

Note-Worthy Music Stamps, Part 1

By Ethel Bloesch

In 1963 Jacques Posell wrote an intriguing and illuminating article, "Musical Notations on Stamps", for the *Journal of Fine Arts Philatelists*. In it he identified and described the music on some 56 stamp issues. The article was so well received that he provided an update five years later, and then another and another, at more frequent intervals. In all he wrote an impressive series of 18 articles, spanning 30 years. When I entered the world of collecting in the 1970s I quickly learned that Jacques Posell was the established authority on the thematic topic that I had chosen. His gracious reply to my first letter of inquiry has led to a close and continuing friendship. I am honored, therefore, to have been asked to carry forward the work that Jacques Posell has so ably given us. I will strive to maintain his high standards. The first article in this new series provides a wrap-up on the voluminous offering of stamps for the 1991 Mozart anniversary. It describes six remaining Mozart issues (four of which were issued a year late) and gives new information on four Mozart and two general issues that were pictured and described in Part 18 of "Musical Notations on Stamps". The next article will be devoted to other stamps issued in 1992 and 1993.

ANDORRA (FRENCH)

Scott 409

Michel 429

Stamp issued October 5, 1991 for the 200th anniversary of Mozart's death. Many small scenes, including a group of performing musicians, surround a portrait, presumably of Mozart. Below the portrait is a single staff from the autograph manuscript of the Requiem in D minor, K.626. The excerpt shows the first violin line in measures 3 and 4 of the *Introitus*, the opening movement of the *Requiem*.



BEQUIA (Grenadines of St. Vincent)

Scott 290-292

Michel 285-287

Set of three stamps and three souvenir sheets, issued in 1991 for the Mozart anniversary. This set, interestingly, includes music from the beginning, middle, and end of Mozart's life. The autograph score of an early piano work, the *Andante in Bb major, K.9b (5b)*, forms the background for the three stamps. This 38-measure fragmentary piece, composed at age seven, is one of the pieces that Mozart wrote into his sister's music book, the "Nannerl Notebook". Superimposed upon the score is the Barbara Krafft portrait of Mozart (reversed) and the picture of a piccolo, piano, or violetta.

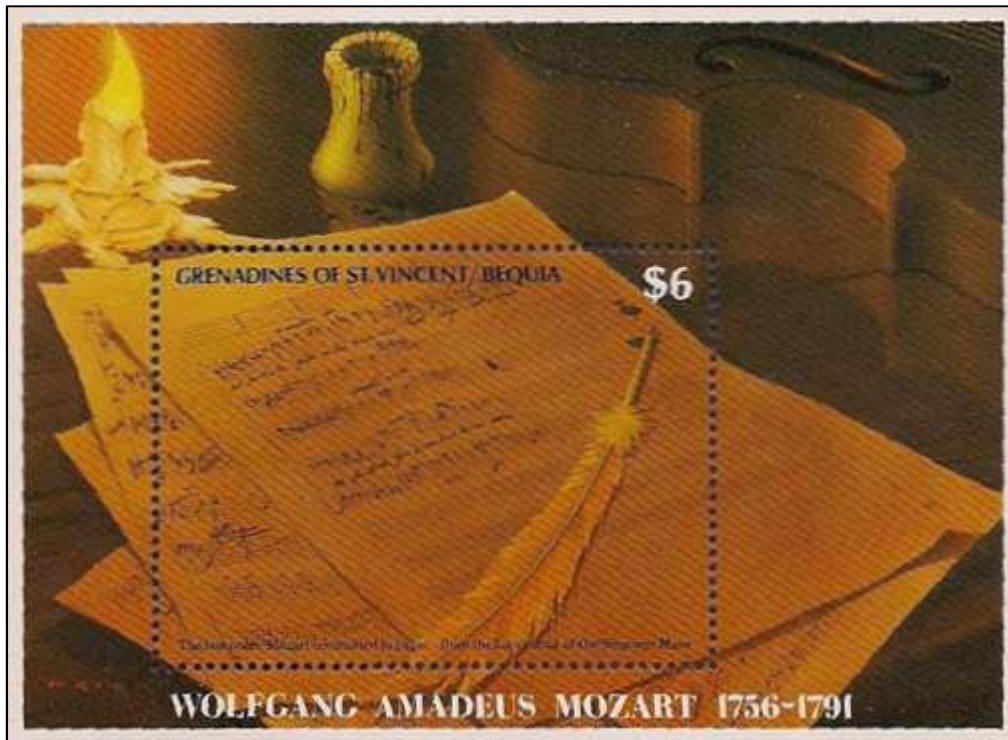


BEQUIA (Grenadines of St. Vincent)

Scott 293

Michel 290

Set of three stamps and three souvenir sheets, issued in 1991 for the Mozart anniversary. This set, interestingly, includes music from the beginning, middle, and end of Mozart's life. The first sheet shows the last page of music that Mozart wrote, shortly before his death - the unfinished "Lacrimosa" in the Requiem.

