

## HUGHES, JAMES BILSLAND (Iago Bencerdd; 1831 - 1878), harpist

**Name:** James Bilsland Hughes  
**Pseudonym:** Iago Bencerdd  
**Date of birth:** 1831  
**Date of death:** 1878  
**Parent:** Ann Hughes  
**Parent:** Robert Hughes  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** harpist  
**Area of activity:** Music  
**Author:** Robert David Griffith

Born at Ysgubor-gerrig, Trefriw, Caernarfonshire. The following is the record of his christening at Trefriw : ' James Bilsland Hughes, Son of Robert and Ann Hughes, February 23, 1831.' He showed a talent for music when quite young and learned to play the flute, violin, and harp, both the triple harp and the pedal harp. He constructed a harp for himself and played on it at an eisteddfod held at Llanrwst in 1874. He taught quite a number of harpists, many of whom became quite well-known. He lived at various houses at Bethesda, Llanrwst, Conway, and Manchester. He died 1878 at Manchester and was buried in Trefriw churchyard.

### Author

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

### Sources

Nicholas Bennett, *Alawon fy Ngwlad* (1896)

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

### Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q20733303](#)

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