

Note-Worthy Music Stamps, Part 11

By Ethel Bloesch

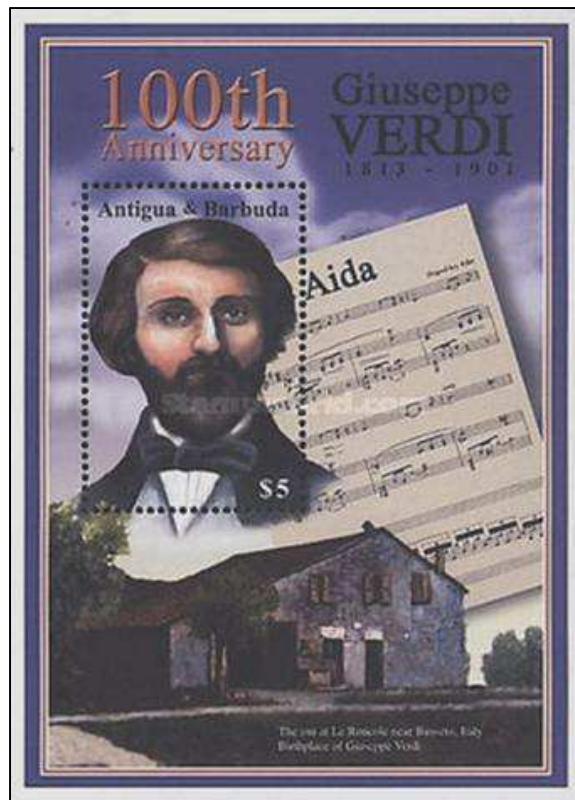
[Note: Part 11 covers notation stamps issued in 2001. Sets issued in 2002 will be described in the next installment.]

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Scott ???

Michel 3530-3534 / Block 511

A sheet of four stamps and a block issued July 3, 2001 for the death centenary of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901). The stamps from the sheet show musical excerpts, from *La Traviata* and *Aida*. The music shows the opening of "Celeste Aïda" from *Aida* and the Prelude to *La Traviata*. (not *Don Carlos*, not *Rigoletto*). The second sheet shows the opening of "Celeste Aïda" from *Aida*.



ARGENTINA

Scott 2157

Michel 2672

A souvenir sheet issued July 28, 2001 for the occasion of Philanippon 2001, a world philatelic exhibition held in Japan. The design, which features both Japanese and Argentine culture, is centered on two stamps but extends throughout the entire sheet. A kabuki theatre dancer is pictured on one stamp, and a couple dancing the tango on the other. In the background behind the dancers are a bandoneón and a musical score. The bandoneón, a button accordion, is known as the "blood and soul" of tango in Argentina and Uruguay. The music is *Mi Buenos Aires querido* (My dear Buenos Aires), a tango composed by Carlos Gardel in 1934, to words by Alfredo La Pera. Carlos Gardel is a legendary figure in Argentina. Born in France in 1890, Gardel came to Buenos Aires as a young child. He introduced lyrics into the tango, and became the country's leading singer and composer of tangos. His career came to an untimely end in 1935, when he died in a plane crash during one of his many tours. At the tune of his death he had composed 183 tangos and produced 1531 recordings. A devoted following keeps his legend alive today.

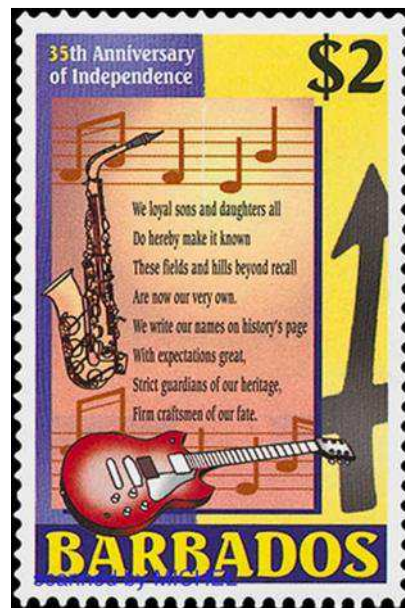


BARBADOS

Scott 1018

Michel 1019

One stamp in a set of four issued November 29, 2001 for the 35th anniversary of the country's independence. The stamp design, which features the national anthem of Barbados, includes the words to the chorus with decorative notes above and below the words. Also shown are a saxophone and guitar. The actual music of the national anthem can be found on a stamp issued by Barbados in 1976 for the 10th anniversary of independence. C. van Roland Edwards (1912-1985) composed the music, and Irving Burgie (born 1926) wrote the words.



BELGIUM

Scott 1848

Michel 3042 / Block 80

A sheet issued April 23, 2001 for the 50th anniversary of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition. This premier music competition was founded in 1951 in order to revive the old Ysaye Competition held in Brussels in 1937 and 1938 that had been discontinued because of World War II. Since 1951, violin and piano competitions have been held every four years; in 1988 a competition for singers was added. Composition awards are also given at irregular intervals. World-class performers who have won first prize include violinists Leonid Kogan (1951) and Jaime Laredo(1959); and pianists Leon Fleischer (1952), Vladimir Ashkenazy (1956), and Malcolm Frager (1960). The anniversary sheet contains a stamp that portrays the former Queen Elisabeth of Belgium (founder of the competition) and pictures of a singer, pianist's hands on a keyboard, and the left hand of a violinist on a fingerboard. Six musical excerpts form a diagonal pattern across the sheet. They are all taken from a piano suite by the French composer Maurice Ravel (1875-1937), entitled *Miroirs* (Mirrors). The suite, composed in 1904/05, contains five movements with evocative titles. The designer has chosen excerpts from the third movement, "Une barque sur l'océan" (A boat on the ocean), adapting the notation in some cases, apparently for design purposes.



