

Musical Notations on Stamps, Part 17

By J. Posell

GERMANY

Scott 1581

Michel 1425

This stamp was issued June 15, 1989. Friedrich Silcher, German composer and folk song collector, was born in Schnait, Württemberg, June 27, 1789, and died in Tübingen Aug. 26, 1860. He was trained to be a teacher of music, but a meeting with Weber convinced him to embark on a professional music career. He settled in Stuttgart in 1815, gave private lessons and studied piano and composition with Konradin Kreutzer and Hummel. He became director of the Tübingen University and also organized choral societies. He is known primarily as a researcher in folk music and was one of the leading promoters of popular musical education and of music in the schools. He composed some 250 songs, folk-like in style. The music illustrated is his most famous song, "Die Lorelei", to words by Heinrich Heine (Ich weiß nicht, was soll es bedeuten, dass ich so traurig bin) which achieved such great popularity it was often mistaken for a folk song. Besides his songs, Silcher also published choral books, 3 books of hymns, choruses, a history of Evangelical church music, and a book of harmony and composition.

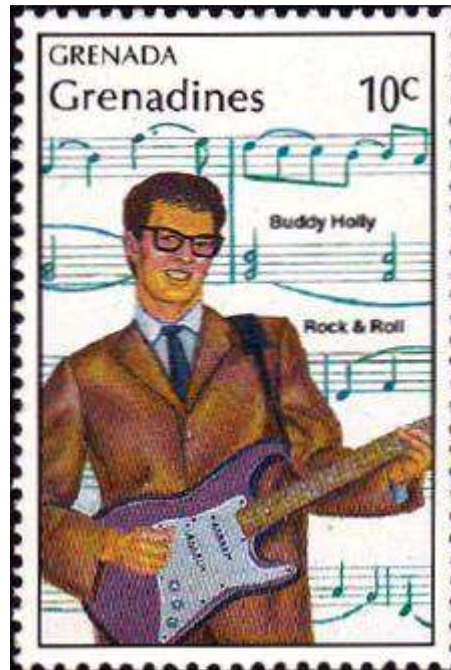


GRENADA GRENADINES

Scott ???

Michel 1216

A set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet were issued on October 9, 1989, called 20th century musicians. The first stamp is a picture of Buddy Holly playing an electric guitar, and is inscribed Rock and Roll. The stamp has a musical notation in the background but it is doubtful that the notation represents actual music.



GRENADA GRENADINES

Scott ???

Michel 1217

A set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet were issued on October 9, 1989, called 20th century musicians. The second stamp is a picture of Jimmy Hendrix playing an electric guitar, and is inscribed Rock and Roll. The stamp has a musical notation in the background but it is doubtful that the notation represents actual music.



GRENADA GRENADINES

Scott ???

Michel 1218

A set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet were issued on October 9, 1989, called 20th century musicians. The third stamp is a picture of Mighty Sparrow who is noted for calypso music. The stamp has a musical notation in the background but it is doubtful that the notation represents actual music.



GRENADA GRENADINES

Scott ???

Michel 1219

A set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet were issued on October 9, 1989, called 20th century musicians. The fourth stamp is a picture of Katsutoji Kineya who is pictured playing an Oriental instrument and the stamp is inscribed Shamisen. The stamp has a musical notation in the background but it is doubtful that the notation represents actual music.



GRENADA GRENADINES

Scott ???

Michel 1220 / Block 179

A set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet were issued on October 9, 1989, called 20th century musicians. The souvenir sheet pictures noted composer Kurt Weill and his wife Lotte Lenya. Also pictured are a saxophone and a violin. The sheet has a musical notation in the background but it is doubtful that the notation represents actual music.

