Musical Notations on Stamps: Part 1

By J. Posell

Editor note: Mr. Posell is the principal double-bass for the Cleveland Symphony orchestra, which had a big spread in Time magazine, February 22, 1962. A drawing of Mr. Posell accompanied the article. Born in Paris, France, Mr. Posell graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia. Before joining the Cleveland Orchestra, he was principal bass (1932-1936) with the National Symphony Orchestra, Washington, DC. He has also played with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and the Central City Opera Company. His specialties are Russian philately and Music, in both of which fields he has written many articles.



INTRODUCTION

Identifying musical quotations on stamps is not always an easy matter. One must not assume that a certain fragment of music is from a certain composition, and nothing must be taken for granted. Notation itself can be misleading if badly printed and often a few isolated notes which appear to be merely ornamental embellishments prove to be valuable musical cues. The author here confesses that for years he paid no attention to the two notes of music on the sides of the Smetana and Dvorak stamps issued by Czechoslovakia in 1934 but simply assumed they were the artistic imaginings of the stamp designer. However, with the writing of this series, and on forced closer examination, they suddenly took on new meaning and are now classified properly under the respective composers.

Having been a practicing professional musician for more years than I care to admit, I should have known what the music on Hungary (Scott 1260; Michel 1624) is. Yet, the quotation is so badly reproduced, that I did not recognize it as the very well known London Symphony G major of Haydn. I looked everywhere for something in Adagio 4/4 time that begins with 4 quarter notes. However, correcting musical errors perpetrated by stamp issuing authorities, and correctly identifying musical quotations is part of the fun. I believe everything in these articles is now correctly classified; but being a mere mortal, errors and omissions might inadvertently creep in. For these I apologize in advance and will always welcome additional Information from readers.

To Clare McAlister I offer appreciation for laying the groundwork for many of these notes and for supplying me with information and sources which I had been too lazy in past years to seek for myself. My thanks to her, also, for prodding me into doing this paper against my better judgment; I enjoyed it and learned a lot in the doing. I believe that in stamp collecting, as well as in finance, it can truthfully be said "With all the getting, get understanding". If the information here presented brings a bit more understanding to collectors of music on stamps, then the effort is well justified.

ARGENTINA

Scott B 10-11

Michel 492, 493

Two miniature sheets with the music of the opening bars of the National Anthem have been issued in 1944. Argentina was the first American country to adopt a national anthem. This was the "Marcha Patriotica" written by Blas Perera in 1810. Three years later words were set to it by Vicente Lopez y Planes and the hymn was officially sanctioned on May 11, 1813. These sheets contain a serious musical error; the bar lines dividing the composition are wrongly placed which necessarily places the rhythmic accents on the wrong beat. Here is the proper bar division:



AUSTRIA

Scott B110, B111

Michel 555A, 556A

Two stamps and a miniature sheet issued in connection with the International Philatelic Exhibition held in Vienna in June 1933. The design depicts a portion of a well known painting entitled "The Honeymoon", by Moritz von Schwind, a contemporary and intimate friend of Schubert. The music at the bottom is an authentic post horn call which was used by the stage coach drivers to announce their approach and to warn that the passengers and mail be ready.



AUSTRIA

Scott 570

Michel 967

The music here is from "Der Evangelimann" the most famous work from Wilhelm Kienzl (1857-1941). Der Evangelimann (itinerant holy man) is a musical play in two acts after a story taken from the police records of a small town in lower Austria. The story concerns two brothers who love the same girl. One (Johannes) eliminates the other (Mathias) by setting fire to the village church and accusing him of the crime. After 30 years in prison Mathias is released and becomes an Evangelimann, a beggar who sings and tells gospel stories. During his wanderings, and while singing verses from the Sermon on the Mount, (act II: this is the music illustrated on the stamp) the brothers recognize each other and are reconciled. The girl in the meantime has very conveniently died. The stamp has been issued on October 3, 1951.



BELGIUM

Scott B588

Michel 1038

The music on these stamps is the opening of the allegro movement of a Sonata for Klavier with violin "ad libitum" Köchel 6. It is the first published work of Mozart and was composed intermittently over a three year period. The two middle movements, andante and menuetto were composed in July 1762 in Salzburg. The allegro was composed in Brussels on Oct. 14, 1763 and the finale was composed in Paris in Jan. 1764. The work was later put together by Leopold Mozart, his father. This and the next sonate, No. 7, are dedicated to Princess Victoria, second daughter of the King of France, and the dedication ends with these words: "I am, with most profound respect, madame, your very humble, very obedient and very small servant, J. C. Mozart". Mozart was only eight years old at the completion of these works.

