

## Musical Notations on Stamps: Part 10

By J. Posell

Herewith the tenth installment of Musical Notations on Stamps, first begun in 1963. Again I must express my gratitude for invaluable aid to Ethel Bloesch of Iowa City and to Chuichi Maeda of Tokyo for indefatigable research and especial information. I am most grateful for all the help they and others provide. Stamps with musical notations issued since Part Nine appeared are as follows.

### CHINA, PEOPLES REPUBLIC

Scott 1773

Michel 5258

Issued on February 15, 1982 to honor the 70th anniversary of the birth of Nie Erh, composer of "Chi Lai" (March of the Volunteers) which is now the national anthem of the Peoples Republic of China. Composed originally as an anti-Japanese marching song during the Sino-Japanese war, the song was officially adopted as the country's anthem on Sept. 27, 1949 (See also Scott 1501, Michel 1511, FAP Journal, June 1980. part seven).

Nie Erh was born in Kunming in 1911. Nie was attracted to music as a child and learned to play the violin at Kunming Provincial Normal School. At the age of 17 he went to Canton and enrolled in the Kwantung Dramatic School. Then, after a brief stint as a soldier, he went to Shanghai where he joined the anti-imperialist league in 1929 and found a job as a violinist in an orchestra. In 1931 Nie Erh met T'ien Han and joined a music group known as the Friends of the Soviet Union Society, and he soon began to collaborate with him on songs for film music. Between 1932 and 1935 Nie wrote the music for more than 30 film songs. In 1934 he again collaborated with T'ien Han on an opera, "Storm on the Yangtze". His best known work, however, was his setting for "March of the Volunteers" to a text written collectively. Its opening lines and music - "Arise, all you who refuse to be slaves" - enjoyed great popularity in China particularly in the left wing communist circles. Before Nie Erh completed his last film score, his name was reportedly placed on the police blacklist. Early in 1935 he escaped to Japan with the intent of going to the Soviet Union for formal musical training. He died July 17, 1935, at the age of 24 while swimming. Nie Erh came to be known in Chinese Communist terminology as a "pioneer of proletarian music". Although he lacked formal training, his songs contained a spontaneity and emotional vigor that attested to the high degree of talent he possessed.

(From Biographical Dictionary of Republican China, Vol. 3, 1970. Courtesy, Ethel Bloesch)



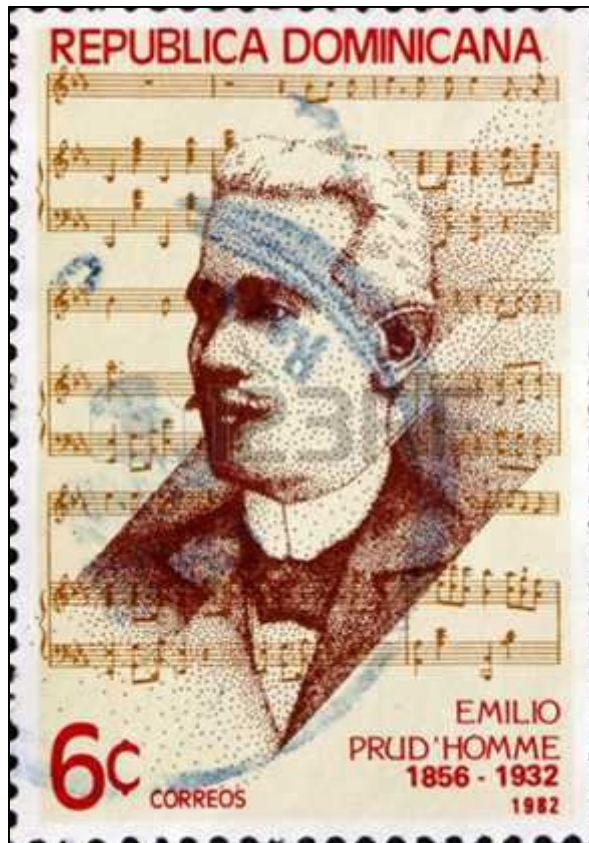
## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Scott ???

Michel 1354

On August 2, 1982, a stamp was issued to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Emilio Prud'homme, the author of the text of the national anthem of the Dominican Republic. The portrait is superimposed over the notation of the anthem.

