

## Musical Notations on Stamps: Part 2A + 2B

By J. Posell

It is now five years since I wrote Musical Notations on Stamps for the Fine Arts Philatelist (see Vol. 9:3). Having heard no adverse criticism from the musicologists among us, I felt it proper to continue with an addendum bringing this series up to date. Since my last writing, many issues have appeared with musical notations and, in reviewing my albums, I found two omissions in the previous article. Five years hence I promise our readers another addendum - presuming we are all here at that time.

### BELGIUM

Scott 790

Michel 1421

Two souvenir sheets were issued on April 16, 1966 to honor the late Queen Elizabeth, long a patron of the arts in her country. These consisted of reproductions of previously issued stamps, one of which was the Mozart stamp issued in 1958 for Belgium (Scott B588; Michel 1038), for the Congo (Scott B39; Michel 333) and for Ruanda-Urundi (Scott B22; Michel 157A). This contains the music of the opening allegro movement of a Sonata for piano with violin "ad libitum" Köchel 6.



## COLOMBIA

Scott C463

Michel 1056

Alberto Castilla (1883-1937) was a railroad engineer, a poet and newspaper man. He was also a composer, a professor and the founder and director of the Conservatory of Tolima. He organized several music conventions in his country and composed many works including a Requiem Mass. Pictured on the stamp (issued November, 10, 1964) are the opening bars of his popular song "El Bunde".



## CUBA

Scott ???

Michel 1226

To honor the second song festival held in Havana, a set of seven stamps was issued on November 18, 1966, each of which pictures a composer and bars of music from one of his popular songs. The words of the songs are omitted in all cases as only the piano introductions are given. Since the title of each song is printed above the music, identification here would seem superfluous. It would be appropriate rather, to present a short biography of the composers portrayed since most of them are quite unknown in the United States (Because Cuban stamps since July 1961 are not listed in American catalogues, Scott numbers cannot be given).

Amadeo Roldan (1900-1939) was a violinist and composer. Roldan was born in Paris of Cuban parents. He studied violin and composition at the conservatory in Madrid and in 1921 he settled in Havana where he embarked on a career as violinist, conductor and composer. His most powerful work is the ballet "La Rebambaramba" which employs number of native Cuban percussion instruments. His other works were written for smaller combinations of instruments and voice. In 1924 he became concertmaster of the Orquesta Filharmonica in Havana and in 1932 he became the conductor, succeeding San Juan, a position he held until the year he died. The song on the stamp is "Fiesta Negra".



## CUBA

Scott ???

Michel 1227

To honor the second song festival held in Havana, a set of seven stamps was issued on November 18, 1966, each of which pictures a composer and bars of music from one of his popular songs. The words of the songs are omitted in all cases as only the piano introductions are given. Since the title of each song is printed above the music, identification here would seem superfluous. It would be appropriate rather, to present a short biography of the composers portrayed since most of them are quite unknown in the United States (Because Cuban stamps since July 1961 are not listed in American catalogues, Scott numbers cannot be given).

Eduardo Sanches de Fuentes (1874-1944). Important Cuban composer and educator, Sanches occupied an influential position in the artists affairs of Cuba. He wrote six operas and many other works but is known outside Cuba chiefly for his popular song "Tu" which he published at the age of eighteen. Besides his operas, he wrote music for chorus and orchestra, orchestral music, songs and piano pieces. He also published two books on Cuban folklore. Sanches was the first Cuban composer to make consistent use of Native themes. The song on the stamp is "Tu".



## CUBA

Scott ???

Michel 1228

To honor the second song festival held in Havana, a set of seven stamps was issued on November 18, 1966, each of which pictures a composer and bars of music from one of his popular songs. The words of the songs are omitted in all cases as only the piano introductions are given. Since the title of each song is printed above the music, identification here would seem superfluous. It would be appropriate rather, to present a short biography of the composers portrayed since most of them are quite unknown in the United States (Because Cuban stamps since July 1961 are not listed in American catalogues, Scott numbers cannot be given).

Moises Simons (1890-1945). Simons first began to study with his father at the age of five. Soon he began writing zarzuelas (Spanish dances) without knowing the rudiments of composition. At 15 he began to study seriously with established teachers. He composed operas, lyric comedies and revistas (musical shows), many of which were mysteriously lost. He also composed many songs, boleros and dances which employed Cuban folklore. His capriccio for orchestra, "Zaida", was performed in many countries. As a well-known pianist composer and conductor, he returned to Havana in 1942 after many years in Europe, but found it economically impossible to remain so left for Madrid where he died in 1945. The song on the stamp is "El Manisero", which was very popular in this country and was known as "The Peanut Vendor".