The stamp has been issued on March 19, 1956.



BOLIVIA

Scott 303-13

Michel 394-399

These stamps were issued in September 1946 to mark the centenary of the National Anthem of Bolivia. The musical quotation is from part of the last line of the anthem which reads "death is better than living slaves". The music of the national hymn was composed by the Italian maestro Leopoldo Benedetto Vincenti, the lyrics by the illustrious Bolivian poet Don José Ignacio de Sanjines. The hymn was presented for the first time at La Paz on November 14, 1845 to celebrate the victory of Ingavi, under the administration of Gen. Don José Ballivian.



BOLIVIA

Scott 423-428, C217-222

Bolivia's famous young violinist Jaime Laredo (1941- ...) was honored in 1960 with a set of twelve stamps with a three note insignia. These notes, A, D and C in the Latin equivalent of La, Re and Do spell Laredo when combined.



BRAZIL

Scott 633

Michel 676

The music in the background of this stamp (issued May 30, 1945) is the opening of the Brazilian national anthem. Brazil's first national anthem was written by the Emperor Dom Pedro I. Known as the Brazilian Hymn of Independence, it was written on Sept. 7, 1822, immediately after he had declared Brazil's independence from Portugal and was proclaimed constitutional emperor. After the abdication of Pedro I in 1831, a new patriotic song was written by Francisco Mancel da Silva (1795-1865), an educated musician and composer. This song has become the present national anthem of Brazil. Da Silva was also the first director of the oldest conservatory in Brazil, the "Escola Nacional de Musica" founded in Nov. 1841 in Rio de Janeiro, and of the Philharmonic Orchestra of that city.

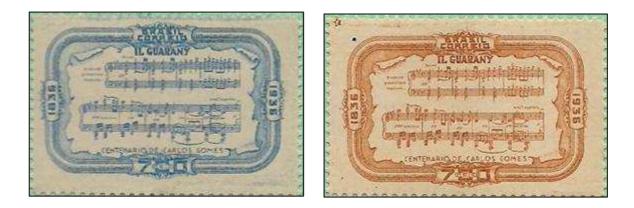


BRAZIL

Scott 424, 425

This, of course, is the opening to the overture to "II Guarany" from Antonio Carlos Gomes (1836-1896). This celebrated opera was written to a story by a Brazilian national writer, José Alencar, who cultivated Indian folklore in his novels. The opera is Italian in musical idiom as well as in the language of the libretto and was first produced in Italy before it was heard in Brazil.

The stamps have been issued in July/November1936.



CHILI

Scott 249

Michel 357

The music to the present National Anthem hymn dates from 1828 and was composed by Ramon Carnicer (1789-1855), a Spaniard who never set foot on Chilean soil. In 1847 a new treaty of peace was made with Spain and the Chilean government requested Señor Eusebio Lillo (1826-1910) a journalist and poet of note, to write new words to the new anthem which were less filled with bitterness toward the mother country. The notation on this stamp is purely ornamental in character. There are no ascending triplets in the Chilean National Anthem, therefore this is not a direct quotation from the music.

The stamp has been issued on September 18, 1947.



CONGO

Scott B39

Michel 333

The music on these stamps is the opening of the allegro movement of a Sonata for Klavier with violin "ad libitum" Köchel 6. It is the first published work of Mozart and was composed intermittently over a three year period. The two middle movements, andante and menuetto were composed in July 1762 in Salzburg. The allegro was composed in Brussels on Oct. 14, 1763 and the finale was composed in Paris in Jan. 1764. The work was later put together by Leopold Mozart, his father. This and the next sonate, No. 7, are dedicated to Princess Victoria, second daughter of the King of France, and the dedication ends with these words: "I am, with most profound respect, madame, your very humble, very obedient and very small servant, J. C. Mozart". Mozart was only eight years old at the completion of these works.

The stamp has been issued on October 10, 1956.



CUBA

Scott E12

Michel 321

In a set of eleven stamps issued in 1952 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Cuba, one stamp contains the opening bars of the Cuban national anthem also known as the "Himno de Bayamo". The anthem was composed by Pedro Figueredo (1819-1870) who played a distinguished part in the Cuban revolutionary movement against Spain. He was in command of the native forces in the battle of Bayamo in Oct. 1868 and in the course of the operation, he felt inspired to write both the words and the music of the anthem. In 1870 he was taken prisoner by the Spaniards and was condemned to death by firing squad.



