

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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