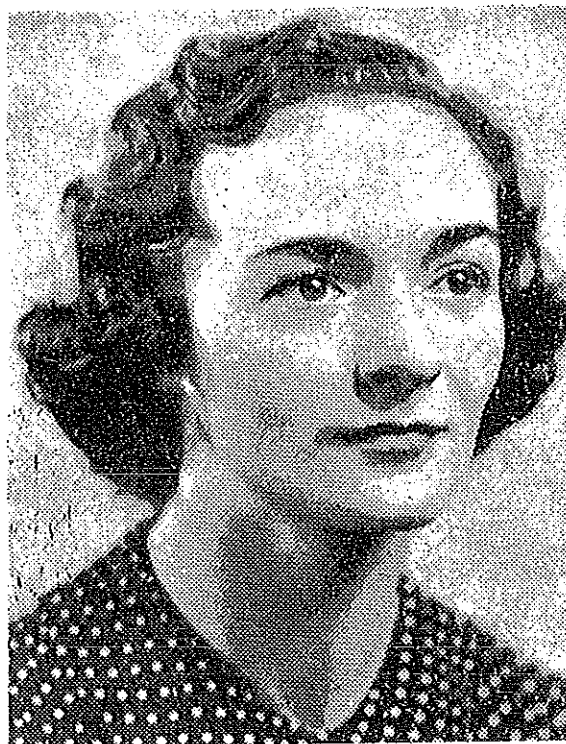
Mrs B. MATHER
2nd Accompanist



J. J. HAMILTON
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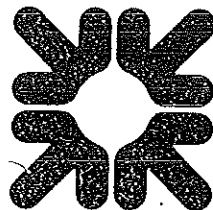
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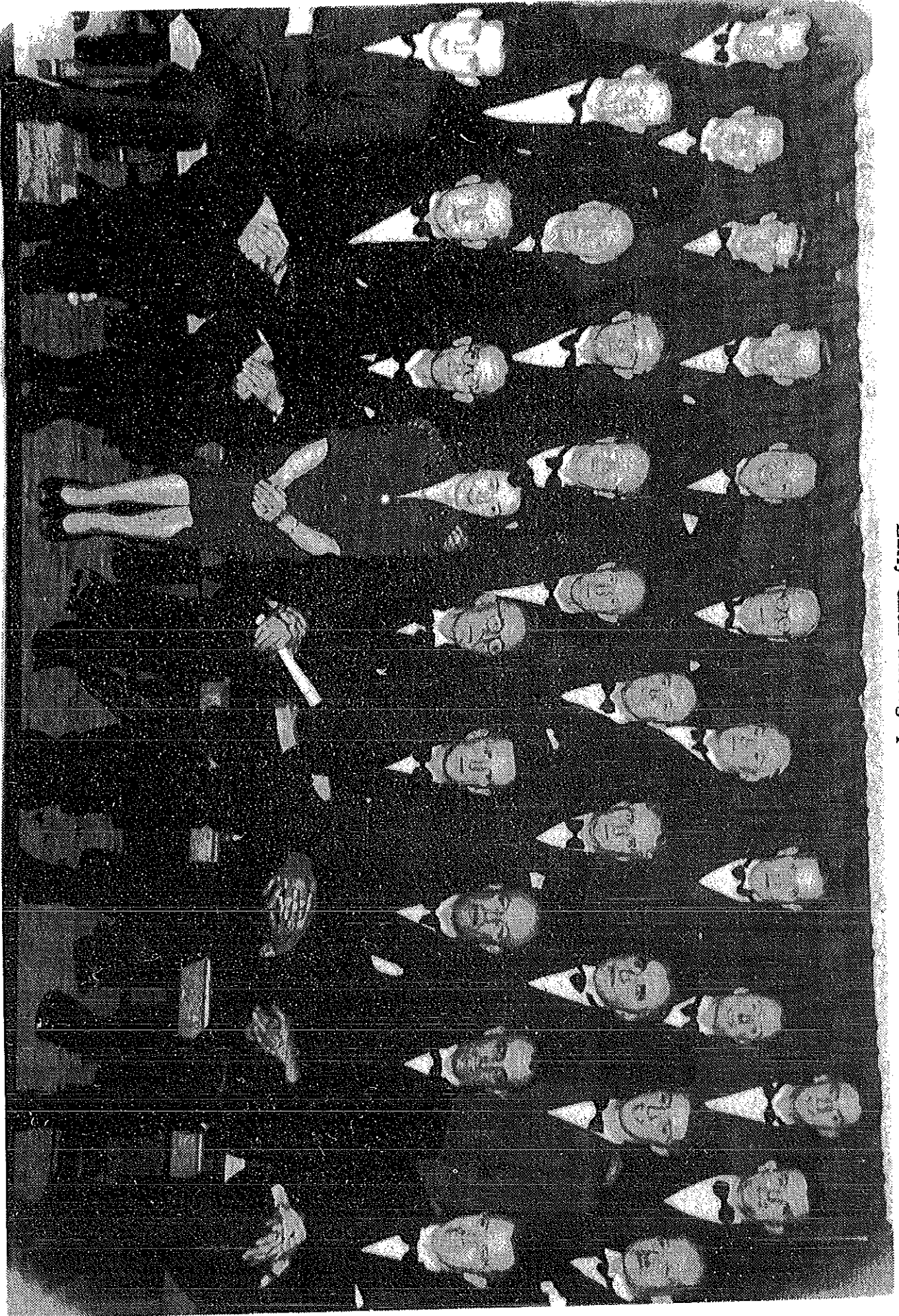
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Early Choir Photograph