CUBA

Scott 757-760

Michel 756-759

On March 26, 1952 a set of four airmail stamps was issued to note the service of Cuban international broadcasting. These stamps of identical design, contain a few notes of music which is the opening theme of the "26th of July Hymn", Castro's official party song. This theme is played on chimes and is used as station identification on all short wave broadcasts which are beamed out of Cuba to other parts of the world. It is also heard on spot announcements and as station identification of all government radio stations heard in Cuba.



Scott 652, G57, G62

Christmas issue of three large souvenir sheets composed of blocks of four stamps picturing four different native plants encircled by music. These consist of two separate melodies one on the upper two stamps and another on the lower two. The only information available to date is that these are not specific Cuban compositions but are from a typical Cuban folk dance known as a "guajira". The stamps have been issued on December 1, 1960.





Scott 194

Michel 321

The two notes on either side of the portrait from Bedrich Smetana (1824-1884), like those of the Dvorak stamp (Scott 199; Michel 329) are a definite musical motiv. In this case they are the opening theme of Smetana's opera "Libuse". A dot is missing after the second note (g) perhaps because of lack of space. Correctly written, the exact theme is as follows: (issued March 26, 1934)





Scott 199

Michel 329

At first glance the musical symbols in the border of this stamp from Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904) as well as the one issued for Smetana (Scott 194; Michel 321) seem purely ornamental and without musical significance. However, if the two notes on each side of the composer's portrait are placed next to each other, they suddenly come alive. The four notes on this stamp are the beginning of a well known theme from the first movement of the "New World Symphony" or Symphony No. 5 in E minor op. 95. The full theme is as follows:



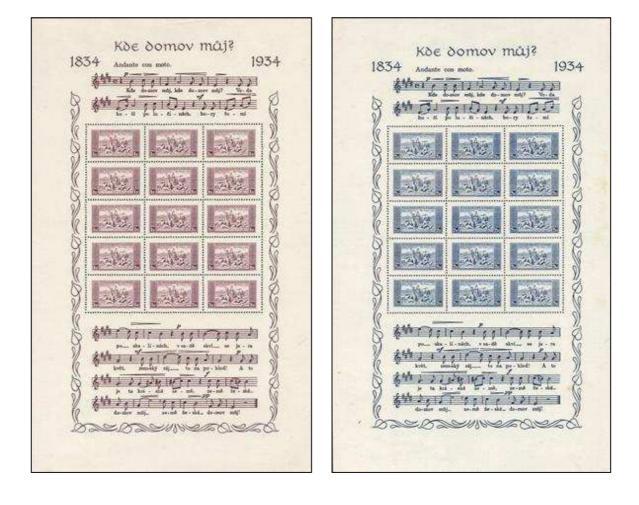


Scott 200a, 201a

Michel 330x, 331x

Probably the most famous souvenir sheets in musical philately. The words to the Czech National Anthem "Kde domov muj?" (Where is my homeland?) were written by Josef Kajetan Tyl (1808-1856); the music is by Frantisek Skroup (1801-1862). Skroup was a well known conductor and composer of operas. He also wrote chamber music and many popular Bohemian songs including "Kde domov muj" which was first used in the comedy "Fidlovacka" by Tyl with music by Skroup. This song became so famous as to be mistaken for a folksong and was adopted as the Czech National Anthem in 1919 after the country established its independence.

The stamps have been issued on December 17, 1934.



Scott 422, 423

Michel 628, 629

The quotation on this stamp is from the opera "Blanik" from Zdenek Fibich (1850-1900). A national Czech legend, "Blanik" is also the title of the last tone poem in the six works of Smetana bearing the collective title "Ma Vlast" (My Country).

The stamps have been issued on October 15, 1950.



Scott 801

Michel 1018

This theme is from the first movement (meno mosso) of the Symphonie in A major for 2 flutes, 2 horns and strings from Johan Wenzel Stamitz (1717-1757). It is known as the "Jarni symphonie" or "Frühlingssinfonie" or "Spring Symphony". In the edition which was consulted, this theme is given to the flute and is written one octave higher than the notation on the stamp. The stamp has been issued on May 12, 1957.



Scott 804

Michel 1021

This theme is from "Eva" from Josef Bohuslav Foerster (1895-1951) an opera in three acts op. 50. It appears in the prelude and in every act through the opera. The stamp has been issued on May 12, 1957.