BRAZIL

Scott 2804

Michel 3165

A stamp issued July 1, 2001 honoring the Brazilian conductor and composer Eleazar de Carvalho (1912-1996). His first conducting position was with the Brazilian Symphony Orchestra. In 1946 Carvalho came to the United States to study with Serge Koussevitsky, who invited him to conduct the Boston Symphony Orchestra the following year. He served as conductor of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra from 1963 to 1968. In his later career he taught at the Juilliard School and at Yale University, while also serving as music director of the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra. He was a notable interpreter of contemporary music, as well as works of the Second Viennese School. The stamp shows four large decorative notes alongside a photo of Carvalho conducting a concert for the inauguration of Brasilia on April 21, 1960.

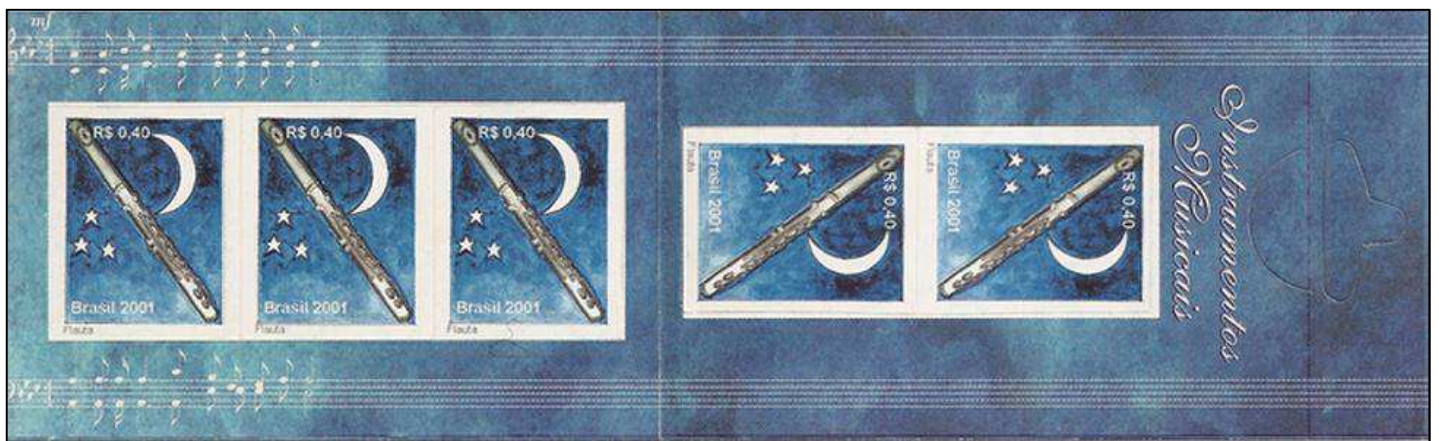


BRAZIL

Scott ???

Michel 3178

A set of at least 10 definitive stamps depicting musical Instruments, issued periodically from September 20, 2001 through July 15, 2002. One of them, the flute stamp, was also issued in booklet format. The booklet contains decorative notes on the cover and a musical excerpt inside. The music, which is not identified in the booklet and does not contain the words, presents the opening bars of a beloved Mormon hymn, "Come, Come, Ye Saints". The hymn has become known to the wider world through the singing of it by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Each verse of the hymn ends with the words, "All is well! All is well!". *The Encyclopedia of Mormonism* (Vol. 4, Appendix 6) describes the hymn as follows: "Written in 1846 while William Clayton was traveling westward with the first company of Mormons forced out of Nauvoo [Illinois], this hymn text reflects the strength and devotion of the Mormon pioneers. Along with its accompanying English folk tune, this historically significant text has become the hymn most readily identified with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. It has appeared in every Latter-Day Saint hymnal since 1851." The LDS church has a significant presence in Brazil - it is reported that there are over 547.000 Mormons living there.



BULGARIA

Scott 4202

Michel 4538

A stamp issued December 17, 2001 for the 200th anniversary of the birth of Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835). Composer of ten operas, Bellini has sometimes been compared to his friend Chopin because of the elegance and dramatic power of his melodies. One of the most melodious of his operas is *Norma*, first produced at La Scala on December 26, 1831. Act I contains the famous cavatina "Casta Diva". The first two bars of this melody are featured on the stamp, alongside a portrait of Bellini. At least three previous stamps also featured music from *Norma*. They were issued by Ajman (1969), Nicaragua (1975), and San Marino (1985).

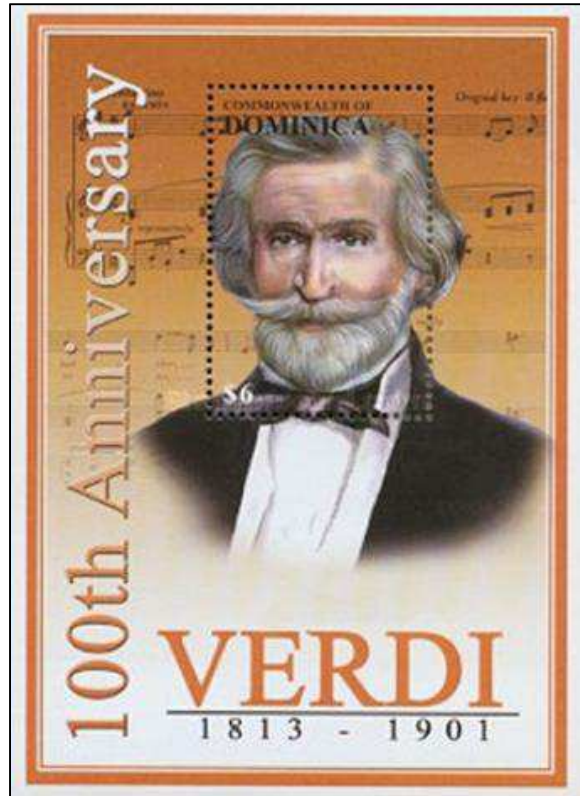


DOMINICA

Scott ???

