

## Musical Notations on Stamps: Part 9

By J. Posell

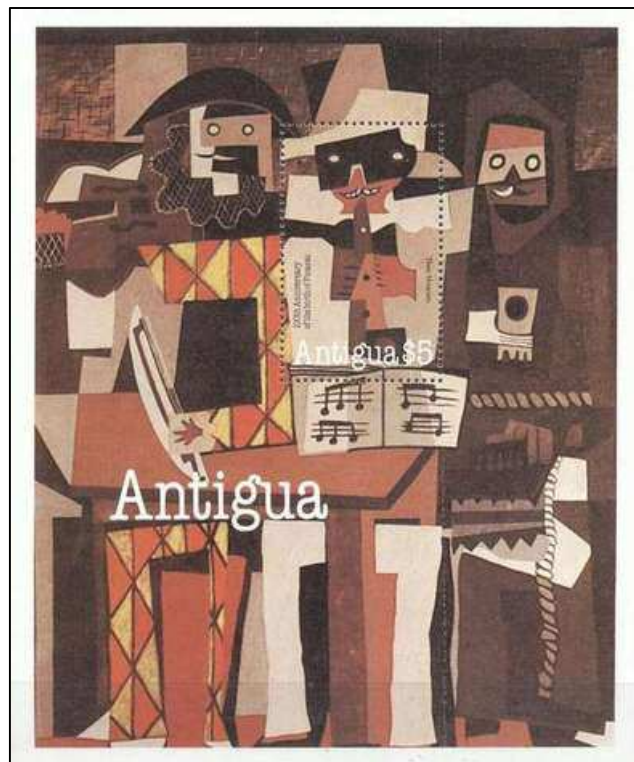
Newly-acquired information pertaining to previous issues and recent acquisitions deem it advisable to publish part nine even though it is shorter than customary.

### ANTIGUA

Scott ???

Michel 627

For the 100th anniversary of the birth of Picasso, Antigua issued a souvenir sheet of his painting, Three Musicians (now in the Philadelphia Museum of Art). This contains a few symbolic notes of music on a three-line staff which is purely Picasso.

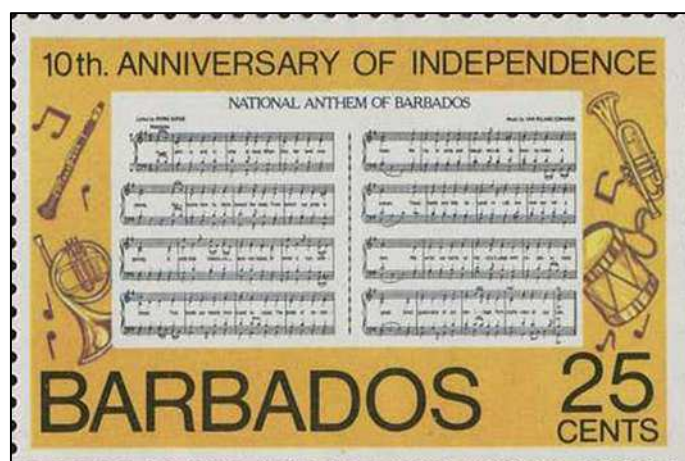


## BARBADOS

Scott 450

Michel 415 A

The composer of the Barbados National Anthem is Ronald Edwards. He was born in 1912 and received his education at the St. Peter's Church Boys' School in Barbados. Although he had no special musical training, he wrote music from his early school days. The National Anthem was composed in 1966 but, because of partial blindness, he was assisted by his two daughters. (Bulletin sent by Chuichi Maeda).



## CHAD

Scott MK 696

Michel 574

One of a series of five stamps and a souvenir sheet picturing classical paintings with old musical instruments, this item was inadvertently omitted from Part Eight. The stamp - issued in 1972 - pictures Mary Magdalen playing a six course lute and while the notation on the stamp itself is not very clear, the same painting as illustrated in the new Grove Dictionary of Music (Vol. II. p. 351) affords a clearer view. The painting is discussed in detail by Daniel Hertz in his article "Mary Magdalen, Lutenist" written for the Journal of the Lute Society in America, 1972. The music in the painting is a two-part intabulation of the French chanson "Si j'ayme mon amy", a song in five stanzas dealing with a young wife unhappily married to an old and jealous husband. The modernized notation of the music on the stamp is also illustrated here. (Ethel Bloesch)



Ex. 1.