Scott 805

Michel 1022

The music on this stamp is the opening theme of the symphonic poem "V Tatrách" or "In der Tatra" or "In the Tatra Mountains" op. 26 from Vitezslav Novak (1870-1949). The stamp has been issued on May 12, 1957.



Scott 806

Michel 1023

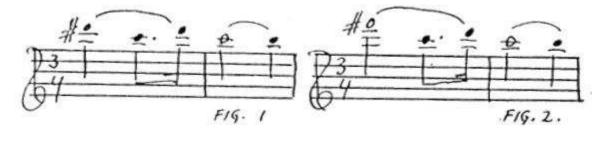
This is the opening theme of "Pisen Lasky" or "Love Song", op. 7 #1 a well-known composition for violin and piano from Josef Suk (1874-1935).

The stamp has been issued on May 12, 1957.



Scott 1001

This music is from "Poupe" (The Bud) op. 12, comic opera in one act from Otokar Ostrcil (1870-1935). The quotation on the stamp is wrongly printed (fig. 2). The first note should be a D# as in fig. 1. The stamp has been issued on August 23, 1960.





CZECHOSLOVAKIA (BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA)

Scott B 5, 6

Michel 79, 80

Two stamps have been issued on October 26, 1941 (during the German occupation of Bohemia and Moravia) to honour Mozart's 150th death anniversary. The tabs pictured with the stamps showing the Old Prague Theatre, illustrate the two opening bars of the overture to "Don Giovanni" from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791). Mozart's opera which was first produced in Prague on October 29, 1787. The music on the tabs is carelessly printed, as the middle chord in the upper line is filled in. This then becomes a quarter-note instead of a half-note chord and gives us only three quarter notes or three beats in the first bar, where there should be four. The correct notation would be the following:





DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Scott C57-61

Michel 468-472

A set of five airmail stamps (issued February 27, 1946) showing the flag of the republic and the opening bars of the national anthem. The second b in the second bar should be an 1/8 note. The little hook at the end of the stem is missing on all five stamps in the set. The music to the "Himno Nacional" was composed by José Reyes (1835-1905). This patriotic song "Quisqueyanos valientes" was first played in public in 1880 for a national celebration to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the restoration of the republic, but it was not officially adopted as the republic's national anthem until May 1934.





EGYPT (UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC)

Scott 23

Michel 548

The notation on this stamp from Sayed Darwish (1802-1923) does not seem to be from anything in particular. It seems to be small rhythmic patterns of music generally, or the artistic embellishments of the engraver. Of course a thorough study of Darwish's music, if and when available, might prove this assumption entirely false.

The stamp has been issued on September 15, 1958.



FINLAND

Scott 223

Michel 237

The music on this stamp is the opening two bars of the "Pori March" or "Porin Marssi" or "Porilaisten Marssi". This is the ceremonial march of the Finnish army with music attributed to Christian Kress (1767-1812). It is a patriotic song with text by J. L. Runeberg (1804-1877) from his famous book "The Tales of Ensign Steel" dealing with Finnish exploits in the Russo-Finnish War of 1808-09. This memorial stamp was issued to commemorate the visit of ex-president Kyosti Kallio on Dec. 19, 1940 to the presidential palace to congratulate the new president of Finland, Risto Ryti. While reviewing a military guard of honor at the railway station, and during the playing of this march by the army band, Kallio suddenly suffered, a heart attack and fell dead in the arms of Field Marshall von Mannerheim. The musical error here consists only in a missing dot after the first 1/8 note in the second bar. The stamp has been issued on May 24, 1941.



FRANCE

Scott B50, B56

Hector Berlioz (1803-1869). Here is an artist's composition of musical notation. If it is an actual quotation of a Berlioz composition, I cannot identify it. The stamps have been issued on November 16, 1936.



FRANCE

Scott B131

Michel 553

The open score on this stamp, issued on May 18, 1942, contains the music from Emanuel Chabrier (1841-1894) to the overture to "Gwendoline" his best known opera. The theme is clearly discernable in the bottom line of music and is as follows:



GABON

Scott C1

Michel 154, 182

On this stamp, honoring the famous organist, theologist, physician and medical missionary Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965), there is portrayed an open book inscribed "BACH" but no notation is here evident.

The original stamp has been issued on July 23, 1960. The overprint has been issued on April 15, 1963.



GERMANY (SAAR)

Scott 205

Michel 273

The notation here behind the bust of Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) is too fragmentary for identification except that it seems to be in A major and in 2/4 time. The inscription on the stamp tells us that the building above the head is the Conservatory of Music at Saarbrucken. The stamp has been issued on December 1, 1949.