Michel 3148-3151 / Block 429

A sheet of four stamps and a block issued Mai 15, 2001 for the death centenary of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901). One of the four stamps shows a musical excerpt, the Prelude to *La Traviata* (not *Macbeth* as wrongly titled on the sheet music). The second sheet shows also the Prelude to *La Traviata*.

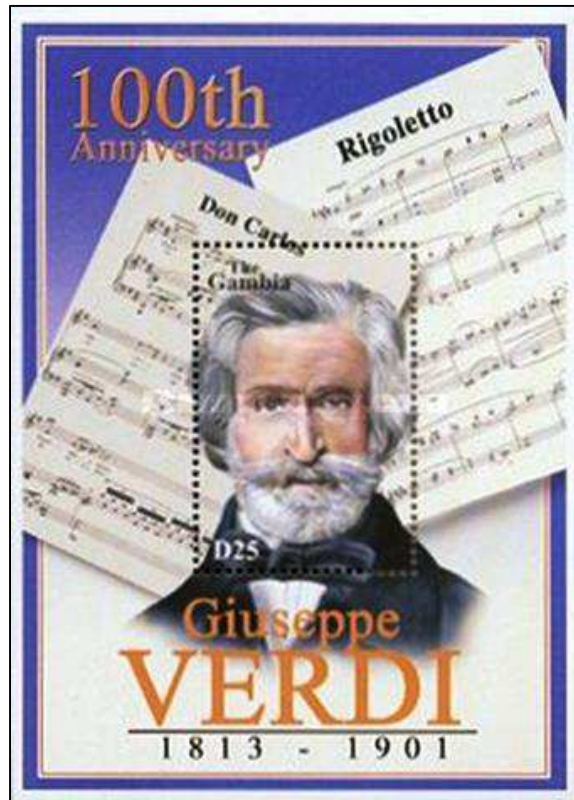
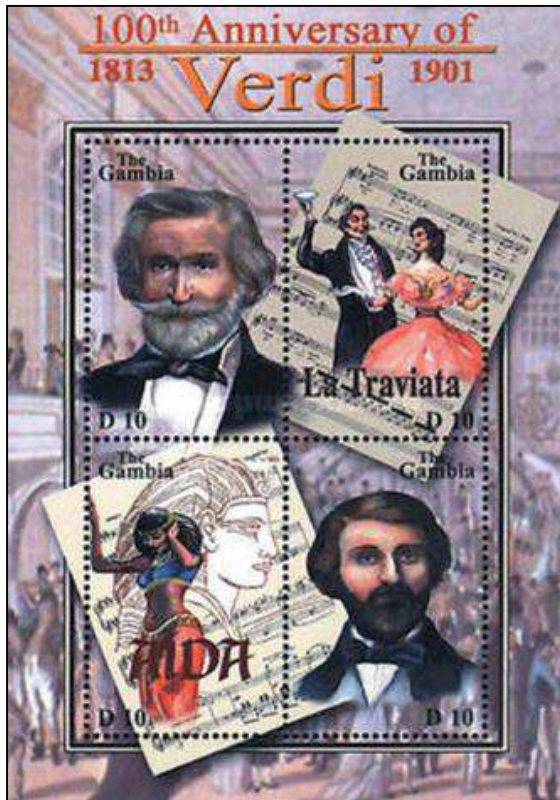


GAMBIA

Scott 2469

Michel 4320-4323 / Block 550

A sheet of four stamps and a block issued April 26, 2001 for the death centenary of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901). Two of the stamps from the sheet show musical excerpts, from *La Traviata* and *Aïda*. The music, however, is reversed: The *La Traviata* stamp shows the opening of "Celeste Aïda" and the *Aïda* stamp shows the Prelude to *La Traviata*. The second sheet shows sheets with the headlines *Rigoletto* and *Don Carlos* but the music is also "Celeste Aïda" from *Aïda* and the Prelude to *La Traviata*.



GERMANY

Scott 110

Michel 2163

A stamp issued January 11, 2001 for the 200th anniversary of the birth of Albert Lortzing (1801-1851). Born into a theatrical family in Berlin, Lortzing gained early experience as an actor and singer. As a child he also began to compose music, writing occasional pieces for the theatre. He was encouraged to try larger-scale compositions and in 1835 wrote his first comic opera. Its success led to several more comic operas that are still performed today in German theatres. One of the best known is *Zar und Zimmermann* (Czar and Carpenter), which premiered in Leipzig in 1837. Lortzing not only wrote the libretto - he also sang the role of Peter Ivanov, a young Russian carpenter, who when working in a Dutch shipyard is mistaken for Peter the Great, Czar of Russia. The stamp features an excerpt from the autograph manuscript of this opera, superimposed on a portrait of Lortzing. The excerpt shown is from Act III, Scène I, beginning with the words "Das ist zu tief!" sung by Van Bett, mayor of Saardam. Lortzing's portrait is a detail of an 1845 lithograph by Gustav Schlick (1804-1869). The the upper left border around the stamp pane and the first day postmark feature another excerpt from the opera: "O selig" from the song that the Czar sings in Scène 5 of Act III.

