

Note-Worthy Music Stamps, Part 15

by Ethel Bloesch

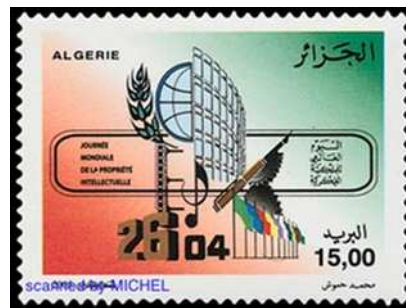
(Note: Part 15 describes stamps with musical notation that were issued in 2005.)

ALGERIA

Scott 1336

Michel 1454

Issued April 26, 2005 for the annual World Intellectual Property Day. In 2000, member states of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) agreed to designate April 26 each year as the day to celebrate the establishment of the organization. World Intellectual Property Day raises awareness of the importance in daily life of patents, copyright, trademarks and designs. The Algerian stamp features various stylized symbols of intellectual property including a fountain pen and a musical note. The international aspect is conveyed with flags and a globe.



ARMENIA

Scott 706

Michel 513

Issued March 18, 2005 for the 125th anniversary of the birth of Armen Tigranian (1879-1950), an Armenian composer, conductor and teacher. Following music study in Tbilisi, Georgia, Tigranian returned to Armenia, where he became a school music teacher and choirmaster. He wrote songs on Armenian texts and staged dramatic arrangements of national songs. Later he settled in Tbilisi, where he was a manager of the Tbilisi Armenian Music Society. He was made an Honored Representative Artist of Armenia (1935) and Georgia (1936).

Tigranian is known today chiefly for his two operas: *Anush* and *David-Bek*, which are based on national themes and contain folk-like melodies. In 2001, the Michigan Opera Theatre staged the opera *Anush* in its original language, the first such performance in North America. The stamp features a portrait of Tigranian. In the background are several banners of musical notes, which seem to be representative of his works, rather than an actual excerpt.



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Scott 503

Michel 392

Issued May 31, 2005 for the 50th anniversary of the Academy of Music in Sarajevo. Four musicians are pictured on the stamp along with the Music Academy building and an unidentified musical excerpt. The musicians are: Vlado Milošević (1901-1990), Milan Prebanda (1907-1979), Cvjetko Rihtman (1902-1989), and Avdo Smailovic (1917-1984).



Vlado Milošević was a Bosnian Serb composer and ethno-musicologist. His hometown of Banja Luka holds an annual musical festival named after him. Milošević's music show influence of folk music and neo-classicism.

Biographical information for Milan Prebanda is not readily available, but there are Internet references to recent performances of his flute music and his songs in San Gabriel, California, Oxford, England and Graz, Austria.

Cvjetko Rihtman was a Bosnian musicologist and composer. He studied music theory and composition in Leipzig and Prague, and composition and musicology in Paris. From 1955 to 1974 he was professor of ethnomusicology at the Academy of Music in Sarajevo, where he built a large collection of field recordings and transcriptions of the folk music of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was largely responsible for introducing new principles and techniques to the study of Yugoslav ethnomusicology. His own compositions were strongly influenced by the folk idiom.

Avdo Smailovic, another respected composer, began in a nationalist idiom, but gradually assimilated a more modern style. He formed a family ensemble called Music ad Hominem (Music for the People), which brought music to remote villages and farm communities, demonstrating that good music was for all the people. His son, Vedran Smailovic, became famous during the siege of Sarajevo in 1992, playing his cello for 22 days to honor the 22 people who had been killed by the Serbian forces while queuing for bread.

CROATIA

Scott 578-79

Michel 711-712

Issued April 15, 2005 featuring Croatian music .The first stamp publicizes the World Music Days, an annual international festival of contemporary music. In 2005 it was held in Zagreb, incorporating the 23rd Music Biennale Zagreb.



The second stamp commemorates Stjepan Sulek (1914-1986), composer, violinist and conductor. A native of Zagreb, Sulek contributed greatly to the Croatian musical culture of the 20th century. He taught violin and conducted the chamber orchestra of the Zagreb Radio-Television. But it was as a composer and professor of composition at the Music Academy in Zagreb that he had his greatest influence. In addition to mentoring a generation of composers, Sulek composed a significant body of music, including eight symphonies, ten concertos, two operas and additional chamber and vocal music. The stamp shows two portraits of Sulek, one a profile. In the background is an excerpt from his concerto for viola and orchestra composed in 1959.