José Reyes (1835-1905) composed the music in 1882. His patriotic song "Quisqueyanos valientes" was first played in public in 1885 but was not officially adopted as the republic's national anthem until 1934. Reyes appeared on a stamp of 1936 (Scott 314, Michel 315). The notation of the anthem first appeared on a set of five stamps issued Feb. 27, 1946 (Scott C57-C61, Michel 468-472). Prud'homme, poet, teacher, lawyer and Supreme Court Justice, was born in Puerto Plata in 1856. He was a leading figure in the literary and political life of the country and devoted his literary efforts mainly to the patriotism, respect and defense of the national independence. He wrote the national anthem in 1883 and revised it in 1897. He died in Santo Domingo in 1932.

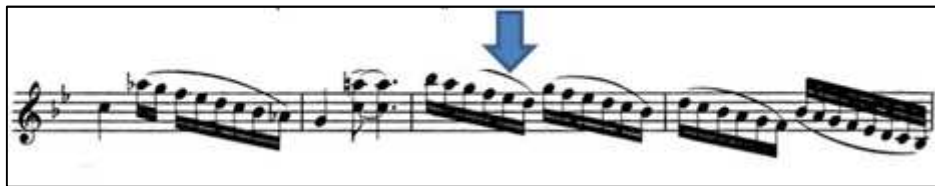


## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Scott ???

Michel 523

Four souvenir sheets embossed in gold were issued Jan. 27, 1975, for the Arphila Exhibition in Paris. These are inscribed "Painting, Poetry and Music for Eternity" and honor the three Pablos Casals, Neruda and Picasso. The miniature sheet featuring Pablo Casals contains a cello within which is pictured Casals as conductor. To the right, in a circle, is the head of Casals. The inscription at bottom reads: your favorite piece, Quartet Op. 67 by J. Brahms. The musical fragment to the left of the cello is part of a bar of music from the second violin part of the third string quartet by Brahms, Op. 67. This is two bars before #9 in the first movement. The entire bar should be read as follows but only the first five notes of the six note phrase are used.



## FINLAND

Scott 665

Michel 896

On March 11, 1982 a stamp was issued to mark the Jubilee of Finnish Music. The year 1982 marks the centenary of the Sibelius Academy Institute of Music and of the Helsinki Orchestra, the oldest symphony orchestra in Finland. It also commemorates the 400th anniversary since the publication of *Piae Cantiones*, the basis of Finnish music. *Piae Cantiones* is a collection of medieval songs and carols both sacred and secular assembled and edited by Theodoric Petri and published in Griefswald, Sweden, in 1582. It contains Latin texts and plainsong tunes and other medieval music from Swedish, German and Hussite sources, dating from the tenth to the sixteenth centuries. The collection contains mostly one part melodies, but 12 settings include 2, 3 or 4 part harmony. Some of the better known melodies are "Resonet in laudibus", "Divinum mysterium" and "In dulci jubilo" (Information, Ethel Bloesch). The stamp pictures the neck and scroll of a stringed instrument, the silhouette of the lid of a grand piano and a wind instrument mouthpiece. There are three lines of notation: the top line is the opening of "Voces Intimae", the string quartet of Sibelius, Op. 56; the middle line is an excerpt from an etude of the exercise book "Ecole du Violon", and the staff at the bottom is from the 3rd movement of the violin concerto of Sibelius, Op. 47.



## GREECE

Scott 1428, 1429

Michel 1487, 1488

A set of five stamps issued June 26, 1982 honors early Byzantine books as literature. The 6d and 12d have signs above the text indicating vocal inflections of set patterns. These were, and are known, as neumes, adopted from a Greek word meaning breath. In this early form of notation, neumes were used only as memory aids for patterns of chanting or intoning Biblical lessons in a manner midway between recitation and singing. In this kind of lectionary notation, every phrase of the text bears two notational signs; one at the beginning and one at the end of a phrase. Gradually, additional and more intricate usages led to drawing a single line, then two, etc., to delineate definite pitch - as we do now. Thus, as shown on these stamps, they do not show actual melodic notation but are forerunners of the invention of the music staff developed by both European and Byzantine musicians in the years following (Contributed by Albert Nebling).



## ICELAND

Scott ???

Michel 590, 591

On Nov. 16, 1982 a set of two stamps was issued containing the notation of a Christmas hymn composed by Sigvaldi Kaldalons to a poem by Einar Sigurdson. The title of the song is "The Night was such a Splendid One". The 300 value contains the opening of the song and the 350 value shows the latter half of the theme. (Bulletin, Iceland P.O.)



## IRELAND

Scott ???