## CUBA

Scott ???

Michel 1229

To honor the second song festival held in Havana, a set of seven stamps was issued on November 18, 1966, each of which pictures a composer and bars of music from one of his popular songs. The words of the songs are omitted in all cases as only the piano introductions are given. Since the title of each song is printed above the music, identification here would seem superfluous. It would be appropriate rather, to present a short biography of the composers portrayed since most of them are quite unknown in the United States (Because Cuban stamps since July 1961 are not listed in American catalogues, Scott numbers cannot be given).

Jorge Anckerman (1877-1941) was born and died in Havana. He first began to study music with his father Carlos, a violinist, and at the age of 15 became impresario of a Cuban operetta company which toured the main cities of Mexico and California. After a few years of teaching in Mexico he returned to Cuba where he became a conductor and began to write works for the theatre. He wrote more than 500 scores of zarzuelas, revues and comic operas. Besides music for the theatre he also left a large number of songs and dances which have become very well known in Cuba and elsewhere. Anckerman was an excellent pianist and double bass player. In his music he employs many folk themes. The song on the stamp is his "El Arroyo que Murmura".



## CUBA

Scott ???

Michel 1230

To honor the second song festival held in Havana, a set of seven stamps was issued on November 18, 1966, each of which pictures a composer and bars of music from one of his popular songs. The words of the songs are omitted in all cases as only the piano introductions are given. Since the title of each song is printed above the music, identification here would seem superfluous. It would be appropriate rather, to present a short biography of the composers portrayed since most of them are quite unknown in the United States (Because Cuban stamps since July 1961 are not listed in American catalogues, Scott numbers cannot be given).

Alejandro Garcia Caturla (1906-1940) studied with Pedro San Juan in Havana and with Nadia Boulanger in Paris. In 1932 he founded and conducted the Orquesta de Conciertos de Caibarien (chamber orchestra) in Cuba. Among his major works performed in Cuba, Europe and the United States are Three Cuban Dances, Bembe for 14 Instruments, Dos Poemas Afro-Cubanos for voice and piano and many others. Caturla served as district judge in Remedios and was assassinated there 12 November 1940. The song on the stamp is "Pastoral Lullaby".



## CUBA

Scott ???

Michel 1231

To honor the second song festival held in Havana, a set of seven stamps was issued on November 18, 1966, each of which pictures a composer and bars of music from one of his popular songs. The words of the songs are omitted in all cases as only the piano introductions are given. Since the title of each song is printed above the music, identification here would seem superfluous. It would be appropriate rather, to present a short biography of the composers portrayed since most of them are quite unknown in the United States (Because Cuban stamps since July 1961 are not listed in American catalogues, Scott numbers cannot be given).

Eliseo Grenet (1893-1950) devoted himself to vernacular music (music of the masses). He introduced the conga to audiences in Barcelona, Madrid, Paris, London and the United States. He also wrote plays for the theatre. "La Virgen Morena" had more than 1600 appearances in Spain. Grenet was a serious composer, a famous pianist and was well known for his popular and semi-classical dances. Because of his extraordinary artistic efforts outside Cuba, it can well be said that he is most responsible for the popularity of Cuban folklorist music in foreign countries. The song on the stamp is "¡Ay! Mama Ines".





## CUBA

Scott ???

Michel 1232

To honor the second song festival held in Havana, a set of seven stamps was issued on November 18, 1966, each of which pictures a composer and bars of music from one of his popular songs. The words of the songs are omitted in all cases as only the piano introductions are given. Since the title of each song is printed above the music, identification here would seem superfluous. It would be appropriate rather, to present a short biography of the composers portrayed since most of them are quite unknown in the United States (Because Cuban stamps since July 1961 are not listed in American catalogues, Scott numbers cannot be given).

Ernesto Lecuona (1896-1963) is perhaps the best known Cuban composer in America. His "Malaguena", "Andalusia" and "Siboney" are familiar melodies and are still very popular here. After graduating from the National Conservatory in Havana in 1911, Lecuona toured South America and Europe as leader of a Cuban dance band. Besides his very popular songs, he has also written operas and symphonic works. On 10 October 1943 he presented a concert of Cuban music at Carnegie Hall in New York at which he gave the first performance of his "Rapsodia Negra" for piano and orchestra. The song on the stamp is "La Comparsa".