EL SALVADOR

Scott 1626

Michel 2379-2388

A miniature sheet with ten stamps issued October 11, 2005 to honor Latin American musicians: Agustín Lara (1897-1970), Mexican composer; Pedro Infante (1917-1957), Mexican singer; Ubaldino Lamarque (1906-2000) Argentine singer; Carlos Gardel (1890-1935), Argentine tango singer; Celia Cruz (1924-2003), Cuban singer; Dámaso Pérez Prado (1916-1989), Cuban composer; Daniel Santos (1916-1992), Puerto Rican song writer; Pedro Vargas (1908-1989), Mexican singer; Beni Moré (1919-1963), Cuban singer; and Jorge Negrete (1911-1953), Mexican singer. There are unidentified fragmentary notes in the margin of the sheet, which possibly relate to a musical excerpt on the accompanying postal bulletin. The notes on the bulletin are taken from a little minuet in G major attributed to J.S. Bach.



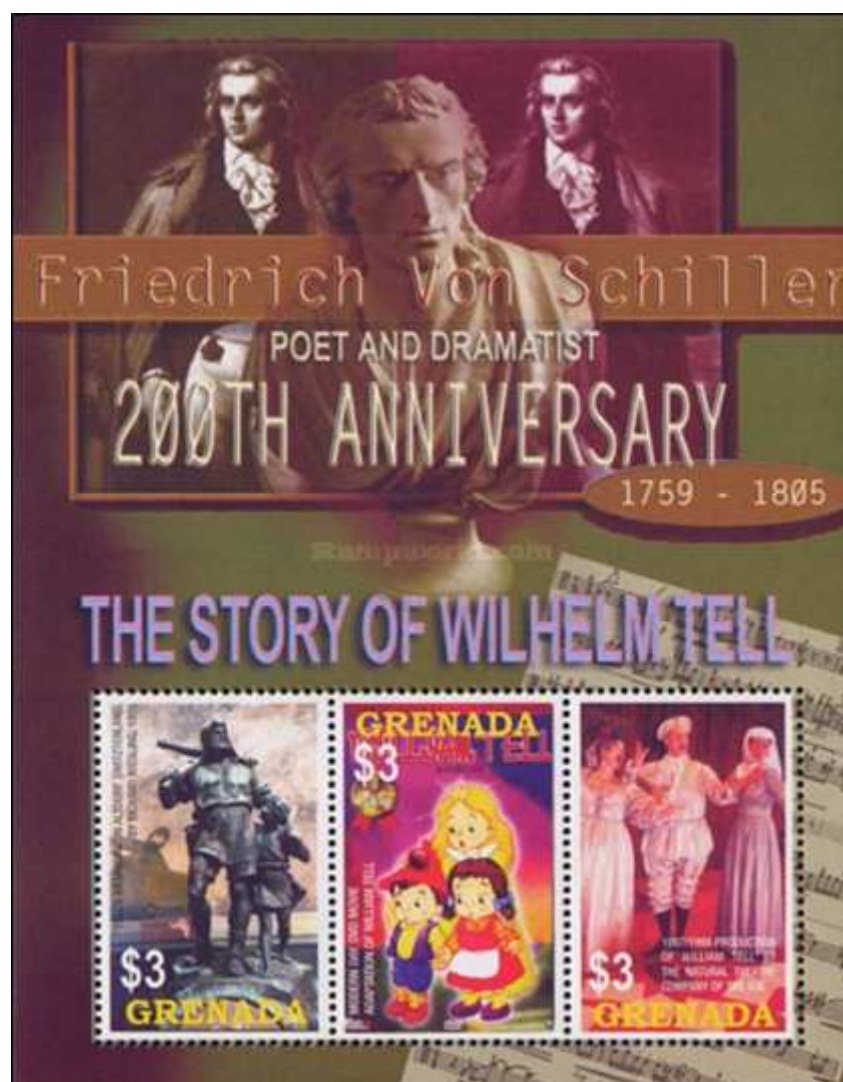
GRENADA

Scott 3522

Michel 5645-5647

A souvenir sheet with three stamps issued July 11, 2005 for the 200th anniversary of death of Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805), a poet and dramatist who was a major figure in the German literary movement of the 18th century. The sheet features the story of *Wilhelm Tell*, Schiller's last completed play, written in 1804, one year before his death. The play is based on chronicles of the Swiss liberation movement led by Wilhelm Teli, a famous hero who fought for freedom and was the embodiment of courage.