Addendum 2015: Probably Beethoven's song: "Mignon", op. 75, nr. I (Arnold van Berkel).

Scott 739

Michel 228

This music, over a silhouette of Mozart's piano, is the opening of the menuetto from the Sonata No. 4 for piano K. 282. The stamp has been issued on January 27, 1956.



Scott 743

Michel 234

This stamp, with a profile of Robert Schumann (1810-1856), has a background of the Piano Sonata #1 in F# minor op. 11 (the allegro vivace section after the introduction in the first movement). Begun in 1833 and completed in 1835, this sonata was dedicated to the great virtuoso Ignaz Moscheles who was not enthusiastic about the work and accepted it rather unwillingly and faintheartedly. It was through the efforts of Clara Wieck, who later became Schumann's wife, and who played it for Moscheles, Liszt, Chopin and in public recital, that the work achieved fame and popularity. The stamp has been issued on July 28, 1956.



Scott 804

Michel Block 2

A souvenir sheet issued in conjunction with the inauguration of Beethoven Hall in Bonn on September 8, 1959. The musical quotation here is from the Choral finale of the Beethoven Ninth Symphony.



Scott 849

Michel 380

This stamp picturing musical notes and a tuning fork has been issued on July 12, 1962. The notes are from the choral movement for three voices, "In dulci jubilo" from Musea Sinniae, a collection of 1244 vocal numbers in 9 parts in note-against-note counterpoint composed by Michael Praetorius (1571 1621) famous German musical historian, theorist and composer.



GERMANY (BERLIN)

Scott 9N142

Michel 156

Contrary to popular supposition, the music on this stamp is not from Paul Lincke's (1866-1946) best known work in this country "The Glow Worm". It is from the operetta "Berliner Luft" and is the famous march song "Das macht die Berliner Luft".

The stamp has been issued on September 3, 1956.



GERMANY (G.D.R.)

Scott B17-B20

Michel 256-259

A set of four stamps was issued in 1950 on the occasion of Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) 200th death anniversary. The last stamp in this set of four has four notes which spell the word BACH in the German musical alphabet. Bb is called B in German and the B natural is called H to distinguish it from the Bb. Hence the B minor symphony of Schubert, the Unfinished, would be called Symphony H moll (moll is of course the German word for minor).



GERMANY (G.D.R.)

Scott 295, 296 and 303, 304

Michel 528, 529 and 541, 542

These are the stamps with the famous musical mix-up honoring Robert Schumann (1810-1856). The first two were originally issued on July 20, 1956 with the opening quotation from Schubert's "Wanderers Nachtlied" (Goethe) op. 4 #3. The error was discovered within days and the stamps were withdrawn. Another issue appeared on October 8, 1956 and this time with a correct Schumann example: "Mondnacht" (Eichendorff) op. 39 #5.



GERMANY (G.D.R.)

Scott 422

Michel 677

This is the opening theme of Jacob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy's (1809-1847) Fourth Symphony in A major op. 90 (Italian). Mendelssohn spent the years 1830-1832 on a "grand tour" of Europe (a present from his parents). While in Italy, his keen impressions of the sights and sounds, the smells and climate and life generally in the cities he visited, resulted in his fourth symphony, called by him the "Italian". He began work on it in Feb. 1831 in Rome and it was completed on his return to Berlin in March 1833. Italian influences abound in it such as the legendary pilgrim's procession Mendelssohn observed in Naples upon which the second movement is based, and the Saltarello finale which was authentically demonstrated for him by two of his Roman friends in Jan. 1831. (The Saltarello is the Roman parallel to the Neapolitan Tarantella. A compulsive dance, the legend has it that the victim, who is bitten by the tarantula, must dance faster and faster until he is cured). The stamp has been issued on February 28, 1959.



HAITI

Scott 466-468, C166-7

Michel 640-644

The music on these stamps, issued on October 19, 1960, is from the '1804' Marche Militaire from Occide Jeanty (1860-1936). This march commemorates the events of 1804 in which year Jean Jacques Dessalines, successor to Toussaint L'Ouverture, proclaimed the island's independence from France and proclaimed himself Emperor (and massacred almost all the remaining while inhabitants).