Score supplied by Lute Society of America by Anna Burns and Nancy Carlin (2014)

## CHAD

Scott MK 701

Michel 579 / Block 50

The souvenir sheet - issued in 1972 - contains an example of old polyphonic notation. This was diligently and laboriously researched by Ethel Bloesch whose endless endeavors in this series of articles is gratefully acknowledged. She writes: "The shape of the notation and the word 'contratenor' both suggest that this is music of the 14th or 15th century. Contratenor was the name of the 3rd voice in polyphony of this period. The most complete catalogue of this music is found in RISM (Répertoire International des Sources Musicales). Four volumes are devoted to manuscripts of polyphonic music of the 11th through 16th centuries, and they contain more than 2.000 pages of musical incipits arranged by country where the manuscript is located. A page-by-page check did not reveal the source of this example, but similar notation was found in a late 14th century manuscript at Chantilly, France ...

It seems likely, therefore, that the notation was copied from an actual musical score."





## FAROE ISLANDS

Scott 69

Michel 66

On October 19, 1981, a set of five stamps was issued devoted to historic writings in the Faroes. The 1 kr. stamp recalls the publication in 1846 of one of the oldest folk songs heard in the Faroes since earliest recollection. These songs attained full status as historical literature only in the 19th century after systematic transcription of most into modern notation. The inscription on the stamp states: "compiled and edited by H. Rung 1946" (Henrik Rung, Danish conductor and composer, 1807-1871).



Addendum: Ethel Bloesch has received belated information from the Faroese Postal Service regarding this stamp. The additional new information tells us that the title of the folk song is "En hedensk kongedatter" (A pagan princess fair). The title of the collection is "Faerøiske Folkemelodier" and the compiler was Henrik Rung (previously mentioned). The collection was never published but was family property until 1939 when the manuscript was given to the Danish Royal Library. As far as is known, there is no modern edition of this song. (F.A.P. Journal March 1983)

## JAMAICA

Scott ???

Michel 516-523

Seven stamps and a souvenir sheet were issued to honor Bob Marley (1945-1981), Jamaican reggae singer and composer. All seven stamps show notations of Marley originals, the notes on the souvenir sheet are of symbolic nature.

Bob Marley was born in the village of Rhoden Hall, Feb. 6, 1945, of a white father, a British army captain, and a native black mother. At the age of 9 he was taken to Kingston where he attended school and later worked as an electric welder. He picked up popular music on the streets, the radio and jukeboxes, opened a small record shop and began recording some of his own tunes, a mixture of the current calypso and American "soul" music. He was also active as a member of the Rastafarian religious group, followers of Haile Selassie of Ethiopia (whose original name was Ras Tafari). In 1976 he became involved in politics, supporting the People's National Party. While preparing to sing at a band concert on Dec, 3, 1976, he was shot and wounded. Upon recovery he went to Europe scoring an unexpected success in England, Sweden, Holland and West Germany. In 1977 he made a tour of the U.S. where his fame already preceded him via his recorded albums. His songs, in black Jamaican dialect, preach love and revolution. Typical of these are "Rebel Music", "Everywhere be War" and "Death to the Downpressors". Marley died in 1981 in Miami while returning home from Germany for cancer treatment. (Baker's Biographical Dictionary, Sixth Edition, and Chuichi Maeda)





## KOREA (North)

Scott ???

Michel 1718

A souvenir sheet dated 1978 entitled "Song of Korea" and inscribed in English, "An Immortal Classic Masterpiece"; was issued by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Enquiries to prominent Korean musicians here and to the Cultural Department of the Korean Legation have produced no answers as to the origin of the song or anything about it. It has been stated that due to the complete division of North and South Korea and the lack of communication between the peoples of both areas, information, including the songs and music of North Korea, is unfamiliar and unknown to the people of the South.



