

## SAMUEL, WILLIAM THOMAS (1852 - 1917), musician

**Name:** William Thomas Samuel  
**Date of birth:** 1852  
**Date of death:** 1917  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** musician  
**Area of activity:** Music; Performing Arts; Religion  
**Author:** Robert David Griffith

Born 17 October 1852 at Carmarthen. He attended a local day school and then received some instruction at the hands of the Rev. Lewis Lewis and **Alcwyn Evans**. He started to learn the Tonic Sol-fa notation when he was quite young and succeeded in gaining many certificates, eventually becoming L.T.S.C., and a member of the council. He attended music classes at Aberystwyth College under **Dr. Joseph Parry**.

He composed hymn-tunes, anthems, and other pieces. His ' Storm the Fort of Sin,' the quartette ' Y Deigrwn,' and his two anthems ' Mor hawddgar yw Dy bebyll ' and ' O'r dyfnder y llefais,' became popular. With **J. H. Roberts** (Pencerdd Gwynedd), he edited *Llawlyfr Moliant*, the Baptist hymn and tune-book, and produced the Sol-fa version of the collection of hymn-tunes edited by **Elis Roberts** (Elis Wyn o Wyrfaï). He was a successful conductor of hymnody festivals with a special gift for conducting juveniles.

He died suddenly at Cardiff on 23 February 1917, after he had conducted a choir of five hundred children in the Park Hall. He was buried in the Aberystwyth cemetery on 28 February.

### Author

**Robert David Griffith**, (1877 - 1958)

### Sources

Mr W. T. Samuel, *Caerdydd, Y Cerddor*, November 1899, p.122

*Y Cerddor*, April 1917

### Further reading

J. Ifano Jones, *Bywyd a llafur W.T. Samuel* (Llanuwchllyn 1920)

### Additional Links

NLW Archives: NLW MS 19377C: Diary with MS notes, of William Thomas Samuel (1852-1917), musician; papers of Eddie Williams, pioneer of school milk and meals

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