PROGRAM

CHOIR

Tune of Arabella
Counting the Goats
O' Lovely Heart
Estudiantina

W. K. McCoubrey
Caradog Roberts
H. S. Robertson
Percy Jackman

RONALD MORRISON

Say Goodbye Now
Even Bravest Heart

Mozart
Gounod

MOIRA LAW

The Baptisement o' the Bairn
The Rumour

CHOIR

Marie My Girl
The Silver Birch
Close Thine Eyes
Polly Perkins

arr. Felton Rapley
arr A. V. Alexandrov
Ievan Rees-Davies
arr. Cyril Gell

RONALD MORRISON

The Lute Player
Blow Me Eyes

F. Allitsen
A. H. Mallotte

CHOIR

The Isle of Mull
The Border Ballad
The Iona Boat Song
Bonnie Charlie
In Praise of Avon

H. S. Robertson
arr J. H. Maunder
H. S. Robertson
arr. T. F. Dunhill
R. K. Chalmers

INTERVAL

AMME

CHOIR

Rest
The Ardent Shepherd
Serenade
Speed Your Journey

MOIRA LAW

The Touch of the Master Hand
The Glesga Evacuee in Stonehouse

RONALD MORRISON

The Bonnie Earl o' Moray
The Wee Cooper o' Fife

A. Moffat
F. Thorpe-Davie

CHOIR

I See His Blood upon the Rose
There is a Greenhill
Prayer in the Twilight
Nos Da (Goodnight)
Morte Christe

CHOIR AND AUDIENCE Psalm 124 (Tune Old 124th)

Now Israel
may say, and that truly,
If that the Lord
had not our cause maintain'd;
If that the Lord
had not our right sustain'd,
When cruel men
against us furiously
Rose up in wrath,
to make of us their prey;

Then certainly
they had devour'd us all,
And swallow'd quick,
for ought that we could deem;
Such was their rage,
as we might well esteem,
And as fierce floods
before them all things drown,
So had they brought
our soul to death quite down.

The raging streams,
with their proud swelling waves,
Had then our soul
o'erwhelmed in the deep.
But bless'd be God,
who doth us safely keep,
And hath not giv'n
us for a living prey
Unto their teeth,
and bloody cruelty,

Ev'n as a bird
out of the fowler's snare
Escapes away,
so is our soul set free;
Broke are their nets,
and thus escaped we,
Therefore our help
is in the Lord's great name,
Who heav'n and earth
by his great pow'r did frame,

THE FIRST FIFTY

When the Stonehouse Male Voice Choir held its first concert after the war, Bob Chalmers, our founder conductor, quoted these words in the programme:—

‘The man that hath no music in himself, nor is not moved by concord of sweet sounds, is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils.’

(Merchant of Venice, Act V, Scene 1)

Over the fifty years since its formation, with the exception of the war years, the choir has provided an opportunity for men in the area to meet together with a common interest, a love of music. We were fortunate in the beginning having a conductor with the enthusiasm and musical knowledge of Bob Chalmers. Those of us who were fortunate to be members of the choir during Bob’s leadership owe much to him.

Another conductor who will be fondly remembered was Jack Hamilton, also a local man, who had been associated with choral singing for most of his life and who, like Bob, demanded of us the highest standard of which we were capable.

