

## ROBERTS, JOHN (1806 - 1879), musician

**Name:** John Roberts  
**Date of birth:** 1806  
**Date of death:** 1879  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** musician  
**Area of activity:** Music; Religion  
**Author:** Robert David Griffith

Born at Sarnau, near Bala. After working on farms near his home he moved whilst still a young man to Aberystwyth where he learnt the craft of [ bookbinding; later he became a skilled engraver.] He studied music, became proficient in it, and strove hard to improve the singing in Aberystwyth and surrounding districts. In 1853 he published *Perorydd y Cysegr*, a collection of a hundred hymn-tunes including that called ' Alexander ' which he had composed in 1824 (at the age of 18) and which had appeared in *Greal y Bedyddwyr*, 1833. He also published *Seraff Cymru*, which contains anthems and chants which had been edited by J. Wilks, organist at Aberystwyth. He moved to Aberdare in 1855; there he served as precentor in Pen-pound Baptist chapel for many years. He returned in 1873 to Aberystwyth where he died 18 November 1879. He was buried at Aberystwyth.

### Author

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

### Sources

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

*Cymru (O.M.E.)*, 1899

*Y Cerddor*, June 1918

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