

Musical Notations on Stamps: Part 6A + 6B

By J. Posell

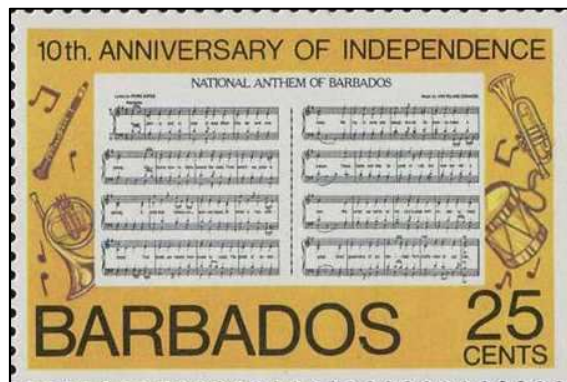
Once again it is time to list and describe the considerable number of stamps with musical notation which have been issued since part five appeared in this magazine. I again wish to express my gratitude to Ethel Bloesch for her help, her persistence in finding the unfindable and for her knowledge freely given. Others too, have helped when called upon and without the aid of such willing and knowledgeable associates this series would have been impossible.

BARBADOS

Scott 450

Michel 415 A

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of independence, Barbados issued a set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet. The 25c value contains the words and music of the national anthem in its entirety. The music was composed by Van Roland Edwards to words by Irvine Burgie and the anthem was officially adopted on Nov. 30, 1966, when Barbados attained its independence. The stamp is also reproduced on the souvenir sheet.



BELGIUM

Scott B962

Michel 1932

August de Boeck, (1865-1937), the Belgian composer was born in Merchten, Brabant on May 9, 1865, and died there Oct. 9, 1937. He and another composer, Paul Gilson, introduced musical impressionism into Belgium; both were influenced by the Russian "five" especially Rimsky-Korsakov. From 1893 to 1930 he was professor of organ at the conservatories of Brussels and Antwerp and was also director of the conservatory in Merchten. De Boeck composed five operas, a ballet, a symphony and much other music. The music here is the opening of his song "Het Kerksken Van Te Lande" or "The Little Church in the Country". The text of the song was written originally in French and then translated into Flemish and German. A version also exists with a string instrument accompaniment.



BERLIN

Scott 9N415

Michel 561

Walter Kollo (1878-1940) was born March 28, 1878, in Neidenburg. He was an operatic coach in Stettin and in 1901 moved to Berlin where he became a theatre conductor. He composed songs and many operettas, the most successful of which were "Drei alte Schachteln", "Drei arme kleine Mädels" and "Die Frau ohne Kuss". He died in Berlin Sept. 30, 1940, and, as he wished, is buried near the grave of Albert Lortzing. The music on the stamp, "Berlin bleibt doch Berlin", is from the end of the march "Solang noch untern Linden" from the revue "Drunter und Drüber".



BRAZIL

Scott 1500

Michel 1588

The famed Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959), was born March 5, 1887 in Rio de Janeiro and died there Nov. 17, 1959. His early living was earned playing the cello in cafés and restaurants. For many years he travelled the backlands of Brazil collecting folk songs which he later used, together with Brazilian culture, history, customs and lore, as the basis for all his music. He was greatly interested in music education for children and was appointed head of musical education in Sao Paulo and later in Rio. A prolific composer, his total number of works exceeds 2000 including 12 symphonies, 14 chorus, operas, chamber music, etc. The music on the stamp is taken from his "Cirandas", a set of 16 piano pieces composed in 1926 and published in Rio in 1930, based on a musical children's game similar to our "Ring around the Rosy".



CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Scott 86

Michel 86-97

Issued Oct. 21, 1977, as an early Christmas present, this sheet of 12 stamps has notation at the bottom of the famous song "The Twelve Days of Christmas". Originated long ago by 13th century French minstrels, the song has survived many versions and many uses and is ever as popular today in all countries where Christmas is celebrated.



COLOMBIA

Scott C642

Michel 1330

This stamp was issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of Beethoven and contains the opening of the Ninth Symphony in a piano reduction.



CUBA

Scott ???

Michel 2216

Issued to honor the 100th anniversary of Jorge Anckermann, the composer's birth. Through the good offices of Chuichi Maeda, we now have pertinent information regarding the two Cuban stamps for Anckermann and for Romeu. Although spelled Ankerman on the new stamp, the correct spelling is Anckermann as it appeared on the first stamp issued in 1966. He was born in Havana March 22, 1877, and died there Feb. 3, 1941. Anckermann first appeared in a set of seven stamps issued in 1966 to honor the second song festival which was held in Havana. I described his biography at that time and I hope readers can refer to vol. 14 No. 5. Unfortunately the Cuban agency which supplied the information to Mr. Maeda mistakenly stated that the music here is "El Arroyo que Murmura" but this is the music on the first issue of 1966. The notation on the current stamp is still unidentified.