For the first time, a member of the choir became conductor. John Lawrie had been sub-conductor for some time while a valued member of the bass section and once again we were fortunate in our choice. John has a deep and sincere love of music and the choir benefited greatly from his leadership, not only as a conductor, but also as an arranger for male voices of some of the ‘pop’ songs of yesteryear. It was with sadness that we learned that John had tendered his resignation but we fully understood his reasons. As a senior member of staff in a school in Shotts his responsibilities became increasingly more onerous and he reluctantly decided that his out of school activities would have to be curtailed. The decision which he made said much for his loyalty and sense of responsibility. A number of years before he became our conductor, John had founded what was to become a very fine ladies’ choir in his home village of Glassford and he decided that he would continue to lead them. Our loss was their gain and we wish John, his wife Janette and the Glassford singers well.

One door closes and another opens, so it was with us. As with most villages, news travels fast and we soon learned that a gentleman was now living in Stonehouse who had been a member of the renowned Glasgow Orpheus Choir and is a founder member

of the Phoenix Choir. Murdoch McLean was approached and asked to accept the position of conductor and it was with some hesitancy that he accepted. He made no secret of the fact that he had no conducting experience but members of the choir felt someone with his knowledge of choral singing would have much to offer. Murdo has been in choirs since he was eleven years of age and since the Phoenix started he has served it at various times as Choir Secretary, General Secretary, President, Soloist and Interim Conductor. We in Stonehouse like to think that it was his experience with us which made it possible for him to be Interim Conductor with the Phoenix. Our confidence that Murdo McLean would have much to offer our choir was well founded. His vast experience and his ability to interpret the words and music has added to the pleasure we derive from choral singing and we hope, to your appreciation.

Each conductor in these fifty years has added something to the choir and so too have our accompanists. From May (McNiven) Kirkland, now living in New Zealand, Barbara Mather at present in a nursing home in the Isle of Skye, Janette Laurie who, with her husband John, is very actively involved in the Glassford Ladies' Choir, to our present pianist Cathie Hamilton, all have contributed in no small measure to the continuing existence of Stonehouse Male Voice Choir. Our sincere thanks to all of them for many fond and happy memories.

Members of the choir who have sung solos at our various concerts are too numerous to mention but two of them will always be remembered by those who were privileged to hear them, namely Willie Whitelaw and Frank Johnston. Audiences everywhere responded to their singing, each was a fine soloist and the wit and humour when they joined in duet were particularly well received.

This year will be the 33rd Annual Festival of Male Voice Choirs and again we will take part as we have done in many previous years.

In closing, a quotation from our programme of 30 years ago.

And night shall be filled with music,
And the cares that infest the day
Shall fold their tents like Arabs
And as silently steal away.

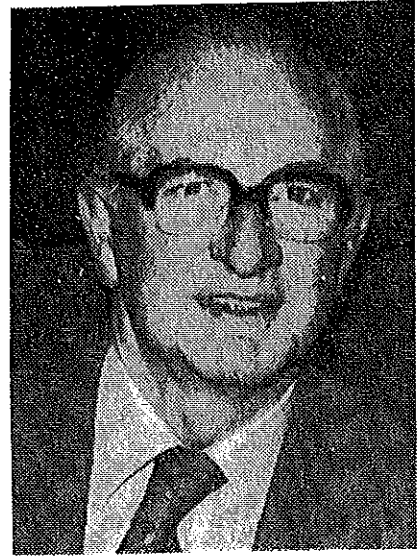
Longfellow.



