

WESTERN MAIL 1-3-74

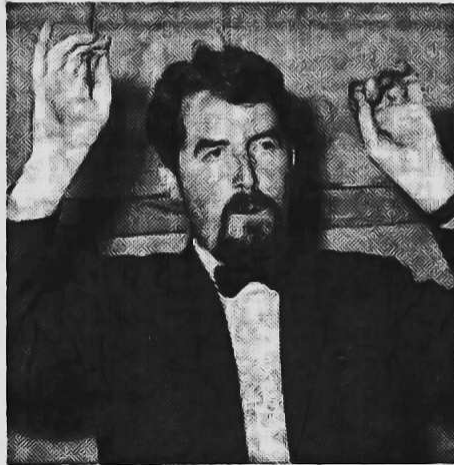
## Pioneer of music

**SIR.**—It was kind of Mr. Glynne Jones, conductor (right) of the Pendyrus Male Choir to refer to me, during a radio interview, as a musical pioneer in providing a solfa version of the *Requiem in D minor* (Cherubini) for the Treorchy Male Choir some time ago.

But I was not the first in this field. The late Mr. Ivor E. Sims, many years ago, found a score of this work on a second-hand book-stall, somewhere in Europe. On his return he wrote a solfa version for his Morriston Orpheus Choir.

It was a radio broadcast by them that introduced me to this fine work. A typewriter enabled me to complete the job with minimal trouble—even so it took a long time. But Ivor wrote it all by hand, a herculean task. When he learned that I had completed my rough draft, he sent me his version to enable me to check and amend my work. This was only one of many kindnesses that I received from him. "Coffa da amdano."

But there was one before Ivor. More than 50 years ago the students at Caerleon Training College performed this work under their tutor, Mr. W. M. Lewis ("Charley"). When I was a student in 1924 we performed Wagner's *Love-feast of the Apostles*, an exacting work for three choirs, and a separate group of *Twelve*



performance of this work has been attempted in Wales.

All this in a college whose students numbered about 100 in all, not one specially chosen for musical ability, with an average age of about 20.

I know that Mr. Glynne Jones will be glad to join with me in paying tribute to these "Cerddorion o fri."

**JOHN DAVIES**

(Conductor Emeritus, Treorchy Male Choir).

Treherbert.