Addendum: In the entry under Anckermann, delete the last sentence and replace it with: The music on this stamp is the opening piano introduction of his song "Flor de Yumuri."
(FAB 6B, December 1978)

CUBA

Scott ???

Michel 2215

Through the kindness of Chuichi Maeda we now have the following information on the Cuban composer Antonio Maria Romeu (1876-1955). He was born in Jicotea, Havana Province, Sept. 11, 1876. He began to play the piano at the age of 12 and in 1899 at the age of 23 he moved to Havana and began his career as a pianist and composer. His first composition, a danzón, was "Debajo de la Escalera" or "Ten days, Ten Dollars" satirizing a young North American inventor. His first recording was also a danzón, "La Flauta Magica" which sold over 70.000 copies. During his life he composed nearly 1.500 titles, made alterations in the typical native Instruments and himself collected many types of instruments. He died in Havana Jan. 18, 1955. The musical notation which appears on the stamp is from his danzón "Lindas Cubanas".

We also have this additional information which was obtained by a recent visitor to Cuba: Romeu was one of the founders of the Musical Solidarity Society of Havana in 1922. Between 1910 and 1920 he recorded for Victor, Brunswick and Colombia records, with an orchestra which he had organized. In 1950 he publicly expressed his intention to retire though he remained in charge of his orchestra until he died at the age of 78. Romeu was a musician who greatly enriched Cuban musical culture. Because of his identity with the people, it is difficult to say whether his music is for the people or the people for his music.



CUBA

Scott ???

Michel 2115

Stamp issued to honor the Socialist Constitution with the opening bars of the national anthem at bottom. Regarding this anthem I wrote previously in vol. 17 no. 3 that in consulting various copies, discrepancies were found in notations, time values, key signatures, rhythms, and even in the flow of the melodie line. This stamp also differs in detail from the stamps issued earlier in 1952 and in 1970. However, two native Cuban musicians have confirmed that the notation as used on the stamp of 1952 is the correct one. The only note in question here is the one in the fourth bar (c) which is filled in and thus becomes a $\frac{1}{4}$ note instead of a $\frac{1}{2}$ note.



GABON

Scott C194

Michel 623

This stamp was issued in 1977 and shows a sculptured bust of Beethoven overlooking a piano keyboard on which is a sheet of music. A photo enlargement of the notation was submitted to a number of musical authorities and they all agreed that it is nothing specific or authentic by Beethoven but is part of the artistic content of the whole. It has not yet been determined who created the original, in which medium or where it is to be found.

