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STONEHOUSE MALE VOICE CHOIR

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SILVER JUBILEE

1936 - 1961

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# CONCERT

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
STONEHOUSE

On FRIDAY, 17th MARCH, 1961

At 7.30 p.m.

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*Guest Artists*

HUGH C. STEELE, Organist

CATHERINE B. BELL, Elocutionist

*Chairman* : REV. R. M. LAWSON

Doors open 7 p.m.

Admission Programme 3/-

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Miss J. B. MURRAY, Glenview

GEO. F. WILSON, Canford

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The Choir thank their many friends for continued support. Encouragement received from the community goes far to ensure the success of their efforts.

A cordial invitation is given to all gentlemen to join the Choir and attend the Monday evening practices.

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# In Praise of Avon

Dedicated to Stonehouse Male Voice Choir

(WORDS AND MUSIC BY R. K. CHALMERS (COPYRIGHT))

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*There's mony rivers in the West,  
Ayr, and Doon, and a' the rest,  
Nane tae us is hauf sae blest  
As oor sweet, winding Avon.  
Raise your voices, sing its praise,  
Its placid linns, its benty braes ;  
Its mem'ries dear o' ither days  
We've spent by winding Avon.*

*Lang syne when evil deeds were rife,  
The Kirk was torn wi' sturt and strife,  
Full mony a martyr gied his life  
Beside the winding Avon.  
Sodom Hill and Drumclog Field,  
Where weavers fought, and wadna' yield ;  
Where Scotland's richts were firmly seal'd  
Beside the winding Avon.*

*Now peace reigns o'er thee, cherished stream,  
The Fisher's love, the Exile's dream,  
May simple joys aye from the theme  
Of those who dwell by Avon.  
As lang as Scotia's Rivers rin,  
Wild woods wave, and flow'rest spring,  
We'll bare oor he'rts and proudly sing  
In praise o' winding Avon.*

---

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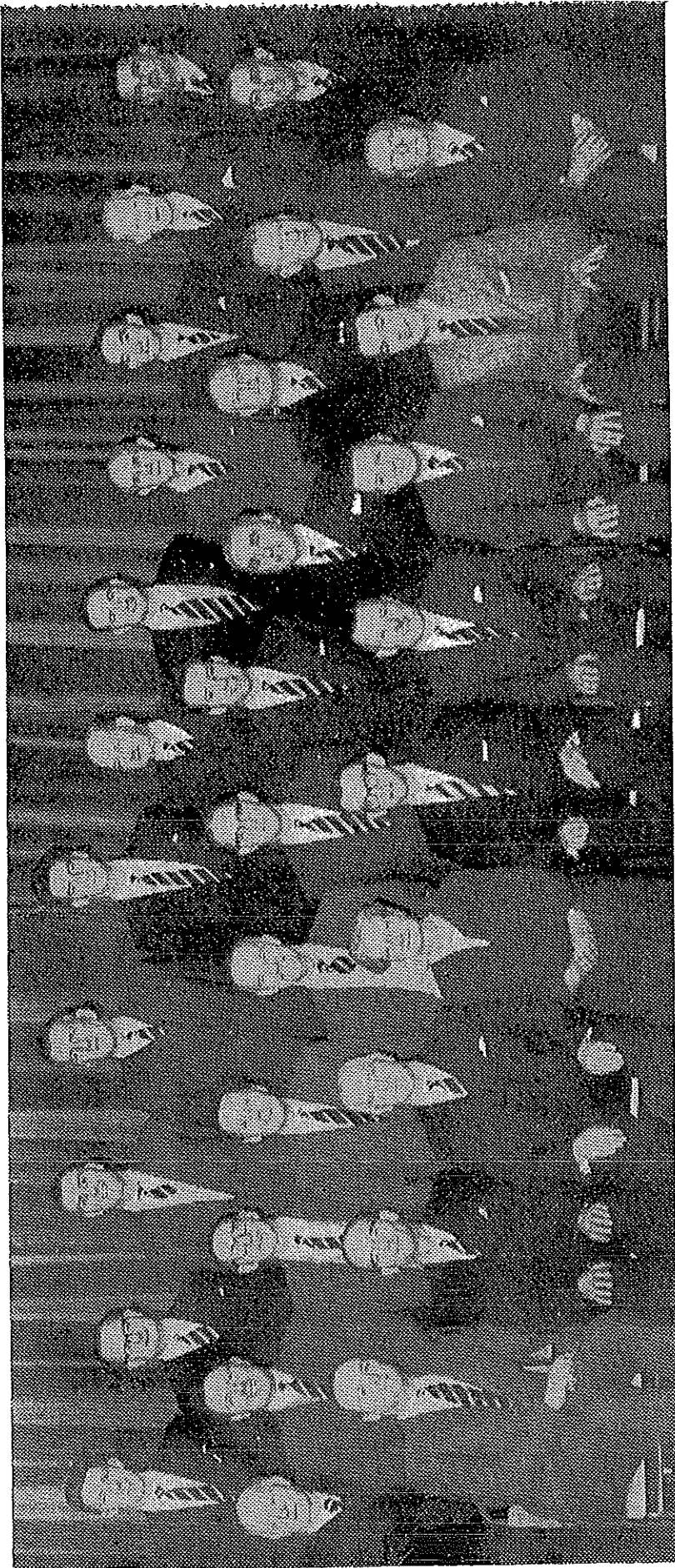
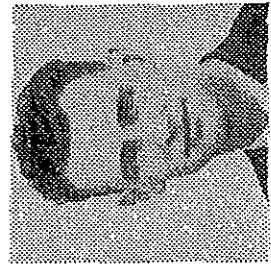


