

## Musical Notations on Stamps: Part 12

By J. Posell

### AUSTRIA

Scott 1280

Michel 1781

Ralph Benatzky, composer of songs and light operas, was born in Moravske-Budejovice, Czechoslovakia June 5, 1884. He studied in Prague and later in Munich with Felix Mottl, then lived mostly in Vienna and Berlin. In 1938 after the Nazis moved into Austria, he went to America and stayed until after the war, then settled in Switzerland. A prolific composer, he wrote 92 stage works, about 250 motion picture scores and an estimated 5000 songs. His most successful operetta, *Im weissen Rössl* was first produced in Berlin in 1930. He wrote the words and music for many songs for the singer Josma Selim whom he married in 1914. One of these is the popular *Ich muss einmal in Grinzing sein* which was written in 1915 and which is the opening notation of the song used on the stamp. Benatzky died in Zürich Oct. 17, 1957.



## BULGARIA

Scott 2930

Michel 3224

On Dec. 5, 1983, a set of six stamps was issued to mark the 50th anniversary of the Bulgarian Composers Union (Union of Bulgarian Composers). The stamps feature five contemporary composers with tabs of music and an early Byzantine composer of church music.

Music in Bulgaria evolved later than in other lands. The country was under the domination of Turkey for 400 years and it was not until 1878 as a result of the Russian-Turkish War that Bulgaria was liberated and was finally allowed its own development. Before that time secular musical culture was dominated mainly by folk music. After the liberation, professional music making developed rapidly. The first music school in Sophia was opened in 1904, becoming the State Music Academy in 1921. An opera society was founded in 1908 which became the Sophia National Opera, also in 1921. The Bulgarian National Philharmonic was established in 1924, the Academic Symphony Orchestra in 1928 and the Sophia State Philharmonic in 1946. Military bands, amateur choirs, conservatories, ensembles and secondary music schools followed in rapid order. New opera houses and symphony orchestras were created in the provincial cities and an active group of composers began to emerge forming the basis of a thriving musical tradition. The five modern composers listed here are a result of this development.

The 5th stamp represent Ioan Kukuzel (Groves spelling: Koukouzeles). He was the most celebrated Byzantine composer of his day. He organized the big anthologies of musical repertory called *akalouthai* (orders of musical service) which contained in a single volume almost all the music needed for services of the Divine Liturgy and Office in the Orthodox Church. He was born in Dyrrachim, in what is now Albania about 1280 and died in the monastery of Mont Athos between 1360 and 1375. His early years were spent in Dyrrachim and while still a boy he was sent to an imperial school in Constantinople as a protégé of the Byzantine emperor Andronikos II Palacologos. Some sources claim that his real name was Papadopoulos and that Koukouzeles was only a nickname though the composer was probably not of Greek descent. Koukouzeles became famous at the imperial court of Constantinople for his remarkable voice but at the height of his fame as a singer he left Constantinople to lead a monastic life at the Great Laura on the southern slopes of Mont Athos. Considered the master among Byzantine composers of the 14th and 15th centuries, he was the first to abandon an older, more conservative manner of composing for new melodic invention which led to a new repertory and new musical developments later continued by his contemporaries and successors.



## BULGARIA

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Michel 3225

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The 8st stamp represents Georgi Atanasov. He was born in Plovdiv May 18, 1882 (May 6, 1881?) and died at Lake Garda, Italy, Nov. 17, 1931. His first studies were at the Bucharest Conservatory where he studied the trombone and piano. He played trombone in the Bucharest Opera and then returned to Bulgaria for a short while. In 1901 he went to Italy and entered the Pesaro Conservatory where he studied composition with Mascagni. He again returned to Bulgaria and served as military bandmaster from 1903 to 1914 in different towns. He became a serious conductor and conducted more than 90 orchestral concerts in Sophia over a period of many years which were the first regular symphony concerts in Bulgaria after the liberation of 1878. He died in Italy while undergoing medical treatment. His works include about eight operas plus military marches, songs and piano pieces. The music is from the opera *Gergana* composed in 1916 (or 1917) and first performed in 1925.



## BULGARIA

Scott 2932

Michel 3226

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The 13st stamp represents Petko Stainov, composer. He was born in Kazanluk Dec. 1, 1896. Because of an almost complete loss of sight in infancy, he learned to play the piano by ear. He later attended the Dresden Conservatory where he took theory lessons with Ernst Münch (1920-24). In 1926 he returned to Bulgaria and in 1927 became a piano teacher at the State Institute for the Blind in Sophia, a position he held until 1944. He became director of the National Council of Amateur Art and Music in 1967. Stainov composed a number of works for orchestra including two symphonies and also a number of choruses. The music on the tab is *Thracian Dances* composed for orchestra in 1925-26. He died June 25, 1977, in Sophia.