Michel 470

A stamp of John Field was issued on June 16, 1982. John Field, composer and pianist, was born in Dublin July 16, 1782. His father was a violinist and his grandfather an organist and it was he who gave him his first instruction in music. He first played in public at the Rotunda, Dublin, in 1792, aged 10. He was then apprenticed to Muzio Clementi who was at that time a successful conductor, performer, teacher and man of business. Young Field had regular piano lessons with him and also served in Clementi's showrooms as a salesman demonstrating the pianos to customers. In 1802 he accompanied him to Paris and a year later they went to St. Petersburg where he settled as a teacher and performer. In 1832 he returned temporarily to England when he was invited to perform his piano concerto in E flat with the London Philharmonic; then he continued to tour Europe playing in Paris, Switzerland and Italy but returned to Russia because of ill health and financial losses and died in Moscow Jan. 23, 1837. Field's position in music is of importance. He was the originator of the Nocturne for piano and preceded Chopin in his treatment of piano technique. Like Chopin, he wrote mainly for the piano and his major works are 7 piano concertos, 4 sonatas, 18 nocturnes, a quintet for piano and strings and two diverimenti for piano, strings and flute. The portrait of Field is from a drawing by Colin Harrison based on a portrait of the composer in the British Museum. The music in the background is the opening of the Nocturne No. 2 in C minor.







## KOREA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Scott ???

Michel 2125

Two souvenir sheets, perforated and imperforate, were issued to honor the International Philatelic Exhibition (WIPA 1981) held in Vienna. The sheets picture a block of the original WIPA stamp of 1933 with post horn call notation, and a picture of a children's orchestra and chorus conducted by a young pioneer.



## KOREA (SOUTH)

Scott 1290

Michel 1276

In May 1982 a 60 won stamp was issued entitled "Song of Children". The music is by Yung Geug-Yeong and the words by Yung Seok-Jung. The children's movement in Korea dates back to 1923 when "Saekdong-hoe" was the first organization established to promote the welfare of children. In 1946 the 5th of May was officially designated as Children's Day.



## POLAND

Scott 2514

Michel 2805

A stamp of Karol Szymanowski was issued on April 8, 1982. He was a composer and exponent of modern Polish national music and was born in Tymoszowska (Timoshovka), Ukraine, Oct. 6, 1883 and died in Lausanne March 28, 1937. He was raised in a musical environment and began to play the piano and to compose at a very early age. His first publication, 9 Preludes for Piano, Op. 1, was published in 1906 in Berlin by the Association of Young Polish Composers - later known as Young Poland in Music. At that time Szymanowski lived in Berlin and was much influenced by the music of Richard Strauss. In 1909 he returned to Warsaw where his first symphony was performed on March 26, 1909. In 1911 he completed his second symphony in which he turned away from the German influence to the Russian style of Scriabin. During the years 1914-1918 his music changed in style again and he leaned towards French Impressionism. Arthur Rubinstein was an early champion of Szymanowski's piano music and performed his second piano sonata in Germany and in Vienna. Szymanowski composed extensively in all forms and his works were often played at festivals of the International Society for Contemporary Music. A lifelong admirer of Chopin, he, however treated the mazurka in a highly personal manner. Among his many works are 2 operas, a ballet, 3 symphonies, 2 violin concertos, 2 string quartets and many other works. The cluster of notes in the background of the stamp is just a jumble and represents no particular musical notation.



## VENEZUELA

Scott 1261

Michel 2186

On March 26, 1982 a stamp was issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the National Anthem of Venezuela. On May 15, 1972 a stamp was issued containing also the opening bars of the National Anthem of Venezuela (Scott 998; Michel 1899). The notation on both stamps is pictured below and as can be seen, the rhythmic notation is different between the two issues.

In all books and collections of national anthems which were consulted, the top notation is always given. However, an enquiry to the National Council of Culture and later to the Institute of Posts and Telegraph in Caracas informs us that the National Anthem has undergone eight revisions since its inception. Some of the changes made involved the elimination of four introductory bars and change of key and tempo. The last revision occurred in 1948 at which time the rhythms of bars 2, 3 and 4 were altered and these are conform to what is now pictured on the new stamp. Perhaps future editions of National Anthem collections will take note of this.

Juan José Landaeta, the composer of the anthem, was born in Caracas, March 10, 1780. He was a black man and therefore could not be employed by the Church: hence his small sacred output. Besides the song "Gloria al Bravo Pueblo", Landaeta's manuscripts include five motets, a Spanish tonos and two songs which are in the Caracas School of Music. Both he and Salias, the author of the text, were executed in the Camana Massacre of 1814.

(Spanish translations of correspondence and literature, courtesy of Alvaro De Granda).