Van Deliveries Daily

32 WELLGATE STREET, Larkhall







CHOIR MEMBERS, 1961.—Back Row (l. to r.): G. Symington, W. Fortune, A. Grigglesstone, W. Duncan, J. Leggate, A. McLuckie, J. Laurie, J. P. Turner, R. Campbell, A. Riddell, W. White. Middle row (l. to r.): T. McGhie, N. Jardine, H. Britton, J. Smith, A. Dando, A. Mair, A. McCartney, I. Johnstone, J. Mair, G. Hamilton, W. Scott. Front row (l. to r.): D. McNiven, J. Fairley, F. Johnston, Mrs. B. Mather, J. J. Hamilton, J. McC. Hamilton, J. Watts, W. Watts, J. Hawthorn. Above: T. Millar, D. Campbell, A. Barclay, K. Watt.

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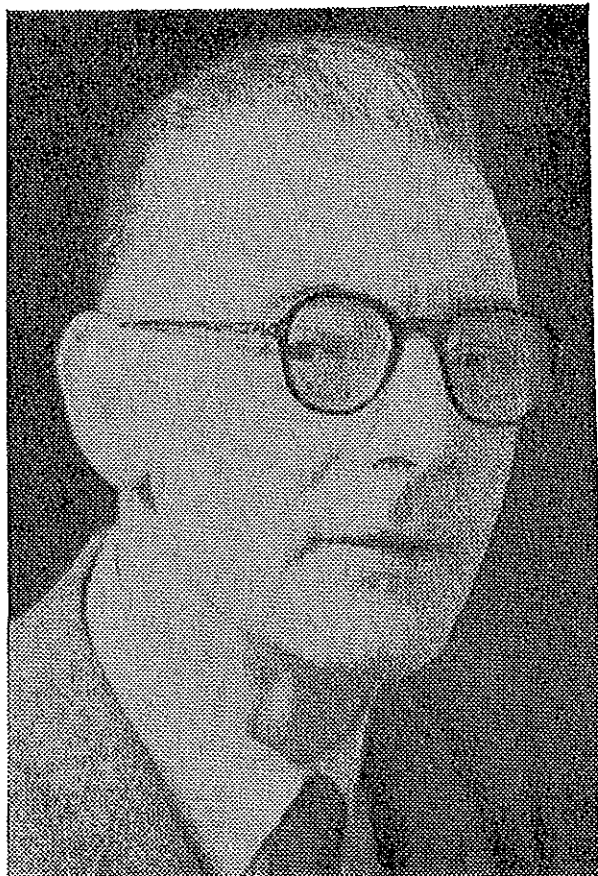
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MRS. M. KIRKLAND  
*First Accompanist*

# P R O G

CHOIR : In Praise of Avon - - - - - *Words and Music R. K. Chalmers*

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

CHOIR : Chorale : O Light of Life - - - - - *Bach*  
Creation's Hymn - - - - - *Beethoven (arr. E. Sachs)*

ORGAN : Le Cygne (The Swan) - - - - - *Saint-Saens*  
Marche Militaire - - - - - *Gounod*  
(HUGH C. STEELE)

CHOIR : "Mice and Men": Old Psalm Tune "Desert" *H. S. Robertson*  
Loch Lomond - - - - - *R. Vaughan-Williams*  
Sound the Pibroch - - - - - *H. S. Robertson*

READING : Soul of the Violin - - - - - *M. M. Merrill*  
"Dandie" - - - - - *W. D. Cocker*  
(CATHERINE B. BELL)