Addendum: Kim Il-sung (1912-1994), the leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) is described as a writer of "classical masterpieces". During the anti-Japanese struggle he wrote some novels and song texts which are considered as "prototypes and models of literature and art in North Korea". One of his famous novels is "Song of Korea". It is not known, if the song is related to this novel. However, several stamps issued later, show musical notes for songs based on texts written by Kim Il-sung. (Peter Lang, 2014)



## MONGOLIA

Scott ???

Michel 1434

A set of seven stamps picturing famous composers was issued by Mongolia on Nov. 16, 1981. Included are Beethoven, Mozart, Bartok, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak and Chopin. Only the Dvorak stamp contains musical notation: three excerpts from the New World Symphony Op. 95 in piano reduction. The first is the two opening bars of the Symphony followed by the beginning of the allegro molto section of the first movement. The second line contains the opening four bars of the famous Largo movement.

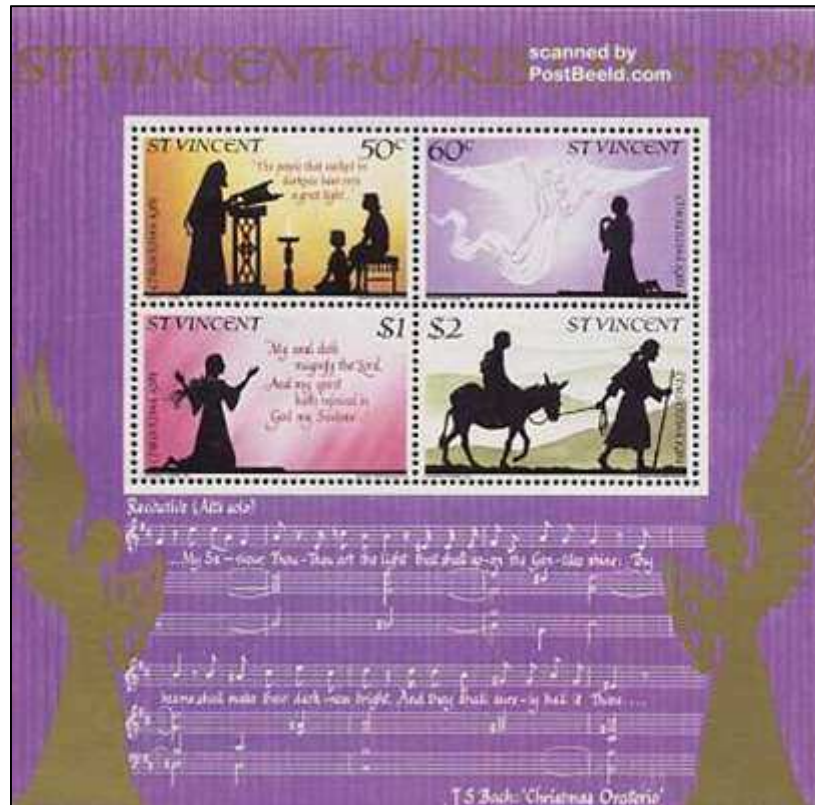


## ST. VINCENT

Scott ???

Michel 619-622

A souvenir sheet designed by Jennifer Toombs and issued for Christmas 1981 contains a five-bar quotation from the Christmas Oratorio of J. S. Bach, composed in 1734-35. This is part of the recitative for alto solo found in Part V entitled "Am Sonntag nach Neujahr". The quotation itself is from #45, "Wo ist der neugeborne König der Juden" (Where is the newborn King of the Jews). The oratorio was composed in six sections for six different services between Christmas Day and Epiphany.