## CUBA

Scott ???

Michel 1292

A stamp was issued on April 28, 1967 to honor the Montreal Exposition, "Man the Creator". The stamp illustrates some elongated black lines on five line stave with treble and bass clef signs which might be time duration indications. This could be the ultimate in man's creation of achievement in the field of music. Sometime called graphic music, notes and time value are abolished and new symbols for time, pitch and ad libitum improvisation are used. This type of writing was developed to an advanced degree during the past decade by extreme avant-garde composers such as Luciano Berio of Italy (Differences for 5 Instruments and Stereophonic Tape), John Cage of the U.S. (O'OO to be Performed in any way by any one), Karlheinz Stockhausen of Germany (Zyklus), Roman Haubenstock-Ramati of Poland and Henri Pousseur of Belgium (Seismogrammes for Magnetic Tape). This small fragment is not attributable to anyone to this writer's knowledge, but is perhaps typical of this new type of "music".



## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Scott 1373

Michel 1602

A miniature sheet issued on March 21, 1966 to honor the 100th anniversary of the first performance of Smetana's world famous opera "Prodana Nevesta" or "The bartered Bride". First produced on May 30, 1868 in Prague, it has since had successful performances in all opera houses of the world. The music depicted is from the opening scene of the opera: chorus of villagers singing "Why shouldn't we be happy?"



## DENMARK

Scott 430

Michel 449x

A single stamp issued on January 9, 1967 to honor the 100th anniversary of the Royal Danish Conservatory. The three bars of music are the opening of the first symphony in C minor by Gade. Niels W. Gade, famous Danish composer, was one of the founders and the first director of the Conservatory.



## ECUADOR

Scott 734-737

Michel 1170-1173

Four stamps issued on September 10, 1965 to commemorate the centenary of the National Anthem. The portraits are of Juan Leon Mera (1832-1894) author of the text and of Antonio Neumane (1818-1871), the composer. Neumane or Neumann was born in Quito of German parents. He later became the first director of the National Conservatory in Quito which was established in 1870. The anthem was officially recognized by government decree in 1866 though it had been in use for a considerable length of time before that. In late 1967 two stamps of this set were overprinted with new values and a G clef in the lower right hand corner over the old value.



## FINLAND

Scott 433,434

Michel 603, 604

Two stamps issued during the Sibelius Festival in Helsinki in May 1965 which commemorated the 100th anniversary of the birth of the composer Jean Sibelius (1865-1957). Both musical quotations are from the tone poem "Finlandia" Op. 29 No. 7.



## FRANCE

Scott B397

Michel 1553

A stamp was issued in 1966 to honour Gabriel Faure (1845-1924). As stated on the stamp this music is a quotation from the opera "Penelope" (first performed in Monte Carlo 1913).



## GERMANY

Scott 987

Michel 566

On 21 June 1868 Richard Wagner's opera "Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg" (The Mastersingers of Nuremberg) was performed for the first time. To mark the 100th anniversary, Germany issued a stamp on June 21, 1968 to honor Richard Wagner (\* 22 May 1813 in Leipzig; + 13 February 1883 in Venice; buried in Bayreuth). The motif is a reproduction of the first few bars of the original score of the overture to "The Mastersingers", the inscription "Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg" shown in Wagner's handwriting, and of his signature.





## GERMANY (FINSTERWALDE)

Scott ???

Michel 1-12

A series of 12 crudely printed stamps and two souvenir sheets issued on February 16, 1946 for the rebuilding of Finsterwalde. The stamps are inscribed Sangerstadt (city of singers) and there are a few notes of music under a building which might be the town hall. Among the many singing societies which existed in German cities since ancient times, the one in Finsterwalde was particularly well known. The city boasted its Stadtpfeiferei or town band and its singing society which conducted a yearly Sangerfest or song festival. The notation on the stamps is the beginning of the theme song of this organization, "Wir sind die Sanger von Finsterwalde" which tune Beethoven, in humorous and reverential appreciation, embellished somewhat and used as a theme with variations for the last movement of his Trio in B flat major for piano, clarinet and cello, op. 11. The opening lines of the song are as follows:

1. Wir sind die Sanger von Finsterwalde, wir leb'n und sterben fur den Gesang. Da wir die Sanger sind, das wei ein jedes Kind, wir leb'n und sterben fur den Gesang. Da wir die sang.