HUNGARY

Scott C169a

Michel 1452

A set of three stamps of Bela Bartok (1881-1945) was issued in 1955. The music in this tab is from a piano composition entitled "Est a Székelyeknél" or "An evening at the Székelys". The Székely are a Transylvanian mountain people living in remote areas somewhat like our own Appalachian people. This piece was one of Bartok's favorite works and he played it often as an encore. At his last recital in Budapest before leaving for America in 1940, he also played it as an encore, hence it is the last piece of music Bartok played in Hungary.



HUNGARY

Scott 1256, 1259, 1260

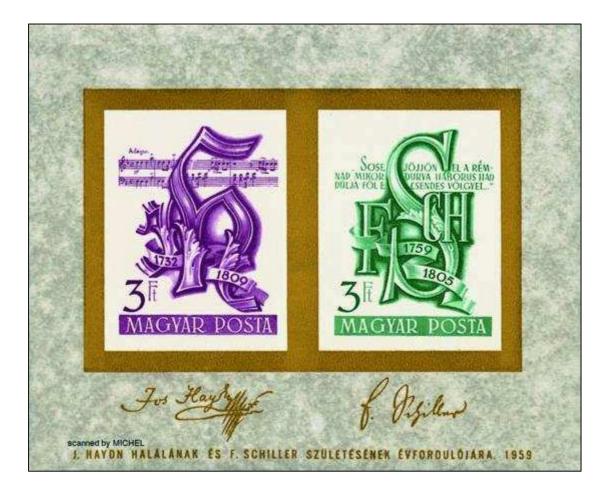
Michel 1620A, 1620B, Block 29

In 1959 Hungary issued a set of three stamps (perf. and imperf.) and a miniature sheet to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809). The 1 forint stamp pictures a full view of the composer and a musical quotation which is the opening of the third movement, the Rondo all Ongaresco of the first trio for violin, cello and piano in G major.



The miniature sheet portrays the opening bars of the London Symphony in D major No. 104. This is one of the 12 "Salomon" or "London" symphonies written when Haydn visited London in 1791 at the invitation of Salomon (Johann Peter) impresario and manager. Unfortunately, here is a glaring example of poor notation due to careless printing. The music as printed on the sheet is here illustrated as well as the corrected notation.





As can readily be seen, the horizontal lines (long and short) and clots are missing entirely in the first bar and partly in the second and third. These naturally change the rhythmic value of the notes.

HUNGARY

Scott 1416

Michel 1793-1795

Three stamps from Ferenc (Franz) Liszt (1811-1886) perforated and imperforate, issued in 1961 in values of 60f, 1f and 2f. The open score of music on the 60f stamp is not recognizable. The quotation on the 2f stamp is a fragment of the Second Hungarian Rhapsodie. The building on the 1f stamp is the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest and the statue of Liszt is by Alajos Strobl, famous Hungarian sculptor, and rests in the alcove over the doorway of the Academy.





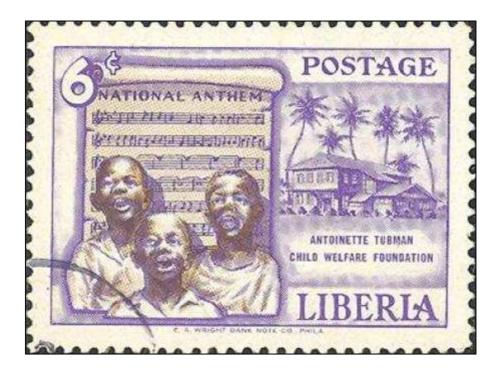
LIBERIA

Scott 366

Michel 513

The African Republic of Liberia was founded in 1821 as a home for emancipated slaves from North America. Its name is derived from the Latin "liber" (free), and its capital Monrovia, was named after President Monroe of the United States, who was instrumental in establishing the republic. The music of the national anthem was composed by Olmstead Luca, and the text is by Daniel Bashiel Warner, third president of Liberia (1864-1868).

The stamp has been issued on November 25, 1957.



LUXEMBOURG

Scott 356

Michel 611

On October 4, 1859 the first railroad was dedicated in Luxembourg. On this occasion a song was presented with words and music by Michel Lentz (1820-1893). This song, "d'Letzeburger", is now known as "De Feirwon" or "The Fire Wagon".

The stamp has been issued on September 19, 1959.



Scott ???

Michel ???