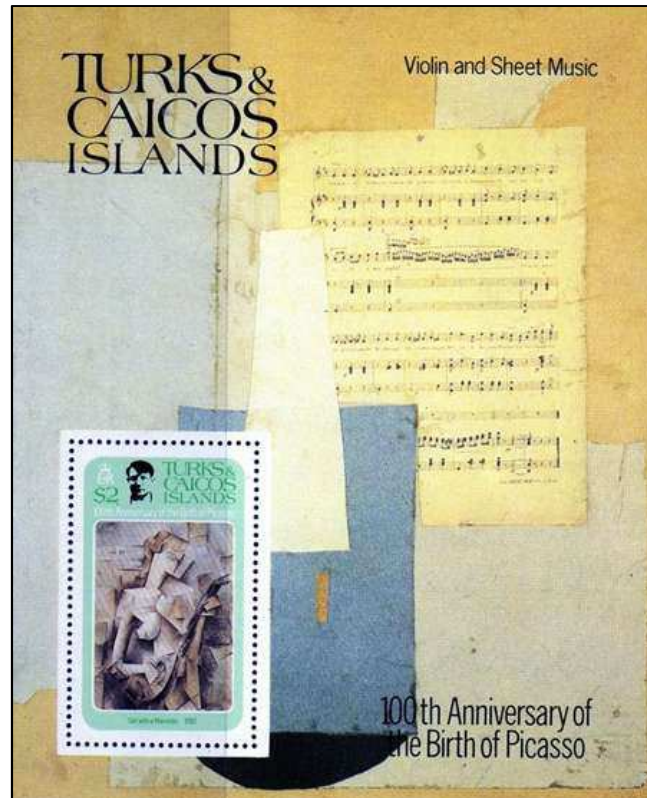


## TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Scott ???

Michel 541

A souvenir sheet was issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Pablo Picasso in 1881. Pictured is his painting "Young Girl with Mandolin" made in 1910 and now in the Roland Penrose collection in London. Added to this (probably to attract the music collector) is a page of vocal music. The sheet is inscribed "Violin and Sheet Music" but the elongated mandolin is not a violin and the music is undecipherable because of the indistinct printing. An inquiry to the postal authorities in Turks and Caicos has proved fruitless.



Addendum: "Violin and sheet music" is an authentic work by Pablo Picasso, created in 1912 (pasted paper on cardboard, 78 x 65 cm, Musée Picasso, Paris). Some sources state that the commercially printed sheet music included in this and other works of Picasso evoke the popular cabaret songs of Picasso's life in Paris. (Peter Lang, 2014)

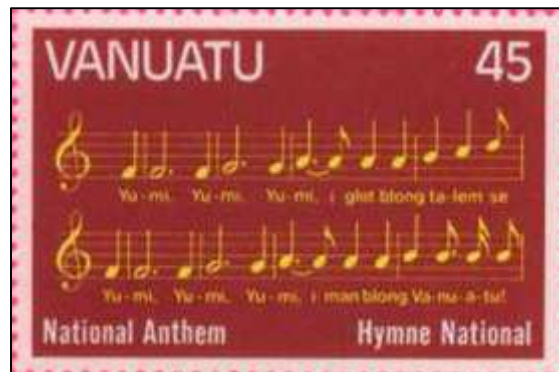
## VANUATU

Scott ???

Michel 611

On July 30, 1980, the group of South Pacific Islands known as the New Hebrides became the Republic of Vanuatu. The stamp was issued on July 30, 1981, to commemorate the first anniversary of independence. The national anthem has no title but is known by the first three words of the chorus, "Yumi, yumi, yumi". The words and melody were written by a native, Francois Vincent, who is an announcer on Radio Vanuatu. A competition was held before independence and the winner was chosen by Parliament from three songs submitted by a commission empowered to judge the competition. It is an original composition and is not adapted from any folk song. The text is in Bislama which is the language commonly used in Vanuatu.

(Bulletin of the Dept. of Posts and Telecommunications, Vanuatu and Chuichi Maeda)





## VIETNAM (North)

Scott ???

Michel 657

This stamp was issued in 1971 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Paris Commune Uprising in 1871. The music is the opening of "L'International", revolutionary song composed by Pierre Degeyter in 1888. The portrait is of Karl Marx.