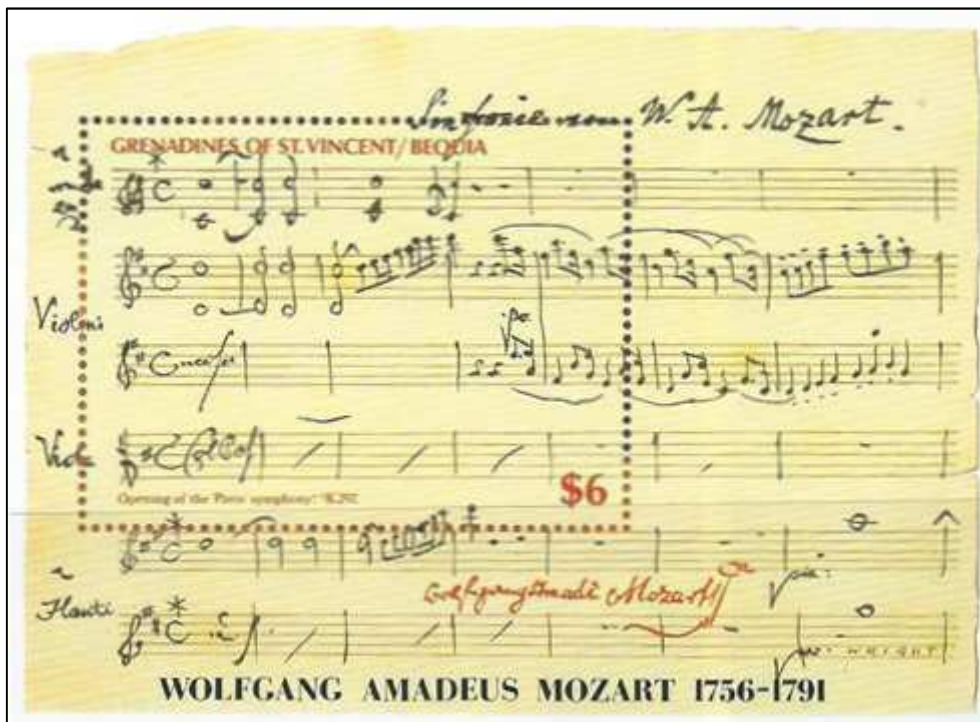


BEQUIA (Grenadines of St. Vincent)

Scott 295

Michel 289

Set of three stamps and three souvenir sheets, issued in 1991 for the Mozart anniversary. This set, interestingly, includes music from the beginning, middle, and end of Mozart's life. The third sheet features an excerpt from the autograph score of Mozart's Symphony No.31, K297 in D major, known as the "Paris" Symphony. The excerpt includes the top six staves of the first page of the manuscript. This symphony was first performed in Paris on June 18, 1778, after only one rehearsal on the previous day. Mozart wrote his father that he was very nervous at the rehearsal because the playing was so bad. The performance the next day, however, went much better. The audience was thrilled, interrupting the first and third movements with applause.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Scott 991

Michel 1466

Stamp issued September 22, 1992 for Mozart, in set of stamps commemorating six famous men. The background music is not identified at this time.



DOMINICA

Scott 1538

Michel 1641

Souvenir sheet issued in 1992 for the Mozart anniversary. The music on the sheet is taken from Mozart's opera, *Don Giovanni*. Shown, in piano reduction, is an excerpt from the *Menuetto* (measures 431-433) in the Finale to Act I. For some reason, the picture shows an 1816 costume design by F. Pistrucci, for Monostatos and Pamina in *The Magic Flute*.



GAMBIA

Scott 1342

Michel 1472

Souvenir sheet issued in December 1992 for the Mozart anniversary. The music on this sheet is a five-measure melodic excerpt from the closing movement (Alla Turca) of Mozart's *Piano Sonata in A major, K331*. Also known as the "Turkish" Rondo, this lively movement is a great favorite of music lovers. The picture, again unrelated to the music, shows an 1866 costume design by Moritz von Schwind, for the Fandango dance scene in *The Marriage of Figaro*.



TANZANIA

Scott 841

Michel 1275

Set of three stamps and a souvenir sheet, issued in 1992 for the Mozart anniversary year. One of the stamps contains floating notes over a picture of the planet Jupiter, intended to represent Mozart's *Symphony No.41*, the "Jupiter".



TANZANIA

Scott 843

Michel 1277

Set of three stamps and a souvenir sheet, issued in 1992 for the Mozart anniversary year. The sheet contains a stamp showing a sketch of Mozart based on the medallion by Leonard Posch. Behind the stamp are the first eight bars of the duettino, "La ci darem la mano", from Act I of the *Don Giovanni*, shown in a piano-vocal score. The duettino, sung by Don Giovanni and Zerlina, is originally in the key of A major; here, however, it has been transposed down to the key of G.