CHOIR : Down Among the Dead Men - - - - - *R. Vaughan-Williams*  
The Hippopotamus Song  
*D. Swann and M. Flanders (arr. W. Stickles)*  
Laughing Chorus - - - - - *Dr. G. F. Root (arr. E. A. Dicks)*

## INTERVAL

# R A M M E

CHOIR : March of the Men of Harlech - - - *Welsh Traditional*  
All Thro' the Night - - - *arr. H. S. Robertson*  
De Battle ob Jerico - - - *arr. H. S. Robertson*

ORGAN : To a Wild Rose - - - *McDowall*  
Arabian Fantasy - - - *Marsden*

(HUGH C. STEELE)

CHOIR : Calm is the Sea - - - *H. Pfeil*  
The Donkey - - - *H. S. Robertson*  
Hymn Before Action - - - *H. Walford Davies*

READING : A Man's a Man - - - *R. Burns*  
The Scottish Sermon - - - *Anon.*

(CATHERINE B. BELL)

CHOIR : Battle Hymn of the Republic - - *arr. H. S. Robertson*  
In a Monastery Garden - - - *A. W. Ketelby*  
Jerusalem - - - *C. H. H. Parry*



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*Conductor*



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## The First "Twenty-five"

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It is surprising, although factual, that in a community renowned for choristers and choirs, Stonehouse had never boasted a Male Voice Choir until January, 1936.

Indulging in "music while you work" employees in a local joiner's workshop were the originators of the idea of forming a Male Voice Choir and sponsored a meeting in the Ante-Room of the Public Hall on 10th January, 1936, when the Choir was formed with 18 members. By 29th April, 1936, there were 40 members, the conductor being Robert K. Chalmers.

Small in stature and affectionately known as "Wee Boab", R. K. Chalmers was a man of many talents. Originally an instrumentalist with great musical knowledge, he had a pleasing voice and many people in many parts have listened with appreciation to his singing in duet and trio. He was also a creditable writer of verse, often filling in at concerts with his own readings in the vernacular and under the *nom de plume* of "Couplaw" he contributed many articles on varied subjects in Press and magazine. Written especially for the Choir, and set to his own music, his song, "In Praise of Avon", is now its signature tune. With his musical ability, ready wit and pawky humour, Bob quickly brought the Choir to a state where their services were in constant demand and under his leadership they have sung on radio, at British Legion Festival of Remembrance, St. Andrew's Halls, throughout the County and from East to West Coasts.

Conductor and Choir always took an active interest in Festival work and on 14th May, 1936, they won the Shield for Male Voice Choirs at Dumfries Festival, thereafter their efforts met with varied success in Glasgow and Hamilton. Now, and as one of the original participants nine years ago, the Choir's interest is confined to the



annual Massed Choir's Festival organised by the Lanarkshire Music Committee.

The long, happy and harmonious association was broken by Bob's death in 1957.

Mr. Robert Hunter of Wishaw, well known in Lanarkshire musical circles, and Organiser at that time of the Lanarkshire Male Voice Choirs' Annual Festival, was invited to be Conductor, and accepted. He filled the post for a year, during which the Choir sang at many concerts in the area.

Mr. John J. Hamilton, already an experienced and successful conductor, accepted an invitation to fill the vacant post. His enthusiasm and ability have infected the Choir and together they have maintained the high standard of choral work now expected of them. There is no doubt that the Choir's choice of conductor has been a profitable and happy one and under Jack's leadership many enjoyable times will be experienced in time to come.

During the years there have been only two pianists. May McNiven, later changing her name to Mrs. Kirkland, served us so happily, quietly and efficiently from the start until 1959, when she sailed with her husband and family for New Zealand. Her successor, Mrs. Barbara Mather, has carried on the high standard of accompaniment in her own inimitable way and it is doubtful, during the lifetime of the Choir, if there has been anyone more loyal and faithful than the female members.

Many members have contributed to the successes of the choir by their enthusiasm and faithful attendance on all occasions. In addition, there are others who have given more personal service and it would be impossible to mention them all by name.

It is interesting to record, however, that four founder members still sing with the Choir, John Hawthorn, who has been the Choir Librarian since its commencement, Dan McNiven, Tom Millar and William Scott.

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At 7.30 p.m.

Male Voice Choirs taking part in order of  
appearance :

DALZIEL WORKS, MOTHERWELL  
CARLUKE  
ROLLS ROYCE, EAST KILBRIDE  
OLD MONKLAND, COATBRIDGE  
LANARK, ST. JOHN'S  
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*Massed singing by all choirs will follow.*

The Stonehouse public are cordially invited  
to support this effort.

Tickets, 2/- each, may be had from members  
of the choir.

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