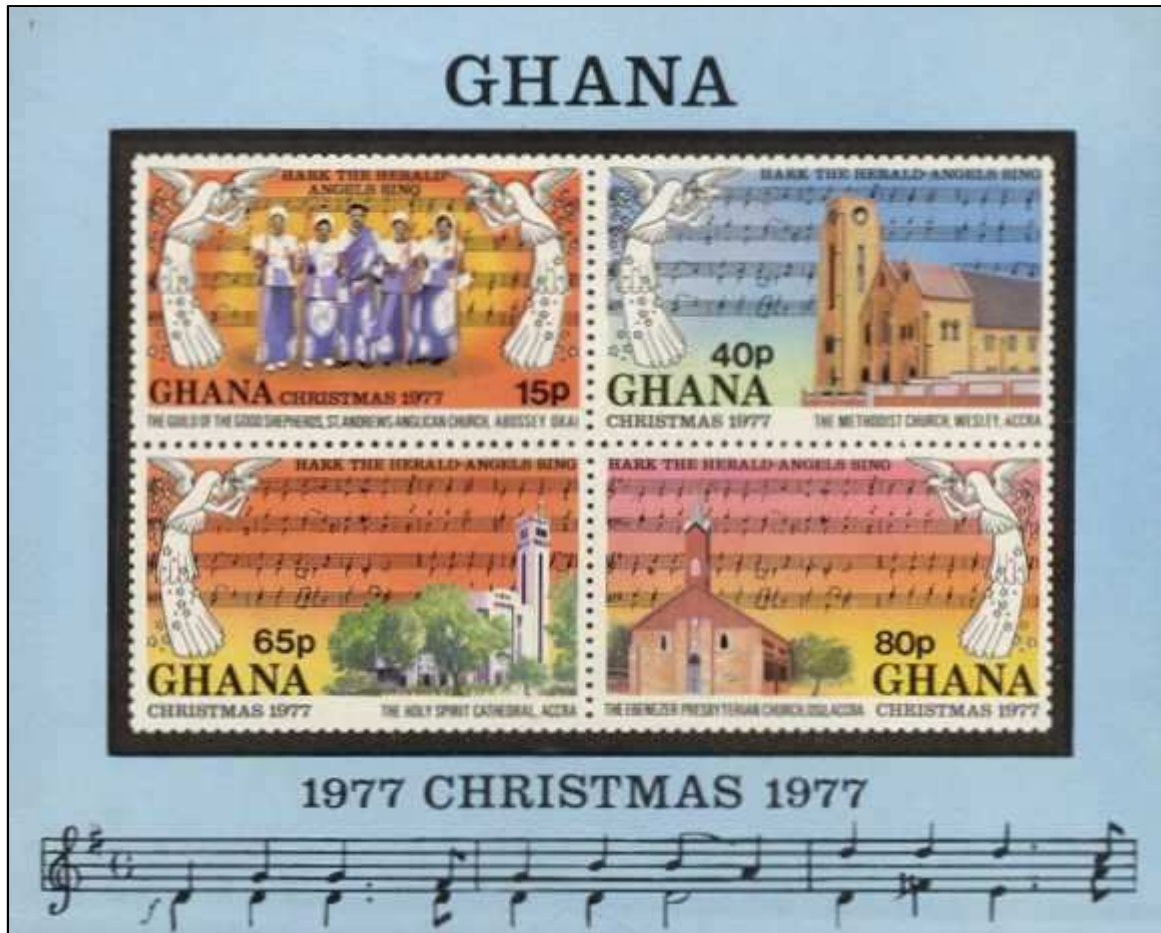


GHANA

Scott 632, 633, 635-637

Michel 724-727

Four stamps and a souvenir sheet were issued for Christmas 1977. The notation is the popular Christmas hymn "Hark the Herald Angels Sing". The words of the hymn were first written in 1739 by Charles Wesley, brother of John, the well known founder of Methodism. The words have been altered several times over the years and the text as sung was written by the evangelist, George Whitefield (1714-1770), and begins: "Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the new born King". The music was composed by Felix Mendelssohn in 1840.



GRENADA

Scott 865-72

Michel 909, 911 / Block 73

A set of seven stamps and a souvenir sheet were issued in April 1978 to mark the 150th anniversary of Beethoven's death. One stamp and the souvenir sheet contain the first page of the piano sonata No. 15 in D major (The Pastorale Sonata) Op. 28.



ITALY

Scott 1195

Michel 1498

Inadvertently omitted from previous listing was this stamp issued in 1975. Giovanni Pierluigi, called da Palestrina, was born about 1525 in Palestrina, near Rome. He was perhaps the greatest composer of the Catholic Church and in his music he aimed at smoothness of sound rather than at forceful expression and originality. He composed a monumental amount of music - practically all of it for the church. In his youth he was a chorister and choir boy, then, in 1544 was appointed organist and choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. Agapit in Palestrina. His superior there was Cardinal del Monte who in 1550 became Pope Julius III and who in 1551 gave Palestrina the post of Maestro of the Capella Giulia. In 1554 he published his first book of masses which was dedicated to Julius III. The picture on the stamp shows the presentation of this work to the Pope. However, research supplied by Ethel Bloesch, informs us that the music is not by Palestrina but by Cristobal de Morales, a contemporary Spanish composer and member of the Papal choir. Also, the illustration is more properly Morales presenting a book of masses to Pope Paul III rather than Palestrina and Julius III. The woodcut and title page of Morales was published in 1544 and is an almost exact copy of the one of Palestrina later published in Rome in 1554. Facsimiles of the two title pages can be found in the following sources: "Palestrina" in 'Die Musik in Geschichte and Gegenwart', vol. 10 col. 686 and "Morales" in the 'Journal of the American Musicological Society', vol. 6 p. 42 (1953). Palestrina was married twice, had several sons and in his later years he successfully carried on a fur business. He died in Rome Feb. 2, 1594.