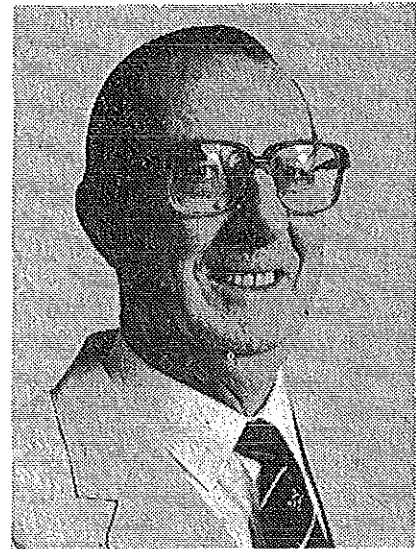
JANETTE LAURIE
3rd Accompanist



CATHERINE HAMILTON
Present Accompanist

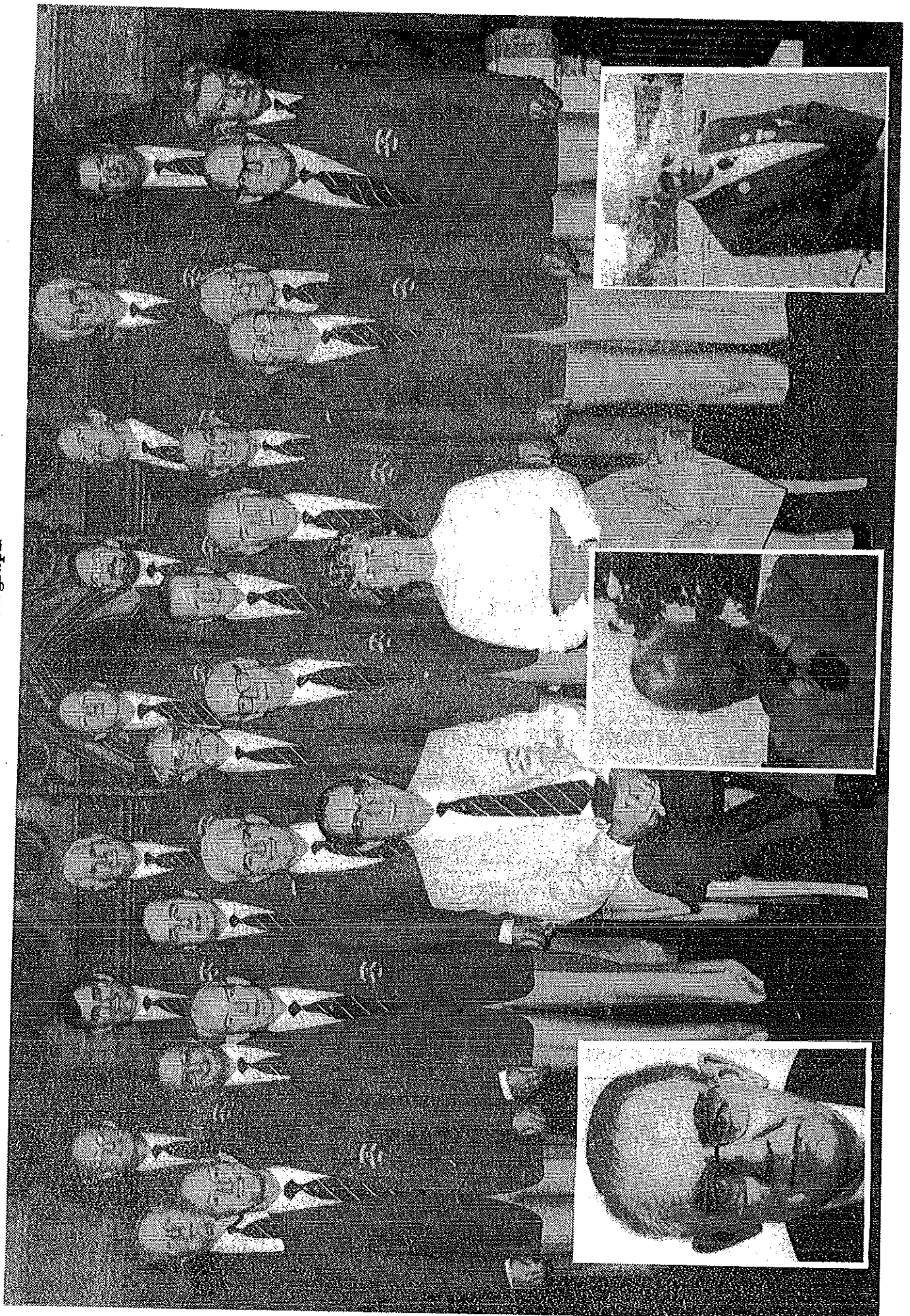


JOHN LAURIE
3rd Conductor



MURDOCH McLEAN
Present Conductor

Present Choir Photograph



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*J. Cunningham
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R. Paton
F. Taylor
J. McLeod

Baritone

*D. Munro
G. Rae
J. Allan
J. McCulloch (Lib)
W. Scott (Hon. Pres.)
A. Millar
G. Hamilton

2nd Tenor

I. McGhie
*J. Murray
S. Smith
S. Wilson
R. Dunn
J. Allan

Bass

G. Bradford
G. Kirkwood (Treas.)
J. Leggate (Pres.)
J. Hamilton (Sec.)
J. Harkness
J. Law

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Mr T. Hamilton, Lockhart Place
Mr F. McDermid, Boghall Street
Mr J. Crawford, Sidehead Road.
Mrs J. Hamilton, Caledonian Avenue
Mrs J. McCulloch, Larkhall
Mrs M. Gemmell, Wishaw

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