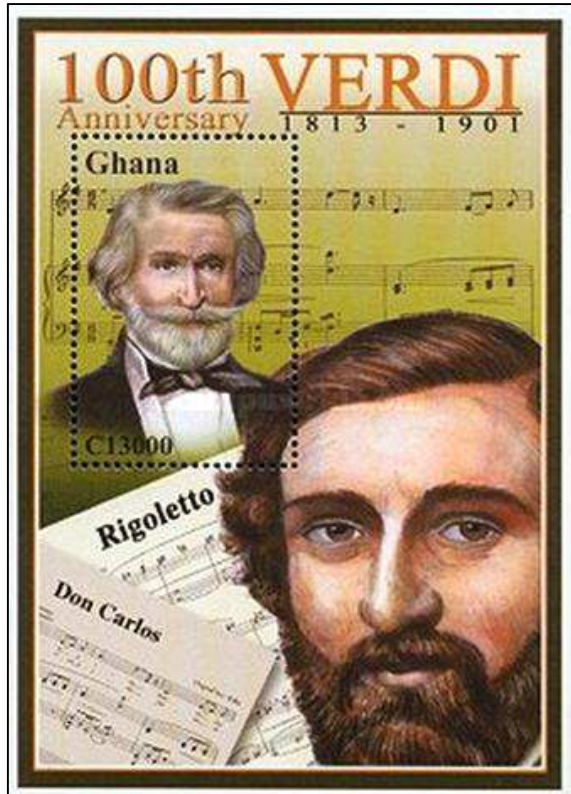
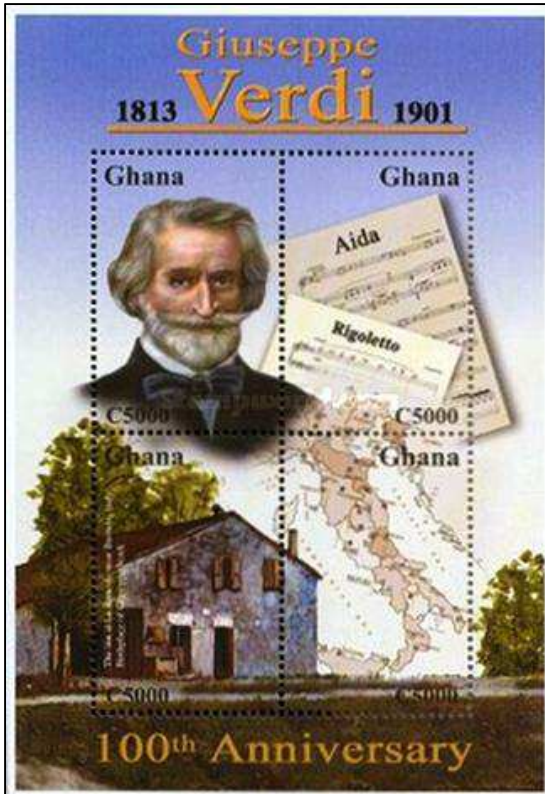


GHANA

Scott ???

Michel 3299-3303 / Block 415

A sheet of four stamps issued August 27, 2001 for the death centenary of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901). One stamp shows musical excerpts from *Aida* and *La Traviata*. The music shows the opening of "*Celeste Aida*" and the other score shows the Prelude to *La Traviata* (not *Rigoletto*). The second sheet shows also the opening of "*Celeste Aida*" from *Aida* (2x) and the Prelude to *La Traviata* (not *Don Carlos*).



GIBRALTAR

Scott 890

Michel 984

One stamp in a set of five issued November 12, 2001 for Christmas. The stamps and an accompanying souvenir sheet feature characters from the Peanuts comic strip. In the first stamp, Snoopy, dressed in a Santa Claus costume, is ringing a bell. Several decorative notes hover below the bell.



GRENADA

Scott ???

Michel 4674-4678 / Block 641

A sheet of four stamps and a block issued Mai 15, 2001 for the death centenary of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901). One stamp shows a musical excerpt: the opening of "Celeste Aïda" from *Aïda* (not *Ernani*). The second sheet shows also the opening of "Celeste Aïda" from *Aïda* .

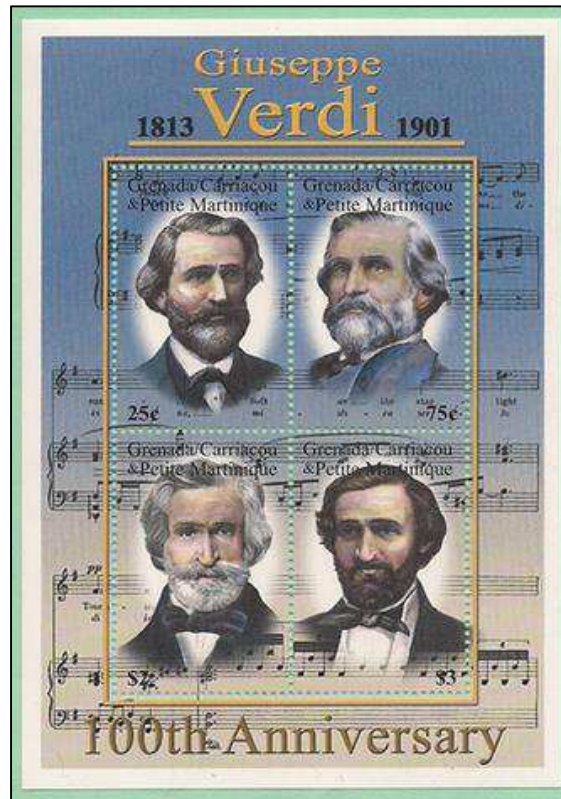


GRENADA CARRIACOU & PETITE MARTINIQUE

Scott ???

