

DAVIES, BENJAMIN (' BEN '; 1858 - 1943), singer

Name: Benjamin Davies
Date of birth: 1858
Date of death: 1943
Spouse: Clara Davies (née Perry)
Parent: Hannah Davies
Parent: John Davies
Gender: Male
Occupation: singer
Area of activity: Music; Performing Arts
Author: Robert David Griffith

Born 6 January 1858 at Pontardawe, Glamorgan - the family moved later to Cwmbwrla near Swansea - son of John and Hannah Davies. He won his first prize as a singer at the age of five. He sang alto in ' Côr Caradog ' and won several prizes in *eisteddfodau*. In 1878 he won a scholarship which took him to the Royal Academy of Music where he gained several medals and became F.R.A.M. Appointed chief tenor to the Carl Rosa Company in 1885 he travelled with that company for three years; in 1885 also he married Clara Perry, chief soprano of the company. In 1888 he returned to London and took part in nearly a thousand performances, e.g. *Dorothy*, a musical comedy; afterwards he was chosen by Sir Arthur Sullivan to sing in the opera *Ivanhoe*. He had become one of the most popular singers in Britain and was Queen Victoria's first choice as vocalist. He was invited to take part in all the musical festivals and in the chief concerts of London and the provinces. He went on tour to the United States twelve times, nine times to Germany, and once to Africa. On his eightieth birthday he was honoured by the Musicians' Club, London. His last public appearance was at Caernarfon in 1937 on the occasion of the royal visit to that town. He lived at Arkhill, near Bath, and died in the Clifton Nursing Home, Bristol, 28 March 1943; he was cremated at Armo Vale cemetery, Bath.

Author

Robert David Griffith, (1877 - 1958)

Sources

Y Cerddor, March and November 1898, October 1899

S.W. Post, 1943

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Benjamin Davies](#)

Additional Links

VIAF: [59825837](#)

Wikidata: [Q4888470](#)

Published date: 2001

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APA Citation



Griffith, R. D., (2001). DAVIES, BENJAMIN (' BEN '; 1858 - 1943), singer. *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*. Retrieved 11 Nov 2024, from <https://biography.wales/article/s2-DAVI-BEN-1858>

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