

WILLIAMS, ROBERT HERBERT (Corfanydd; (1805 - 1876), musician

Name: Robert Herbert Williams
Pseudonym: Corfanydd
Date of birth: 1805
Date of death: 1876
Gender: Male
Occupation: musician
Area of activity: Music
Author: Robert David Griffith

Born in the parish of Bangor, Caernarfonshire. The parents moved to Liverpool when the son was quite young. Brought up as a clothier, he established a business in Basnett Street, Williamson Square. When he was only 17 he composed a hymn-tune 'Deisyfiad,' known later as 'Dymuniad.' This appeared first in *Y Drysorfa*, January 1835; it was published later in *Casgliad o Donau* ([J. Ambrose Lloyd](#)), 1843. Some doubts were expressed as to who had composed this tune but [John Roberts](#) (Ieuan Gwyllt), [J. Ambrose Lloyd](#), [William Ambrose](#) (Emrys), and William Evans (under whose conductorship it had been sung first, at Tabernacle chapel, Liverpool) testified that it was the work of Corfanydd. He wrote other hymn-tunes and published a small collection in 1848 under the title of *Alawydd Trefriw*. For some years he lived at Drogheda, Ireland. He returned to Liverpool for a while and then, owing to ill-health, went to live in a house called Corfandy, Menai Bridge, where he died 20 November 1876; he was buried in Llantysilio churchyard.

Author

Robert David Griffith, (1877 - 1958)

Sources

Y Cerddor Cymreig (1861-1873), 1866 and 1868

Y Cerddor, May 1893

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

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