Michel 3565-3568

A sheet of four stamps issued May 15, 2001 for the death centenary of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901). The stamps from the sheet show a musical excerpt from *Aida*. The music shows the opening of "Celeste Aida" from *Aida*.

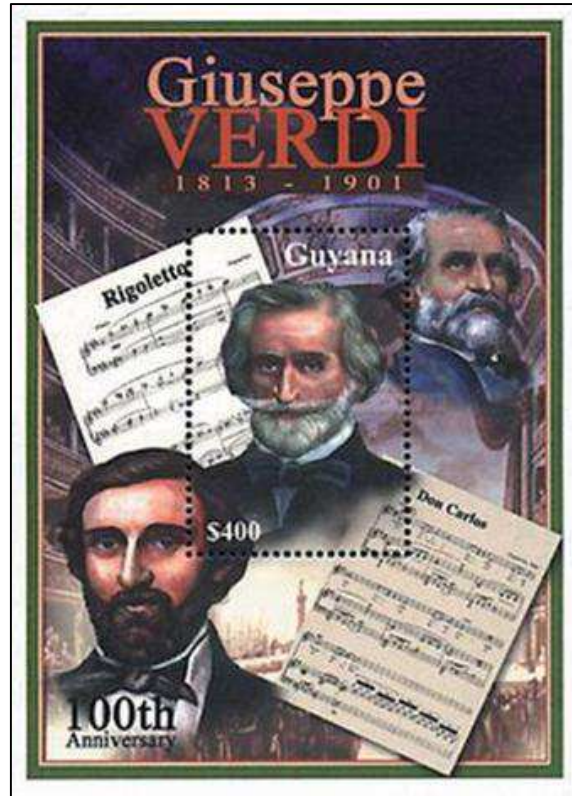
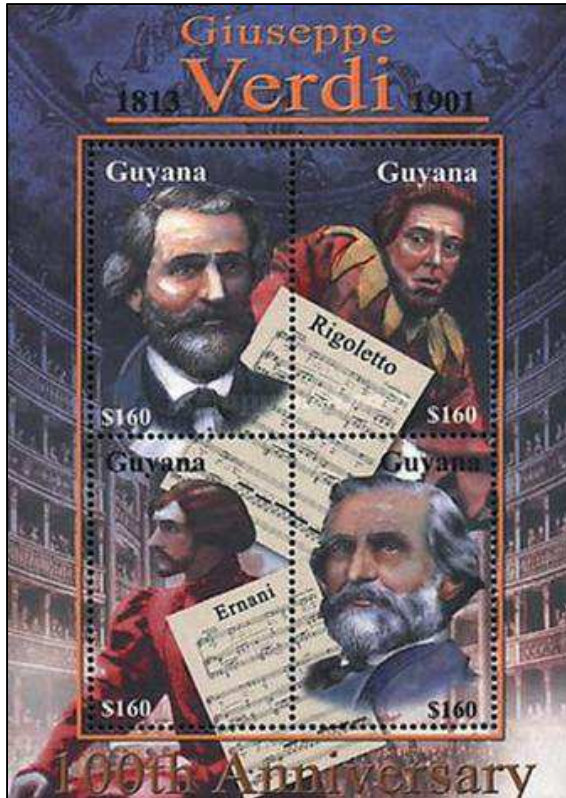


GUYANA

Scott ???

Michel 7255-7259 / Block 716

A sheet of four stamps and a block issued June 14, 2001 for the death centenary of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901). The sheets show musical excerpts, from *La Traviata* and *Aida* (and not *Rigoletto* and *Ernani*). The music shows the opening of "Celeste Aida" from *Aida* and the Prelude to *La Traviata*. The second sheet shows also the opening of "Celeste Aida" from *Aida* and the Prelude to *La Traviata* (not *Rigoletto* and *Don Carlos*).



INDIA

Scott 1890

Michel 1831

A stamp issued May 4, 2001 honoring Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849). In the fore-ground is a portrait of Chopin, while an excerpt of keyboard music (possibly from an autograph manuscript) fills the entire background of the stamp. The identification of the music remains tantalizingly elusive, even though it can be narrowed down to a piece in 3/4 time with a key signature of four flats.

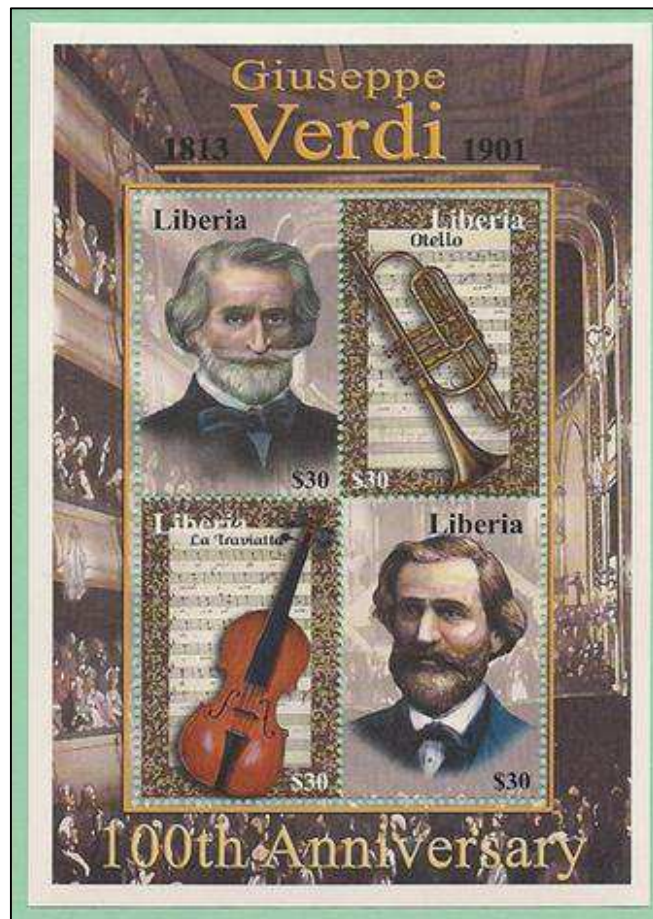


LIBERIA

Scott ???