MALDIVE ISLANDS

Scott 667-75

Michel 690,695

Eight stamps and a souvenir sheet were issued to commemorate the anniversary of Beethoven's death. Two stamps contain excerpts from Beethoven's compositions in his inimitable scribble. The 2L stamp shows measures 14-26 of the first movement of the Moonlight Sonata (Op. 27, No. 2). The 2R stamp is an excerpt of seven bars from the Kyrie section of the Missa Solemnis (Ethel Bloesch).



MALI

Scott C322.

Michel 618

1978 is the 150th anniversary of the death of the famous composer Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828) and, if tradition follows, we can expect a flow of Schubert commemoratives. The first to appear is a set of two from Mali, one of which contains notation which purports to be the ending of his song "Die Forelle". It is strictly a conception because neither the song in the original ends in this manner, nor do any of the variations in the Forellen Quintet (Schubert used this song as a theme and variations for one movement of his quintet for piano, violin, viola, cello and double bass Op. 114; hence the name Forellen or Trout Quintet). The original key is in Db major, the variation movement is in D major but the notation on the stamp is in C major. The fish is there, the melody is there - but that's all. Other Schubert stamps were issued by Austria in 1922 and 1947 (Scott B53 and 491; Michel 421A and 801) and by German Democratic Republic (Scott 186; Michel 404).



MEXICO

Scott C532

Michel 1547

The celebrated Spanish cellist Pablo Casals (1876-1973) was born in Vendrell, Catalonia Dec. 29, 1876. He received his first instruction in music from his father, an organist and piano teacher. Casals was a man of many talents: cellist, pianist, composer and conductor. An intense Catalan nationalist, he was also an ardent champion of human rights, a staunch supporter of the Loyalist government and a self-imposed exile in protest to the Franco regime. His fame as a master musician is legendary. He was certainly the greatest cellist of his day; a famed interpreter of Bach, a pedagogue and a musical organizer of note. He died in Puerto Rico on Oct. 22, 1973 at the age of 97. The stamp contains the opening bars of his oratorio "El Pesebre" (The Manger). Begun in Prades, France, in 1943 and completed in Puerto Rico in 1960, it has had many performances in many countries, most of them conducted by Casals himself. The dedication reads "I dedicate this work in which I have put my heart to my beloved wife Marta. Pau Casals-Dec. 24, 1960".



PARAGUAY

Scott ???

Michel 2892

A miniature sheet was issued in 1977 to commemorate the anniversary of Beethoven's death in 1827. It contains the famous portrait by Stieler made in 1819 and the opening page of the Moonlight Sonata. This issue is not recognized by Scott.



SPAIN

Scott 2083.

Michel 2348

The Spanish composer and scholar Manuel Hilarion Eslava Y Elizondo(1807-1878) was born in Burlada, Navarra Oct. 21, 1807, and died in Madrid July 23, 1878. At the age of 21 he was appointed music director at the Cathedral of Burgo de Osma where he was ordained a priest. In 1832 he became music director in Seville and in 1854 became a professor at the Madrid Conservatory. He composed three operas with Italian texts, edited a music journal and published methods for solfeggio and harmony. His fame rests however, on his great collection in ten volumes of "Lira Sacro-Hispana", an anthology of Spanish sacred music from the 16th to the 19th centuries including some of Eslava's own works. The music on the stamp is the opening of the first movement (Christus factus est) of his Miserere, sung annually in the Seville Cathedral.