## BULGARIA

Scott 2933

Michel 3227

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The 20st represents Veselin Stoyanov. The composer, was born April 20, 1902, in Shumen and died in Sophia June 29, 1969. He received his early musical education from his father who was one of the first Bulgarian music teachers. He then studied at the Sophia State Academy of Music and at the Vienna Hochschule für Musik with Franz Schmidt. After his return to Bulgaria he worked as a concert pianist for a short time and in 1937 was appointed to the staff of the Sophia Academy where he became professor extraordinary in 1943 and professor of form and composition in 1945. Stoyanov was director of the academy during the years 1943-44 and again from 1956-62. He was also director of the National Opera in 1953-54. His compositions included operas, ballets, orchestral works, concertos, symphonies, sonatas, etc. and are distinguished by their classical formal logic, expressiveness and rich orchestration. The music used on the tab is from *Bai Gan'o*, a suite for orchestra composed in 1941.



## BULGARIA

Scott 2934

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The 25st stamp represents Lyubomir Pipkov, composer. He was born in Lovech Sept. 6, 1904. He was the son of Panayot Pipkov (Scott 1943; Michel 2087) who gave him his first instruction in piano and composition. During the difficult times after World War I he earned his living as a pianist in a restaurant but continued his studies at the Sophia State Academy of Music and won a scholarship to Paris in 1926 to study composition with Dukas at the Ecole Normale. In 1932 he returned to Sophia and worked with the National Opera as *repetiteur* and as chorus master. Pipkov later became director of the National Opera from 1944 to 1947 and he was president of the Bulgarian Composers Union from 1947 to 1954. His music often makes use of Bulgarian folk song and is dominated by dramatic and social themes. His compositions include three operas, orchestral music, much chamber music, music for piano, and film music. He died in Sophia May 9, 1974. The music on the tab is from the opera *Momchil* op. 28 composed between 1939 and 1944 and first performed in 1948 in Sophia.



## BULGARIA

Scott 2935

Michel 3229

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The 30st stamp represents the composer Pancho Vladigerov. He was born in Zürich, March 13, 1899. He studied composition with Dobri Khristov (Scott 2289; Michel 2460) from 1910-12 at the Sophia Music School, then received a scholarship to attend the Berlin Musikhochschule to study composition with Juon and piano with Barth. He remained in Germany for some years at the Deutsches Theater in Berlin then returned to Bulgaria where he became professor of piano and composition at the Sophia Academy of Music and remained there until his retirement in 1972. A prolific composer, his works stem mainly from western European traditions but later pieces are tinged with the tonal features of Bulgarian folk music. He composed many works for orchestra including two symphonies, instrumental pieces, chamber music, etc. The music used on the tab is from *Vardar*, Bulgarian Rhapsody op. 16 composed in 1922 for violin and piano and made into an orchestral version in 1928.



## GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Scott 2393

Michel 2852

Mendelssohn, Felix (1809-1847): Issued to commemorate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Mendelssohn. Although he died at the early age of 38, Mendelssohn was a most prolific composer, an active conductor and organizer. The music on the sheetlet is the opening of the Spring Song, op. 62, No 6 composed in June 1842 from the cycle *Songs Without Words*. Mendelssohn composed these piano pieces over a period of 15 years (1830-1845). Six cycles were published in his lifetime and two songs were published posthumously. The original manuscript is in the German State Library in Berlin.





## GREAT BRITAIN

Scott 1068

Michel 1009

A set of four stamps was issued Sept. 25, 1984, to mark the 50th anniversary of the British Council. The purpose of the Council is to promote a better understanding and appreciation of Britain in other countries through cooperation in the fields of education, medicine, science, technology, language, literature and the arts. The 22p stamp promoting the arts contains a picture of a violinist and notation in the background. This is of the full score of Sir Michael Tippett's opera *The Midsummer Marriage* which was composed between 1946 and 1952 and first performed in Covent Garden Jan.27, 1955. Ethel Bloesch located the exact passage from a piano score to be from Scène 9 in the finale of the opera.



## GREENLAND

Scott 157

Michel 153

The stamp, issued Sept. 6, 1984, pictures Henrik Lund, erroneously quoted in the philatelic press as the composer of the national anthem. Henrik Lund wrote the text: the music was composed by Jonathan Petersen (1881-1961). The two were friends and had a close working relationship. Petersen was an organist, and is also well known as an author, poet, composer and linguist. Lund, too, was an author, poet and artist. So, they collaborated on the Greenlandic national anthem. The music on the stamp is the opening of that anthem.



## GRENADINES OF ST. VINCENT

Scott ???

Michel 197-201

Christmas sheet 1980: De Borning Day. No Information is available regarding this carol. The Baton of March 1981 identifies the music as a West Indian Christmas Carol. If it is a true folk carol there probably is no composer to identify.



Addendum: This song is a negro-spiritual, 19<sup>th</sup> century, from South Carolina (Manfred Gorol).

## GRENADINES OF ST. VINCENT

Scott ???