Michel 3808-3811

A sheet of four stamps issued August 15, 2001 for the death centenary of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901). The stamps from the sheet show a musical excerpt of a Latin Mass setting ("exspecto resurrectionem mortuorum"), not *Othello* and not *La Traviata*.

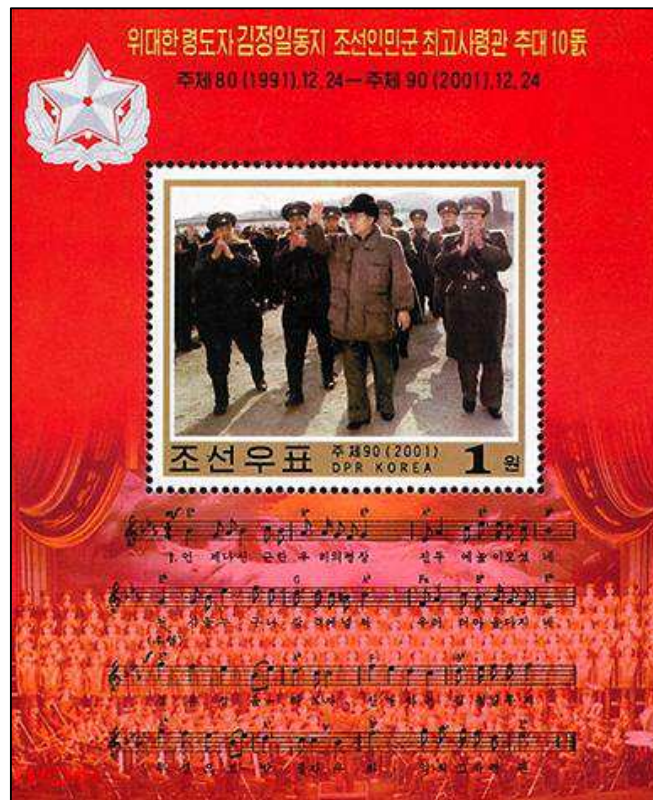


KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF (North Korea)

Scott ???

Michel 4508 / Block 509

A souvenir sheet issued December 1, 2001 for the 10th anniversary of the election of Kim Jong Il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army (KPA). A large stamp depicts Kim Jong Il inspecting an air unit of the KPA. Below the stamp are the words and melody of the song "Uphold our supreme commander with arms", superimposed on a picture of the KPA Merited Chorus. The song was written by Sin Un Ho and composed by Kim Tong Chol in 1992.



KOREA, REPUBLIC OF (South Korea)

Scott 1978

Michel 2177

A souvenir sheet (Millennium Series, X) issued April 2, 2001, commemorating historic events and figures. One of the five stamps on the sheet features the national anthem and its composer, Ahn Ik-tae (1905-1965). Ahn was born in Pyongyang, now the capital city of North Korea. While in school, he took part in the March 1st (1919) Independence Movement, a protest against the Japanese occupation and forced annexation of Korea. After a short period of music study in Japan, Ahn returned to Korea. Life became difficult for him, causing him to leave Korea in 1930 and come to the United States, where he continued his study of cello and composition, first in Philadelphia and then in Cincinnati. In 1936 he went to Berlin and later was a student of Richard Strauss in Vienna. Ahn had long felt the need for a national anthem that would express the aspirations of the Korean people. While in Berlin he composed the music that would become the official national anthem when the Republic of Korea achieved independence in 1948. The anthem exists in two forms: one is the simple tune accompanied by piano, and the other version forms the conclusion of a larger fantasia for chorus and orchestra, entitled "Korea". It is this orchestral version that is excerpted on the stamp.

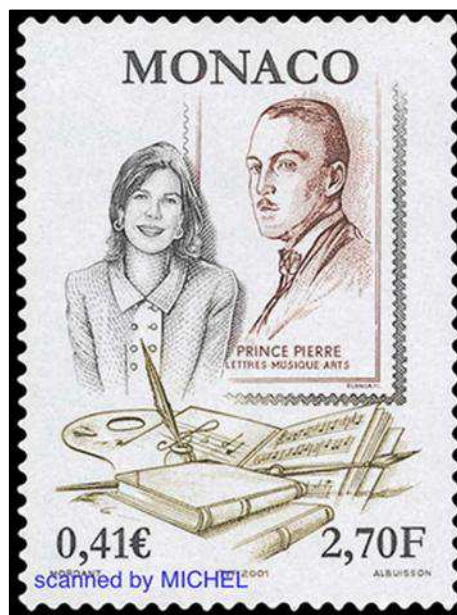


MONACO

Scott 2206

Michel 2552

A stamp issued May 14, 2001 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Prince Rainier III Literary Prize. Each year the prize is awarded to a French writer. This award is one of three prizes administered by the Prince Pierre Foundation (the Foundation was established by Prince Rainier III in honor of his father Prince Pierre of Monaco). The other two prizes are the Prince Rainier III Prize for Musical Composition, founded in 1960, and the International Contemporary Art Prize, awarded for the first time in 1965. The stamp recognizes all three prizes, with pictures of a book, a palette, and an open score with decorative notes. Also shown are a stamp portrait of Prince Pierre and the picture of a young woman.



