

## DAVIES, JOHN (1787 - 1855), stone-mason and composer

**Name:** John Davies  
**Date of birth:** 1787  
**Date of death:** 1855  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** stone-mason and composer  
**Area of activity:** Business and Industry; Music  
**Author:** Robert David Griffith

Born at Banwen, Morriston, Glamorganshire, 13 November 1787. As a boy he enjoyed the advantages of an education and became a good scholar. When he was 14 years of age a Londoner who lodged at his home taught him to play the dulcimer. He was a stone-mason by trade and, when his day's work was done, used to carve tombstones by night. He married at the age of 24 and built himself a house at Treboeth near Swansea. At the age of 30 he began to study music and became a competent musician. He wrote many anthems and hymn-tunes. The tune which appears in Welsh hymnals under the name ' Gethsemane,' 9-8 (arranged by R. H. Pritchard of Bala in 8-beat), first appeared in *Lleuad yr Oes*, June 1827. Other tunes composed by him are found in *Haleliwia Dracchefn*, *Llwybrau Moliant*, and *Y Caniedydd Cynulleidfaol*; these show that he had musical ability. He died 27 April 1855 at Llanelly and was buried in Mynydd-bach cemetery.

### Author

Robert David Griffith, (1877 - 1958)

### Sources

*Cronici y Cerddor*, June 1883

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

*Y Cerddor*, October 1890

Edward Jones, *Rhestr gyda nodiadau byrion, o Enwogion Cymreig o 1700 i 1900* (1908)

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**Published date:** 1959

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