Addendum: Please refer to the other document for more details (Peter Lang, 2015)

## GERMANY (G.D.R.)

Scott 652, 653

Michel 966, 967

Two stamps issued on June 18, 1963 for the 75th anniversary of "The International", workers party song and for many years the official song of the Communist Party. The song was composed by Pierre Degeyter (1849-1932, \* in Paris, + St. Denis) but the authorship of this music was contested by his brother Adolphe. However, after 18 years of litigation the Paris appellate court ruled in favor of Pierre. The 20pf stamp pictures Eugene Pottier, a member of the Paris Commune, who wrote the words in 1871 while in hiding. Later he fled to the United States but returned to Paris in 1885 and died there about 1900. The musical reproduction on the stamps contains errors in time value, melodic line, etc.

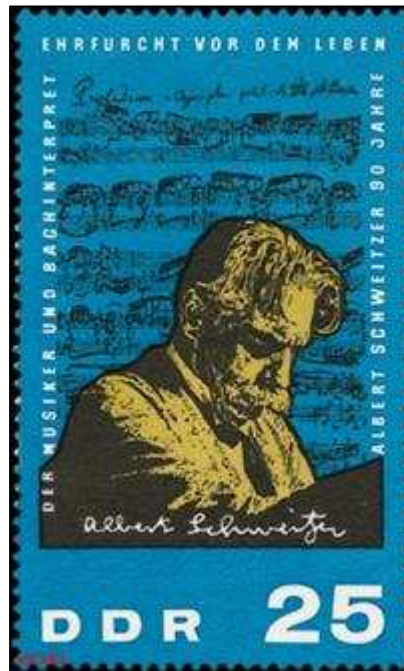


## GERMANY (G.D.R.)

Scott #750

Michel 1086

A set of three stamps issued on January 14, 1965 to honor the 90th birthday of Dr. Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965.), physician, humanist, organist and Bach interpreter. The 25pf stamp has the opening notation from the Praeludium and Fugue in B minor for organ by J. S. Bach in background.



## GERMANY (G.D.R.)

Scott 847

Michel 1196

A series of six stamps issued on July 15, 1966 to commemorate the Spanish Civil War of 1936. One of the stamps contains the music of a song entitled "Die Thälmann Kolonne". The Thälmann column was a group of German anti-fascists, many of whom were communists, who were smuggled out of Hitler's Third Reich to fight for the Loyalist government in Spain. Numbering about 500 men, they formed themselves into the original Thälmann Gruppe (group) and as their numbers grew, into the Kolonne, and finally into the Thälmann battalion which was then incorporated into the XI brigade of the International Brigades. Under the leadership of Gen. Eric Kleber, whose real name was Lazar Stern, they arrived in Spain on 7 November 1936 and it was largely the heroism of this battalion which saved Madrid from Franco's onslaught. Only several dozen of the original men survived the civil war and the prison camps. Ernst Thälmann was the leader of the German Communist Party and died in a Nazi prison camp in 1934. The song is believed composed by Paul Dessau with text by Karl Ernst.



# GHANA

Scott 178a

Michel 184 A

A souvenir sheet issued on September 21, 1964 for the 55th birthday of President Nkrumah, known as Founder's Day. On the left edge are the opening notes of the country's national anthem which was composed by Philip Gbeho and was officially adopted in 1957. The words are by various authors, the composer himself having written the fourth stanza.



## HUNGARY

Scott B397

Michel 1921

Two stamps, perforate and imperforate, issued on May 23, 1963 to commemorate the 70 anniversary of the death of Ferenc Erkel (1810-1893), Hungary's nationalist composer. The one bar of music is the opening of the overture to the opera "Hunyadi László". Erkel also was the composer of the Hungarian National Anthem (1845).



## HUNGARY

Scott 1681

Michel 2125

Two miniature sheets were issued to honor the Vienna Philatelic Exhibition, June 4-13, 1965. These contain reproductions of the WIPA stamps issued by Austria in 1933 with music from an authentic post horn call.