NORFOLK ISLAND

Scott 748-752

Michel 770-774

A set of five stamps issued October 26, 2001 for Christmas. Each stamp features one of the Island's flowers, along with a familiar Christmas carol. The designs are as follows:

- Strawberry guava and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (comp. by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy)
- Poinsettia and "Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly" (Welsh Folk Song)
- Hibiscus and "The First Noel" (English Traditional from the 16th Century)
- Christmas croton and "Joy to the World" (comp. by Thomas Clark)
- Indian shot and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." (English Traditional)



PHILIPPINES

Scott ???

Michel 3276-3283 / Block 169

A se-ten-ant block of four stamps and a souvenir sheet with four stamps issued October 8, 2001. Each stamp in the block features a brass instrument: French horn, trombone, trumpet, and tuba. The tuba depicted here, however, is actually a Wagner tuba, which is a cross between a tuba and a French horn. It was invented in the late 1800s to provide a new tonal color for Richard Wagner, uses a horn mouthpiece and is usually played by a horn player. Decorative notes float in the stamp margins. The accompanying souvenir sheet pictures these instruments: bass drum, clarinet and oboe, xylophone, and sousaphone. The sheet contains two large decorative notes in the center and smaller notes in the margin. Although the sheet is entitled "Brass Band Musical Instruments," only the sousaphone is actually a brass instrument.



Note: The instrument shown on the stamp with the word "Xylophone" is an error: The word 'Xylophone' is a compound built of the Greek words 'xylon' (wood) and 'phone' (sound), and therefore the instrument pictured is not a xylophone but a metallophone, in marching bands also known as a 'bell lyra'. (Bernard Dormy, France)

POLAND

Scott 3614

Michel 3941

A sheet of 16 stamps issued November 11, 2001. Entitled the Polish Millennium, this handsomely designed sheet summarizes 1000 years of history, culture, and science in Poland. Each stamp features a specific topic, usually combining contemporary and historical perspectives. The music stamp, for example, pays tribute to three Polish composers of different periods. Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849), Karol Szymanowski (1882-1937), and Krzysztof Penderecki (born in 1933). A monochromatic profile of Chopin and a full-color portrait of Penderecki form the background, upon which is superimposed a musical excerpt by Szymanowski.

Karol Szymanowski was a central figure in Polish music in the early 20th century, composing works in many genres. He was influenced by various streams of music - including both impressionism and expressionism - but developed his own evocative style, with a depth of harmonic range and lyricism. His piano works spanned his entire creative life. The twenty Mazurkas, op. 50, were composed intermittently in 1924/25 while he was living in the Tatra Mountains of Poland. These highly stylized dances incorporate elements of folk rhythm. The stamp reproduces the first three bars of the Mazurka, Op. 50, No. 10 in its autograph manuscript.

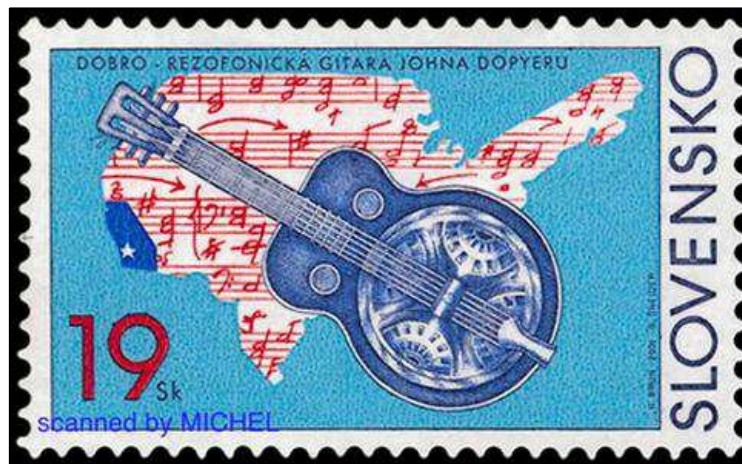


SLOVAKIA

Scott 382

Michel 403

A stamp issued August 1, 2001. It features the Dobro resonator guitar, invented by John Dopyera in 1926. A native of Slovakia, Dopyera and his family emigrated to California in 1908. Dopyera and his brothers opened a music shop in Los Angeles, making and repairing fiddles and other stringed Instruments. As part of their work they created the resonator guitar, which was designed to provide more sound than the simple acoustic guitar. They named the instrument Dobro, from the name of their company DOPYERA BROthers. The word "dobro" also has significance in the Slovak language - it means "good". The resonator guitar is often heard in country music, blues, and old-time jazz music. The stamp depicts a Dobro resonator guitar, in front of an outline map of the U.S. Contained in the map are four staves of musical notes, which appear to be only decorative in nature.



SLOVENIA

Scott 470

Michel 365

Two stamps issued September 21, 2001, honoring two Slovenian composers: Blaž Arnič and Lucijan Marija Škerjanc. Blaž Arnič (1901-1970) began his studies at the Ljubljana Conservatory and did further study in Vienna, Warsaw, and Paris. He taught music in Ljubljana until his imprisonment in the Dachau Concentration Camp. Following his return from Dachau in 1945, he was appointed professor of composition at the Ljubljana Academy of Music. He composed music in a variety of genres, but is best known for his symphonies. An excerpt from the manuscript score of his *Duma* symphony appears on the stamp, along with a portrait of Arnič.



