

John Thomas



- 1826 - 1913

(born in Bridgend, Wales; died in London, England)

- Welsh, born to a family of seven children
- Had three siblings who also played the harp
- Played the Welsh triple harp growing up
- Studied at the Royal Academy of Music and learned to play the double-action pedal harp, the standard classical harp
- Was appointed as the harpist to the Royal Italian Opera in 1850
 - Taught at the Royal College of Music
 - Became the harpist to Queen Victoria
- Composed many pieces of harp music which are still quite popular, including *The Minstrel's Adieu to His Native Land* and *Watching the Wheat*

