

## OWEN, MORFYDD LLWYN (1891 - 1918), composer, singer, and pianist

**Name:** Morfydd Llwyn Owen  
**Date of birth:** 1891  
**Date of death:** 1918  
**Spouse:** Alfred Ernest Jones  
**Parent:** Sarah Jane Owen  
**Parent:** William Owen  
**Gender:** Female  
**Occupation:** composer, singer, and pianist  
**Area of activity:** Music; Performing Arts  
**Author:** Evan Thomas Davies

Born 1 October 1891 at Treforest, Glamorganshire, daughter of William and Sarah Jane Owen. Her parents were very musical, her mother being a singer and pianist of more than average ability. She was educated at Pontypridd county school; University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire (holder of the Caradog Music Scholarship, 1909-12, Mus. Bac. 1912). She had a distinguished career at the Royal Academy of Music, 1912-7 (holder of Goring Thomas scholarship for composition, 1913-7, and awarded many of the academy's principal prizes and medals).

She married in February 1917 the psychiatrist [Alfred Ernest Jones](#). Her early death on 7 September 1918, at the age of 26, was a serious loss to Welsh music. Morfydd Owen was a versatile and sensitive musician and an unusually gifted composer. Her compositions, which include orchestral and choral works, chamber music, piano solos, songs and folk-song arrangements, have striking originality, impeccable technique, and a distinctive quality of their own. Much of her music has sprung from a deep personal and national consciousness stimulated by the literature and folk-songs of her people. Three of her songs - 'To our Lady of Sorrows,' 'Slumber Song of the Madonna,' 'Gweddi Pechadur,' and the hymn tune 'William,' have found great favour in Wales, are outstanding examples of her genius.

### Author

**Evan Thomas Davies**, (1878 - 1969)

### Sources

personal knowledge

### Further Reading

*Y Goleuad*, 10 August 1960

Rhian Davies, *Eneth ddisglair annwyl: Never so pure a sight* (1994)

Ben Gwalchmai, 'If the significance were fully realised, a nation would weep at her grave', WalesOnline, 1 March 2017

[Morfydd Owen \(1891-1918\)](#), Discover Welsh Music website, viewed 7 March 2018

Tom Davies, 'Marwolaeth Morfudd Llwyn Owen', *Y Traethodydd* (Cyf. 173, rhif 725, Ebrill/April 2018), pp. 104-113

Andrew Green, [Morfydd Llwyn Owen a Ruth Herbert Lewis](#)

Wikipedia Article: [Morfydd Llwyn Owen](#)

### Additional Links

NLW Archives: NLW MS 18247D. - Material relating to Morfydd Owen (1891-1918), musician, including a typescript biography

Archifau LIGC: Eliot Crawshay-Williams Papers, G 25-48: Morfydd Llwyn Owen - correspondence

Archifau LIGC: Kitty Idwal Jones papers: Morfydd Llwyn Owen

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