The three stamps picture, respectively, the Wilhelm Tell memorial in Altdorf, Switzerland; a scene from an animated movie; and a stage production of Wilhelm Tell. The top of the sheet has three images of Schiller (from paintings and a sculpture). Finally, there is a page of unidentified music behind the stamp in the lower right-hand corner of the sheet. The music does not appear to have anything to do with the story of the play or the opera by Rossini, it seems to be an instrumental part from a twentieth-century work.



GUYANA

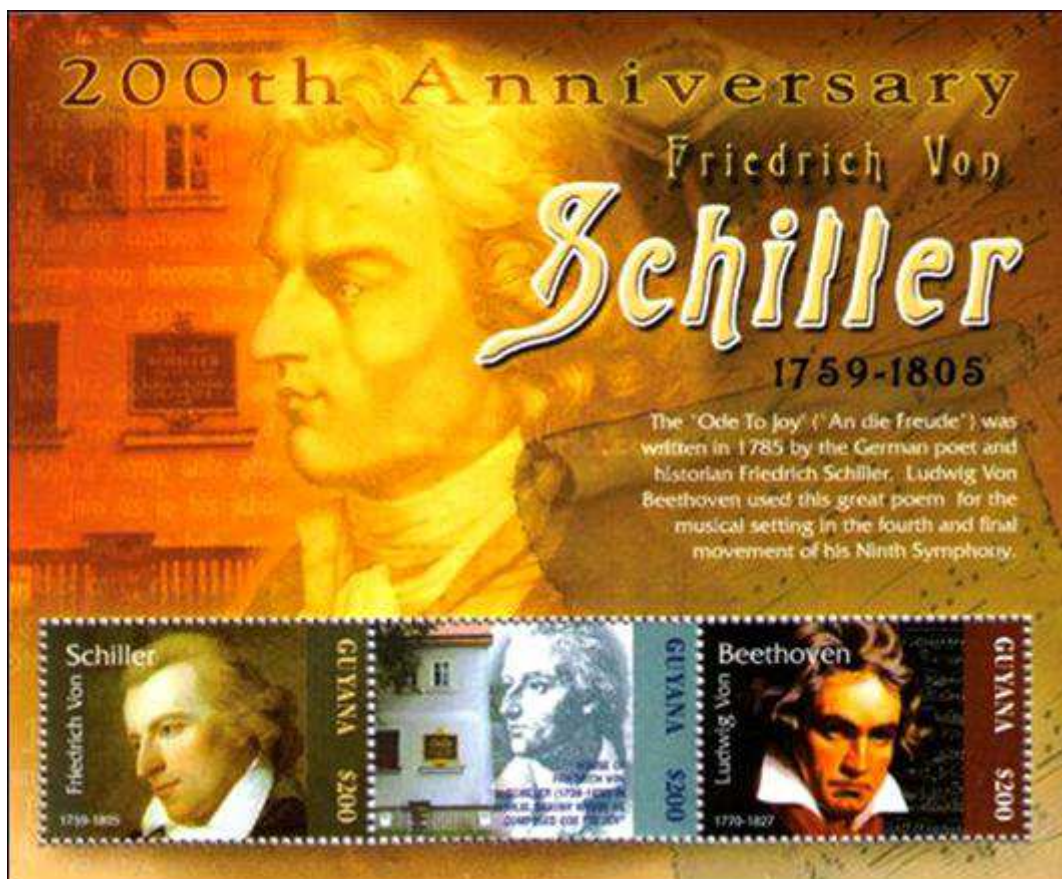
Scott 3918

Michel 7823-7825

A souvenir sheet with three stamps issued August 12, 2005 for the 200th anniversary of the death of Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805). He wrote his famous poem "An die Freude" (Ode to Joy) in 1785. Beethoven incorporated stanzas from the poem in his Ninth Symphony, setting the words for soloists and chorus in the last movement. The work, which premiered in 1824 in Vienna to great acclaim, is known worldwide today.

Two stamps depict Schiller (one include the house where he wrote "An die Freude"). The third stamp depicts Beethoven, a composer closely associated with Schiller. It shows a reverse image of the Joseph Karl Stieler 1820 portrait of Beethoven (the Schiller portraits are also from a painting and a sculpture).