SLOVENIA

Scott 471

Michel 366

Two stamps issued September 21, 2001, honoring two Slovenian composers: Blaž Arnič and Lucijan Marija Škerjanc. The second stamp features Lucijan Marija Škerjanc (1900-1973), who was a conductor, pianist, and writer on music, as well as a composer. His musical studies were completed in Ljubljana, Prague, Vienna, Paris, and Basel. Like Arnič, he taught composition at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. In addition, Škerjanc conducted the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra and wrote three monographs on Slovenian composers, five pedagogical handbooks, and a book, "*From Bach to Shostakovich*". His compositions include orchestral and piano works, chamber music, songs, and film and theatre music. The stamp shows an excerpt from the manuscript score of his symphonic poem *Marenka*, along with his portrait.



SPAIN

Scott 3125

Michel 3673

A stamp issued November 14, 2001, featuring music of Manuel de Falla (1876-1946). Considered to be the most important Spanish composer of the 20th century, Falla won international recognition as well. His music was influenced by Debussy and Ravel (he spent seven years in Paris just before World War I), yet it embodies a strong element of the folk music of Spain. One of his popular works is the ballet *El Sombrero de Tres Picos* (The Three-Cornered Hat), commissioned by Serge Diaghilev and first performed by the Ballets Russes in London in July 1919. The conductor was Ernest Ansermet, and the designs were by Pablo Picasso. Nicolas Slonimsky describes the work as follows: "The picaresque story centers on the governor of a Spanish province who tries to seduce the comely wife of a local miller and carelessly leaves the emblem of his authority, a Napoleonic three-cornered hat, on the premises. All kinds of nonsensical peripeteia ensue. The music sparkles with Spanish rhythms." This ballet was chosen to be featured on a stamp. Its uncluttered design contains music only - a facsimile of the autograph manuscript of the opening bars of Part I.



ST. HELENA

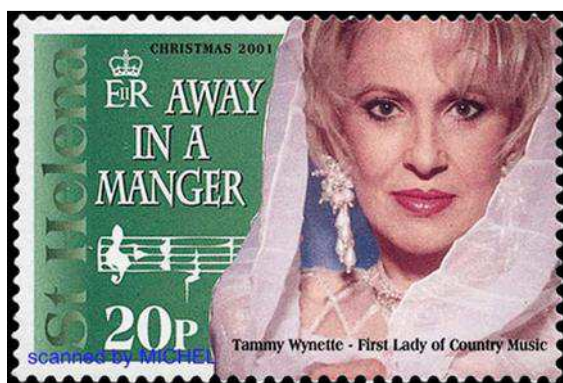
Scott 779-782

Michel 813-816

A set of four stamps issued October 11, 2001 for Christmas. The stamps show the titles and some notes from Christmas Carols and also feature a portrait of Tammy Wynette (1942-1998). Tammy Wynette rose from humble beginnings to become one of the most famous singers of American country music. Each stamp in the set zooms in progressively closer to the Wynette portrait, and conversely, the musical excerpt becomes progressively shorter (four quarter notes are shown for the first carol, and only one for the last).

The carols shown are:

- "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (the British tune comp. by Arthur Sullivan)
- "Joy to the World" (comp. by Thomas Clark)
- "Away in a Manger" (the tune by W. J. Kirkpatrick that begins with an ascending fourth).
- "Silent Night" (comp. by Franz Xaver Gruber)



UKRAINE

Scott 436

Michel 461

A stamp issued July 26, 2001 for the 250th anniversary of the birth of Dmitry Bortnyansky (1751-1825). A prominent Ukrainian composer, Bortnyansky displayed musical talent at an early age. He was admitted to the imperial chapel choir in St. Petersburg at age 8. At 18 he was granted a scholarship to study music in Italy, where he wrote his first three operas. Ten years later he returned to St. Petersburg and was appointed Kapellmeister to the imperial chapel choir, and in 1796 became the director of the imperial chapel. He composed a large body of sacred choral music, drawing its inspiration from the chants of the Orthodox liturgy. Bortnyansky was highly regarded by Beethoven and Berlioz. The stamp shows a portrait of Bortnyansky, with two bars of unidentified music and an unidentified building in the background.



VATICAN CITY

Scott 1182

Michel 1369

One stamp in a set of three issued May 22, 2001 for the 100th anniversary of the death of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901). In his long career, Verdi composed some twenty-six operas. The first (*Oberto*) was produced in 1839 and the last (*Falstaff*) in 1893. Dedicated to the ideal of opera as human drama, Verdi had the gift to write melodies that stirred deep emotions not only in his countrymen, but also in audiences around the world. The earliest opera to achieve major success was *Nabucco*, which premiered at La Scala in 1842, at a time when the movement toward Italian unification began to take shape. Thus, its theme - the plight of the Hebrew people during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar (Nabucco) - struck a responsive chord for its listeners. The closing measures of this opera (in manuscript score) are shown on one of the stamps issued by Vatican City, along with a portrait of Verdi as a young man.



YUGOSLAVIA

Scott 2519

Michel 3025

One of two definitive stamps issued March 19, 2001, honoring famous men. The 50 d stamp features the Serbian composer, musicologist and conductor, Stevan Mokranjac (1856-1914). Following study in Munich, Rome, and Leipzig, Mokranjac returned to his native land to become conductor and director of the Serbian Choral Society of Belgrade, a group that achieved international acclaim. He also established the Belgrade String Quartet and the Serbian School of Music. Another significant contribution was his work in collecting folksongs from Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and other Slav territories. A composer primarily of vocal music, Mokranjac created a large body of secular music (much of it inspired by folksong) and liturgical church music. The stamp honoring Mokranjac shows his portrait, with an unidentified excerpt of music in the background.



Edited by Arnold van Berkel (January 2014)