Kurt Weill outstanding composer of modern operas, was born March 2, 1900 in Dessau, Germany. Under the impact of new ideas in the theatre, calling for portrayal of contemporary themes and satire on social life, he began to compose short operas in a modernistic manner. His greatest success was the "Three Penny Opera" based on "The Beggar's Opera" with a text by Bert Brecht. First produced in Berlin in 1928, it soon became the rage all over Europe. Other stage works were produced including "The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny," also with text by Bert Brecht. After the establishment of the Nazi Government, Weill and his wife Lotte Lenya, who appeared in many of his musical plays, were driven out of Germany. He then went to Paris and to London and finally to America where he remained until his death. Here he continued to compose musical shows, film music and operettas which attained great popularity. Among his most successful scores in America were the music for "Street Scène", "Lost in the Stars" and "Knickerbocker Holiday". He also composed a great deal of chamber music which was performed at contemporary music festivals. He died in New York April 3, 1950.



KOREA (NORTH)

Scott ???

Michel 2979

A souvenir sheet issued on February 16, 1989 as a birthday greeting for Kim Jong Il, the head of state of North Korea. The Kimjongilia is a flower in the begonia family raised and cultivated by Kamo Mototeru of Japan. The song, composed by U Chang-Heui, is also entitled Kimjongilia and both were presented as a birthday greeting to "an exceptionally great man whom all the world's people revere, His Excellency Kim Jong Il who is contributing to friendship between the Korean and Japanese peoples and to the cause of world peace". (from the official Korean bulletin. Chuichi Maeda).



KOREA (SOUTH)

Scott ???

Michel 1612 - 1613

The sixth series of Korean stamps featuring popular folk songs (the fifth with notations) was issued February 26, 1990.

One stamp pictures Pakyon-Popko, one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Hwanghae Province. The title of the song is Nanbongga (a playboy song). Though categorized as a folk song of Kyonggi Province, it bears a strong influence of folk songs from Hwanghae Province. Author and composer unknown.

The second song is called "hungtaryong" and belongs to the category of Chungchong Province folk songs. It is sung to the beat of the music of exorcism. How and when it was composed is unknown (Chuichi Maeda).



NORFOLK ISLANDS

Scott ???

Michel 467

Christmas 1989. The following information on these stamps was supplied by Ethel Bloesch whose diligent research I acknowledge with great appreciation and thanks.

Norfolk Island was resettled in 1856 by the inhabitants of Pitcairn Island who were descendants of the mutineers of The Bounty (It had earlier been a penal colony). Norfolk Islanders hold a celebration every year on June 8 called Bounty Day, during which they wear traditional dress and re-enact the walk to the Cenotaph for the laying of wreaths and to the cemetery where old Pitcairn hymns are sung. So perhaps "Bounty Hymns" are the hymns sung on Bounty Days. The four hymns could not have been brought to Norfolk Island by the Pitcairners in 1856, but it is possible that they were brought to Pitcairn and to Norfolk Island by the Seventh-Day Adventists who did mission work on both islands beginning in the 1880s. They could have become part of the tradition that links Norfolk Islanders to their Pitcairn past, and thus be known today as "Bounty Hymns".

The 30c stamp, "While Nature was Sinking in Stillness to Rest", is the most obscure of the four hymns. Although there are 54 entries for this hymn in the Dictionary of American Hymnology, none of the entries provided any attribution of authorship or source. It is likely, therefore, that the words and possibly the tune as well are anonymous. The tune is also identified in some instances as "Gethsemane", but it should not be confused with six other tunes in the hymn repertory that have the same name.



NORFOLK ISLANDS

Scott ???