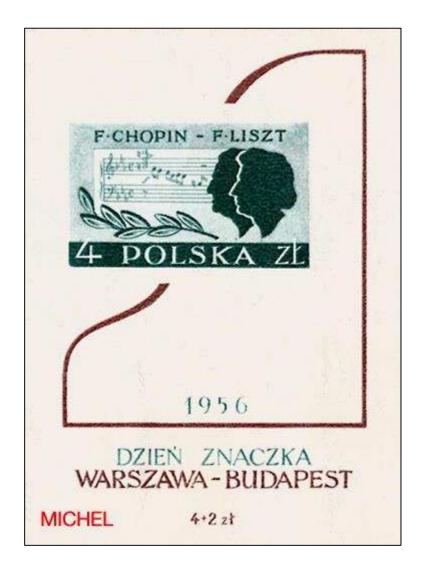
1946. Three stamps (one airmail) and a souvenir sheet showing the opening bars of music and words of the Polish national anthem were issued by the Italian government for use in the settlements of Polish refugees in Trani and Baretta. These stamps are now not listed in the major stamp catalogues. To quote Dr. Paul Netll in his excellent book, "National Anthems", the Polish anthem was first sung in 1797 by the Polish patriotic legions which were fighting with the French revolutionary armies in Italy. It was originally known as "Dombrowski's Mazurka" after Gen. Jan Henryk Dombrowski (1755-1818) who commanded the regiments of the Polish volunteers and who had previously made a name for himself by taking part in Kosciuszko's revolt of 1794. Both the words and music are by Gen. Josef Wybicki (1747-1822) though some authorities credit Michael K. Oginski (1765-1833) as the composer. Other patriotic songs, hymns and anthems appeared over the years but the Dombrowski March retained its popularity and it was finally instituted as the country's official anthem at the end of the second war.



Scott B106

Michel 981

A miniature sheet showing profiles of Liszt and Chopin and a musical quotation from Frederick Chopin's (1810-1849) "Revolutionary Etude" op. 10 no. 12 for piano. The sheet has been issued on October 25, 1956.



Scott 907

Michel 1149

A stamp issued on February 22, 1960 for Frederick Chopin (1810-1849) shows a musical quotation from Chopin's Variations on "La ci darem la mano" Op. 2 for piano and orchestra published in 1825 when Chopin was only 15 years old. The theme is from Mozart's "Don Giovanni".



Scott 1061

Michel 1317

A stamp issued on June 20, 1962 for Frederick Chopin (1810-1849) shows a musical quotation from Chopin's "Revolutionary Etude" op. 10 no. 12 for piano.



ROMANIA

Scott 601, 602, 604

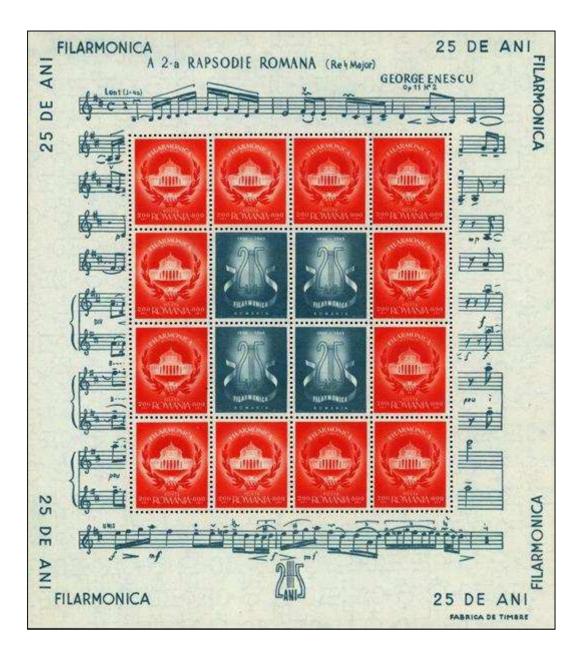
Michel 981, 982, 984

A set of five stamps issued in 1946 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Bucharest Philharmonic. The background of these three stamps contains musical notation which, under a strong glass, is faintly discernable as the Second Romanian Rhapsody by George Enescu (1881-1955).



Two souvenir sheets were also issued at this time (Scott B330, 331; Michel Bogen 985, 986). The background of these sheets is a 1st violin part of the Second Romanian Rhapsody. The first and last lines of the page are illustrated in their entirety across the sheet and the top line contains a printing error which should be mentioned here. Because of missing and misplaced ledger lines, the melodic line is altered in the opening bar. The printed notation and the corrected notation are given as follows:





ROMANIA

Scott 1435

Michel 1993

In 1961 a stamp was issued honoring the second "George Enesco international competition and festival" which was held in Bucharest Sept. 5-22, 1961. This shows a picture of Enesco and a musical quotation which is the opening of the 3rd Sonata for violin and piano "in popular Romanian style" Op. 25.



