

WILLIAMS, OWEN (1774 - after 1827), musician

Name: Owen Williams
Date of birth: 1774
Date of death: after 1827
Parent: Ellen Jones
Parent: Owen Jones
Gender: Male
Occupation: musician
Area of activity: Music
Author: Robert David Griffith

Born July 1774 at Cwrt, parish of Llandfrydog, Anglesey, and christened in the parish church 11 July as the son of Owen Jones, husbandman, and Ellen his wife.

In 1817 he published *Egwyddorddysg ... neu Catechism ar Reolau Cerddoriaeth*, a Welsh version of a work by Charles Dibdin, and, in 1818, *Egwyddorion Canu*, the latter containing eight illustrations drawn by **Hugh Hughes** (1790 - 1863); the two works were then published as one and attained an extensive circulation. Two very important contributions appeared in 1819, in two parts, the first part, *Brenhinol Ganiadau Seion*, containing tunes for the Welsh psalter of **Edmund Prys**, the other containing hymn-tunes to be sung upon the new verse measures used by **William Williams** (Pantycelyn) and other hymnists; the music was arranged by S. Wesley and V. Novello. In 1827 he produced *The Harp of David King of Israel or Royal Psalm of Zion*. This last publication has also some account of his life, the author saying, for example that, through the influence of **Charles W. Williams Wynn**, M.P., he obtained a post in His Majesty's Stamp and Tax Office January 1827, which was 'to him then as life from the dead.'

He appears to have become very poor in his last years. He died in London 23 May 1839, but is not known where he lies buried.

Author

Robert David Griffith, (1877 - 1958)

Sources

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

Cymru yn hanesyddol, parthedegol, a bywgraphyddol (1875), ii, 597

Y Cerddor, March and April, 1890

R. D. Griffith, *Hanes canu cynulleidfaol Cymru* (Cardiff 1948)

Huw Llewelyn Williams, *Owen Williams o Ffôn* (Bangor 1993)

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