## ITALY

Scott 968

Michel 1241

Umberto Giordano's (1867-1948) most famous opera is "Andrea Chenier" and this music is Chenier's aria "Un di all'azzurro spazio guardai profondo" from the first act. Giordano was - along with Leoneavallo - one of the composers who submitted an opera, "Marina", for the Sonzogno opera competition in 1888 and which was won by Mascagni for his "Cavalleria Rusticana". The stamp was issued on August 28, 1967.





# LIBERIA

Scott C169a

Michel 642 A, 643 A

A souvenir sheet issued on November 29, 1965 to honor the 70th birthday of President Tubman with the Liberian national anthem in the background. The anthem was composed by Olmstead Luca and the text is by Daniel Bashiel Warner who was the third president of Liberia.



## POLAND

Scott 918

Michel 1170 A

A set of eight stamps issued on June 15, 1960 to commemorate Polish victories in the Olympics. This stamp honors the 17th Olympic games held in London in 1948 and contains bars of music from the Second Symphony by Zbigniew Turski called "The Olympiad". The work was awarded a prize by the association of Polish composers and the music jury of the London Olympics but was never published. Turski was born near Warsaw 7 July 1908 and belongs to the vanguard of Polish composers. All his music written before 1945 was lost during the war. His works include three symphonies, two violin concertos, a piano concerto, a string quartet, cantatas, etc.



## ROMANIA

Scott 1565

Michel 2169

As stamp was issued on August 10, 1963 to honor the 150th anniversary of the birth of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901), Italy's outstanding operatic composer. The musical quotation is Rhadames famous "Celeste Aida" from Act I of "Aida".



## SWEDEN

Scott 774, 775

Michel 601, 602

The music on the stamps (issued April 3, 1968) is from Franz Berwald (1796-1868). It is the opening bar of the overture to the opera "Drottningen av Golconda" (The Queen of Golconda) romantic opera in three acts after the French "Aline, Reine de Golconda" of Vidal and Faviere. Written in 1864, this is the last of Berwald's five operas. He completed seven in all but two were lost or destroyed. The part of the Queen in the opera was written for Christina Nilsson, a pupil of Berwald who came to him as a violinist in 1859. However, he soon discovered and developed her vocal talents. Nilsson later went to Paris where she achieved a great success during the sixties and enjoyed an international reputation second only to Jenny Lind's.



## TURKEY

Scott 1649

Michel 1990

Arel, Huseyn Sadettin (1880-1955) was a composer and musicologist. He was born into a distinguished Turkish family in Istanbul. He studied at the Lycee in Izmir in a French college and in 1906 completed his studies in Istanbul. He then held various positions in the government and from 1918 to 1953 he worked in that city as a lawyer for the liberal party. In the last two years of his life he devoted himself completely to Turkish music which had been his interest since his youth. During his life he founded several magazines and journals devoted to music and to culture generally to which he contributed many articles under an assumed name - Bedi Mensi. Arel is known throughout Turkey as a master theoretician and musicologist as well as a composer. He was proficient on many musical instruments, native and western, and developed a polyphonic form based on the four note scale which greatly influenced the national music. He wrote many musical compositions besides a number of books on Turkish music and theory.



Addendum: The stamp was issued on March 25, 1966. However, I have no idea why Mr. Posell has included this stamp to his list of stamps with musical notations.

## TURKEY

Scott 1678

Michel 1984

Tanburi Cemil (1873-1916) started his first musical lessons with his brother Tanburi Ahmet Bey and at the age of 15 he was considered a great virtuoso on the tambur. He then learned to play the violin, cello, and various native Instruments such as the zurna, tar, etc. and was one of the first musicians to give recitals in Turkey of national Turkish music. Later he became professor of music history at the Turkish State Conservatory in Ankara and while there he greatly raised the standards of musical study. In his compositions he followed the style of the classical Turkish tradition and was the first composer to embody the elements of Turkish folk music in his works. Several of his compositions were recorded on Orpheon records and in 1901 he wrote a book which, for the first time, recorded and made permanent the rules of national Turkish music ("Rehber i Musiki" or "Guide to Music"). Other theoretical works were started but they were left unfinished due to his death of tuberculosis. Tanburi Cemil Bey is noted as a composer in the national school as well as a virtuoso who developed the technique of many native instruments.



Addendum: The stamp was issued on March 25, 1966. However, I have no idea why Mr. Posell has included this stamp to his list of stamps with musical notations.