RUANDA-URUNDI

Scott B22

Michel 157

The music on these stamps, issued on October 20, 1956, is the opening of the allegro movement of a Sonata for Klavier with violin "ad libitum" Köchel 6. It is the first published work of Mozart and was composed intermittently over a three year period. The two middle movements, andante and menuetto were composed in July 1762 in Salzburg. The allegro was composed in Brussels on Oct. 14, 1763 and the finale was composed in Paris in Jan. 1764. The work was later put together by Leopold Mozart, his father. This and the next sonate, No. 7, are dedicated to Princess Victoria, second daughter of the King of France, and the dedication ends with these words: "I am, with most profound respect, madame, your very humble, very obedient and very small servant, J. C. Mozart". Mozart was only eight years old at the completion of these works.



Scott 790, 791, 793

Michel 759, 760, 762

The music on the first two stamps is the main theme after the opening fanfare, in the first movement of the Fourth Symphony in F minor from Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky (1840-1893). The last stamp is the opening theme of the Prelude to Eugen Onegin, Tchaikovsky's most famous opera. This work, after a play by Pushkin, was first produced in Moscow in 1879 and has since been performed by major opera houses all over the world.

The stamps have been issued in August 1940.



Scott 1585

Michel 1591

This notation, though vague and indistinct, is clearly the opening theme of the second symphony in A major from Vasily Sergeyevich Kalinnikov (1866-1901). The score is dedicated to Alexander Nikolayevitch Vinogradsky (1854-1912) a famous Russian conductor of his time. The title page bears a very unusual dedication, for the composer used the opening theme of the symphony as a song with words, as follows:

"Alexander Nikolayevitch, My dear and good friend! This work is dedicated to you in the hope that you will like it."

Since this is the only singing dedication ever encountered, perhaps it can be considered the forerunner of today's singing commercials. Our appreciation is extended to Mr. Niels Miller, for designating the second symphony as the proper source of this quotation in the Fine Arts Philatelist Vol. 8 #5.

The stamp has been issued on August 28, 1951.



Scott 1584

Michel 1592

A stamp issued on August 28, 1951 for Alexander A. Aliabiev, (1787-1851). The score is the opening quotation from "The nightingale" his most famous song. Glinka and Liszt made piano arrangements of it and it is often used in the music lesson scène, in Rossini's "Barber of Seville".



Scott 1723

The music here is from a chorus in Act V of the opera "Ivan Susanin" or "A Life for the Tsar" first produced in 1836 from Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka (1804-1857). Freely translated, the text would read: "Glory to you, glory to you saintly Russia. Celebrate the solemn Day of the Tsar." The stamp has been issued on July 26, 1954.



Scott 1758

This music is No. 7 "Pliasovaya" or "Tanzlied" from the Eight Russian Folk Songs for orchestra op. 58 from Anatol Constantinovich Ljadov (1855-1914). Ljadov was fascinated by Russian folklore and made many arrangements of Russian folk music in authentic harmonization. The stamp has been issued on July 5, 1955.



Scott 2323

This motif is the opening phrase of "Träumerei" from the "Kinderszenen" (Scenes of Childhood) op. 15 for piano. Composed in 1838, Schumann wrote of these 13 short pieces that they were "a grown man's reminiscences of his own childhood".

The stamp has been issued on May 20, 1960.



Scott 2406

A stamp issued on December 24, 1960 for Frederick Chopin (1810-1849) shows a musical quotation from Chopin's "Revolutionary Etude" op. 10 no. 12 for piano.



Scott 2536

A stamp issued by Russia in 1961 from Ferenc (Franz) Liszt (1811-1886). The musical fragment here is from the lively stretta vivace section of the 12th Hungarian Rhapsodie for piano (bars 7 and 10).



SWITZERLAND

Scott B232

Michel 597

The music on this stamp, issued on June 1, 1954, is the "Swiss Psalm" by Alberich Zwyssig, a monk of the Cistercian order who, in 1841 set to music the "Schweizerpsalm" of Leonard Widmer, which has since attained the popularity of a national anthem. Zwyssig was born in Bauen Nov. 17, 1808 and entered the order of Cistercians in 1826. He was Kapellmeister in the monasteries of Wettingen, Zug, Wurmbach and Mehrerau in which Cistercian monastery he died on Nov. 18, 1854. He composed sacred and secular choruses a capella, and some church music with organ accompaniment.