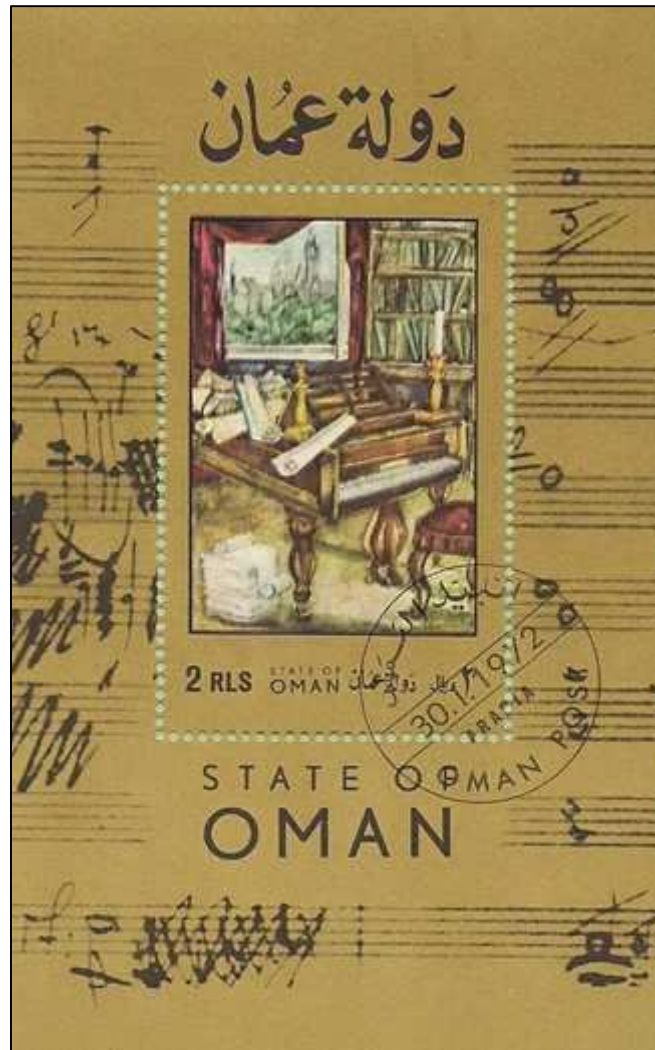


STATE OF OMAN

Scott ???

Michel ???

A souvenir sheet from the State of Oman has recently come to our attention. According to the postmark, date of issue was Jan. 30, 1972. The stamp contains the interior of Beethoven's study which is also pictured on the set of 10 stamps issued by Sharjah in 1970 and on the souvenir sheet of Ras Al Khaima in 1972. The borders contain fragmentary notation in Beethoven's undecipherable hand which as yet has not been identified.



STATE OF OMAN

Scott ???

Michel ???

This is a souvenir sheet for Mozart (1756-1791), date of issue Jan. 30, 1972. The notation on the scroll at the bottom is undecipherable but the music at the sides is the opening of Tamino's aria "Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön" from the first act of "The Magic Flute".



ST. VINCENT

Scott 514a

Michel 488-493

This souvenir sheet commonly used with the words "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks". The tune first appeared with the words "How pleasant is they dwelling place" in Este's Whole Book of Psalms in 1592 and was in a four part setting by George Kirbye with the melody in the tenor voice. Thomas Este was a famous printer and music publisher, and his Psalter was distinguished by the quality of its music. This hymn tune seems to have been adapted from an earlier tune by Christopher Tye who was one of England's greatest 16th century composers. He is sometimes spoken of as the father of the anthem because of his influence on the style and development of English church music. It was named WINCHESTER in Ravencroft's Psalter, 1621 (from: Guide to the Pilgrim Hymnal, courtesy Ethel Bloesch). The hymn tune in modern notation appears as follows:

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks 172

These were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. Lk. 2:8

Descant

6. "All glo - ry be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;

1. While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground,
2. "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind;
3. "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is born of Da - vid's line
4. "The heav - enly babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis - played,

to those on whom his fa - vor rests good - will shall nev - er cease."

an an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
 "glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man - kind.
 a Sav - ior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
 all sim - ply wrapped in swad - dling clothes and in a man - ger laid."



SWEDEN

Scott 1203-07

Michel 983-987

A strip of five stamps was issued in 1977 as tourist publicity for Roslagen and to honor Evert Taube (1890-1976), popular poet and musician. Each stamp pictures a few bars from the "Calle Schewen Waltz". I am grateful to a correspondent in Uppsala who submitted the following information regarding the episode which prompted the waltz and the stamps. The occasion was an outing one evening in July of the "Pelar" order (or club) on Roslagen, an island off the east coast of Sweden, of which Taube was a member. Taube was entertaining the guests with his songs when the president of the club appeared and ordered him to retire from the meeting and not return until he had written a song about the Stockholm archipelago, the midsummer air and the July nights which were becoming darker and darker. As Taube was sitting quietly waiting for an idea, he caught sight of Calle Schewen, a famous landowner who was sitting by the pier. Suddenly a young girl all dressed in white appeared and asked him to dance. Thus Evert Taube received his inspiration and wrote the famous "Calle Schewen Waltz" which interprets the twilight mood of the short Nordic summer nights. The notation and text on each stamp is taken from a line in the poem. There is a difference in notation only on the red stamp from the copy of the song here at hand but it might be a difference in edition. Evert Taube, Swedish author, poet, musician and painter, wrote many popular songs and always composed his own music to his texts.



UPPER VOLTA

Scott ???

Michel 491

A previously unreported stamp was issued in 1973 by Upper Volta as part of a set of 12 picturing famous men who were born under the 12 zodiac signs. Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) was chosen as the outstanding Sagittarius. The stamp abounds with various note figurations but as one can see, it is only symbolic.

