

## 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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