

## HUGHES, JAMES BILSLAND (Iago Bencerdd; 1831 - 1878), harpist

**Name:** James Bilsland Hughes  
**Pseudonym:** Iago Bencerdd  
**Date of birth:** 1831  
**Date of death:** 1878  
**Parent:** Ann Hughes  
**Parent:** Robert Hughes  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** harpist  
**Area of activity:** Music  
**Author:** Robert David Griffith

Born at Ysgubor-gerrig, Trefriw, Caernarfonshire. The following is the record of his christening at Trefriw : ' James Bilsland Hughes, Son of Robert and Ann Hughes, February 23, 1831.' He showed a talent for music when quite young and learned to play the flute, violin, and harp, both the triple harp and the pedal harp. He constructed a harp for himself and played on it at an eisteddfod held at Llanrwst in 1874. He taught quite a number of harpists, many of whom became quite well-known. He lived at various houses at Bethesda, Llanrwst, Conway, and Manchester. He died 1878 at Manchester and was buried in Trefriw churchyard.

### Author

Robert David Griffith, (1877 - 1958)

### Sources

Nicholas Bennett, *Alawon fy Ngwlad* (1896)

R. Griffith, *Llyfr Cerdd Dannau* (1913)

### Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q20733303](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q20733303)

**Published date:** 1959

**Article Copyright:** <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC-RUU/1.0/> 

The Dictionary of Welsh Biography is provided by The National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. It is free to use and does not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our [sponsorship page](#).