Michel 360-362

Christmas sheet 1982. The music is the recitative of the Evangelist from the first part of the Christmas Oratorio by Johann Sebastian Bach (*Und Sie gebar Ihren ersten Sohn*).



## NEVIS

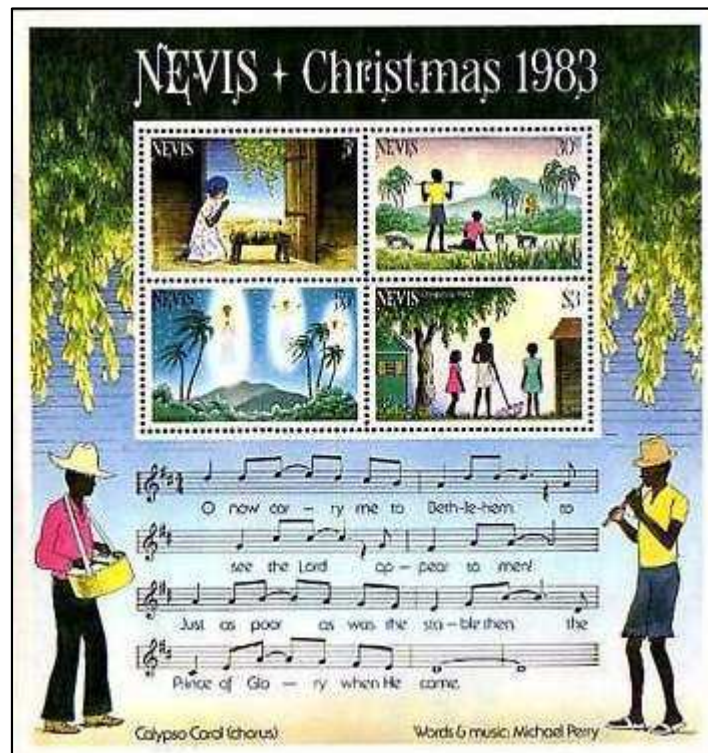
Scott ???

Michel 111-114

Christmas sheet 1983: *Calypso Carol*. Words and music by Michael Perry. The reverend Michael Perry author, journalist and hymn writer, has about six books and fifty hymns published, including twenty Christmas carols. He was born March 8, 1942, at Beckenham in Kent and is currently at Eversely Rectory in Basingstoke. The four stamps picture words of the carol:

5c. *See him lying on a bed of straw*; 30c. *Star of silver sweep across the skies*; 55c. *Angels sing again the song you sang*; \$3. *Mine are riches from your poverty*.

The carol is very popular and is found in many hymn and song books and has been translated into several languages. (Info.: Irene Lawford and Jennifer Toombs via Chuichi Maeda)



## ST. KITTS

Scott ???

Michel 122-125

Christmas sheet 1983, *Mary's Boy Child*. This carol was composed by Jester Hairston. An original work based on Calypso folk rhythms, it was first copyrighted in 1956. Born in 1901, the grandson of a slave, Jester Hairston began to train in classical music and received his degree from Tufts University. He has had a very active life as actor, radio performer and in television appearances. A famous Gospel composer and arranger now in his eight decade, he was sent by the State Department as Ambassador of Good Will to Europe, Africa and Mexico where he taught singers Afro-American songs. He continues his activities and recently toured China with the William Hall Choir. (Info.: Irene Lawford via Chuichi Maeda)

**St Kitts + Christmas 1983**

The postage stamp set includes four stamps with the following denominations and scenes:

- 15¢: A row of colorful houses with palm trees.
- 30¢: A man and a woman walking in a field with a dog and mountains in the background.
- 55¢: A man and a woman standing in front of a house.
- \$2.50: A man and a woman sitting on a porch in front of a house.

**'MARY'S BOY CHILD'**

Long time a - go in Beth - le - hem so the Ho - ly Bi ble say,  
Ma - ry's Boy Child, Je - sus Christ, was born on Christ - mas Day.  
Hark, now hear the an - gels sing, a new King born to - day, And  
Man will live for ev - er more, Be - cause of Christ - mas Day.

Jester Hairston

## ST. KITTS

Scott 8425

Michel 150

To celebrate the first anniversary of independence proclaimed on Sept. 19, 1983, a set of four stamps was issued a year later one of which contains notations in manuscript of the new national anthem, *O Land of Beauty*. At this writing the author is unknown.

(*Scott Stamp Monthly* Dec. 1984, gives Myrna Elcock as the composer)



Addendum: The composer of the anthem is not Myrna Elcock as was previously stated but is Kenrick Georges, born in St. Kitts on May 1, 1955, and currently a music teacher there. He composed the anthem in February of 1983. (Information by Chuichi Maeda, *F.A.P. Journal* September 1985)

## ST. VINCENT

Scott ???

Michel 676-679

Christmas sheet 1983: The music is the recitative of the Evangelist from part two of the Christmas Oratorio by Johann Sebastian Bach (*Und es waren Hirten in derselben Gegend*).