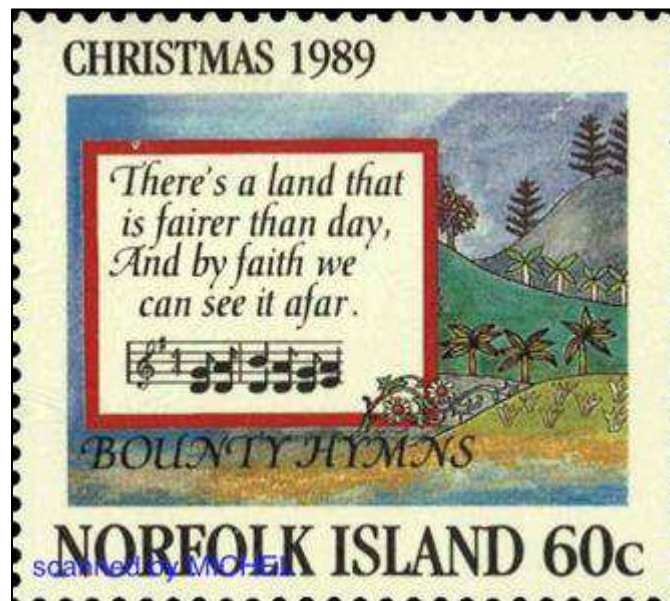
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The 60c stamp shows the hymn title "There's a land that is Fairer than Day", the name of the Hymn tune is "Sweet By and By". The music was composed by Joseph P. Webster and the words are by Stanford F. Bennet. The notes portrayed are the two opening bars of the song. Bennet wrote this hymn shortly after the close of the Civil War when he was a druggist in Elkhorn, Wis. Joseph Webster, composer of the tune "Sweet By and By" was a music teacher in the same town. Webster was born March 22, 1819, in Manchester, N.Y., and died January 18, 1878, in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. His most popular secular song was "Lorena".



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The 75c stamp shows the Hymn title "Let the Lower Lights be Burning" or "Brightly Beams Our Father's Mercy". Philip P. Bliss wrote both the music and the words. The few notes on the stamp are the opening two bars of the refrain, "let the lower lights be burning". Philip Paul Bliss was born July 9, 1838, in Clearfield County, Pa., and died near Astabula, Ohio, Dec. 29, 1876. He composed many collections of music for Sunday school, also gospel songs and hymns.



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Scott ???

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The 80c stamp shows the Hymn title "O Have You Heard Of That Beautiful Stream". The words are thought to be by R. Torrey Jr. the music was composed by Asa Hull. The notation is taken from the last two bars of the verse, "and ripple o'er golden sand". The poem with the present music appeared in Asa Hull's "The Casket" published in Philadelphia in 1865 where it is credited to R. Torrey, Jr. To date no information has come to light concerning the author. Asa Hull was born Jan. 18, 1828, in Keene, N.Y.; date of death unknown. A German version, "Ich weiß einen Strom" was made by Ernst Heinrich Gebhardt (1832-1899), a Methodist minister and evangelist. The hymn is still very popular among Mennonite churches.



PORTUGAL

Scott 1804

Michel 1816

This stamp was issued on March 6, 1990. "A Portuguesa" is the third national anthem of Portugal. The first anthem was written by the prince regent Dom Pedro who declared Brazil's independence from Portugal on Feb. 7, 1822, and had himself proclaimed Emperor. He wrote the anthem "O Patria, O Rei, O Povo" (O Fatherland, O King, O People). After the death of King John VI (Joao) in 1826, he himself ascended the Portuguese throne as Pedro IV and his successors kept the hymn under the title of "Himno da Carta".

"A Portuguesa" was composed in 1890 by Alfredo Keil (1850-1907) with text by Henrique Mendoca (1856-1931) and was immediately associated with the Republican movement. It became the counterpoint to the official "Charter Anthem", was played everywhere and became more popular than any other march. In 1891 it was banned by the authorities but when the Republican movement triumphed in Oct. 1910, it was confirmed by the National Assembly as the official anthem of the Republic of Portugal. Alfredo Keil was born in Lisbon July 3, 1850, and died in Hamburg Oct. 4, 1907. He was of German extraction and received his education in Germany. Returning to Portugal he devoted his energies to the furtherance of national music and was the first to compose an opera on a Portuguese subject in the Portuguese language. He composed three operas: "Donna Biana", "Irene" and "Serrana", the first grand opera in Portuguese (Lisbon 1899); also two symphonic sketches and songs. The notations on the stamp are taken from bars 2, 3-6, 7-12, 13 and bars 2, 3 of the chorus although written a fifth higher than in the printed version of the "National Anthems of the Worlds", sixth edition, Blandforth Press 1986.

