

PARRY, JOHN ('The Blind Harpist'; 1710? - 1782), of Ruabon harpist and publisher of music

Name: John Parry

Pseudonym: The Blind Harpist

Date of birth: 1710?

Date of death: 1782

Child: William Parry

Gender: Male

Occupation: harpist and publisher of music

Area of activity: Music; Performing Arts

Author: Robert David Griffith

Born at Bryn Cyfan, near Nevin, Caernarfonshire, c. 1710. [Thomas Price](#) (Carnhuanawc) says that his harp teacher was Robert Parry, Llanllyfni, Caernarfonshire; [Edward Jones](#) (Bardd y Brenin) says that he received lessons from Stephen Shôn Jones, Penrhyndeudraeth. He became one of the best harpists in the kingdom and took part at concerts given in London, Cambridge, Oxford, and Dublin. He was family harpist at Wynnstay, Denbighshire, the home of the [Williams Wynn family](#).

His greatest service to Wales was rendered by his three publications: (a) [Antient British Music](#), 1742 (in the preparation of this work he was assisted by [Evan Williams](#) (born 1706); (b) [A Collection of Welsh, English, and Scotch Airs](#), 1761; and (c) [British Harmony, being a Collection of Antient Welsh Airs](#), 1781.

He died in 1782 - in November according to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, but in October according to [Edward Jones](#) (*Musical and Poetical Relics ...*). It is believed that he was buried in Ruabon churchyard.

Author

Robert David Griffith, (1877 - 1958)

Sources

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

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

M. O. Jones, *Bywgraffiaeth Cerddorion Cymreig* (1890)

Groves, *Groves' Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (1940)

J. Lloyd Williams, *Y tri thelynor arloeswyr cerddorol Cymru yn y ddeunawfed ganrif* (1945)

Y Cerddor, September 1889

Further Reading

Ann Griffiths, 'John Parry, Parry Ddall', Gregynog Festival Programme, 2010

Wikipedia Article: [John Parry Ddall](#)

Works

John Parry and Evan Williams, *Antient British music* (London 1742)

John Parry, *A collection of Welsh, English & Scotch airs with new variations also four lessons for the harp or harpsichord* (London 1761)

John Parry, *British harmony: being a collection of antient Welsh airs* (Ruabon 1781)

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