The background of the stamp shows notes from the last movement of Beethoven's 9th symphony. The passage, shown in a reduced score, is taken from measures 136-132 which is part of the extended orchestral introduction to the choral theme. The sheet itself contains additional musical notes from a piano score, as yet unidentified.



HONG KONG

Scott 1164

Michel 1318

One stamp in a set of five issued November 8, 2005 to honor popular singers. The \$ 1.40 stamp features Wong Ka Kui (1962-1993), a founding member of the Hong Kong rock band "Beyond". He was lead singer, rhythm guitarist and principal composer of the songs. He wrote many of the lyrics as well. Wong Ka Kui died in June 1993, six days after falling from a seven-foot-high stage in Japan, while filming a TV program. The stamp shows a picture of the singer standing before a microphone. A staff with three notes appears in the background.



HUNGARY

Scott 3852

Michel 5054

Issued September 30, 2005 for the 100th anniversary of birth of Ferenc Farkas (1905-2000). A prolific composer and influential teacher, Farkas had a long and creative career, spanning eight decades. He composed more than 700 works, representing all the major genres of music. From 1949 to 1975 he was professor of composition of the Budapest Academy of Music. His music shows influences of composers beyond his native Hungary, including Respighi (with whom he studied in Rome), Rimsky-Korsakov (Respighi's teacher) and Stravinsky. His years in Rome also helped him gain a broader perspective of past culture and awakened an interest in older musical forms. Ultimately, though, Ferenc developed his own distinctive, personal style.



The stamp shows Ferenc at his piano, composing music. The excerpt is from a cantata titled "Aspirationes Principis" (The sovereign's desires). Composed in 1974-75, the work is scored for tenor, baritone and orchestra.

ISRAEL

Scott 1609

Michel 1840

Issued September 27, 2005 for the World Year of Physics. The International Union of Pure and Applied Physics chose 2005 for this year of celebration because it marked the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein's "miraculous year" in which he published three important papers describing ideas that have influenced all of modern physics. The stamp features a line sketch of Einstein's head. Mathematical and scientific symbols cluster around his brain. At the bottom of the cluster are two decorative notes, which signify Einstein's lifelong interest in music. Einstein, a violinist once, wrote: "If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music."



KAZAKHSTAN

Scott ???

Michel 519

A stamp issued November 18, 2005 for the 100th anniversary of birth of Kazakh composer Evgeny Grigorevich Brusilovsky (1905-1981). Following musical study in Moscow and Leningrad, Brusilovsky settled in Alma-Ata, where he did research in Kazakh folk music and wrote works that laid the foundation of Kazakh national opera. From 1934 to 1938, he was artistic director of the Kazakh Music and Drama Theatre. He also taught for many years at the Alma-Ata Conservatory. His musical output included nine operas, three ballets, nine symphonies, and works in a number of other instrumental and vocal genres. He was awarded the State Prize of the USSR (1948), the Order of Lenin (1959), and the State Prize of the Kazakh SSR (1967). The stamp shows a portrait of Brusilovsky and an unidentified musical excerpt.



KAZAKHSTAN

Scott ???

Michel 521-523

Three stamps and a sheet issued December 22, 2005. The stamps feature these national symbols: flag, coat of arms, and words to the national anthem. An excerpt of the melody is shown on the sheet. This is the version of the national anthem that was adopted when Kazakhstan achieved independence in 1992. The words were new, but the music was the same as the anthem sung when Kazakhstan was a Soviet republic. The words are attributed to four authors and the music to three composers (one of whom was Evgeny Brusilovsky, who is commemorated in the stamp described above). There is an error in the musical notation on the sheet: in the second staff, the second and third notes should be C's (not D-flats). It should also be noted that Kazakhstan adopted a completely new national anthem in January 2006, shortly after this miniature sheet was issued.



LATVIA

Scott 618

Michel 637

Issued May 21, 2005 for the 170th anniversary of birth of Baumanu Karlis (1835-1905), composer of the Latvian national anthem. His songs were early expressions of the national identity of the Latvian people, and he was the first to use the word "Latvia" in a song lyric. This was an act of defiance against the Russians, who did not encourage national sentiments. His song "God Bless Latvia" was introduced at the first Latvian Song Festival in Riga on June 26, 1873. It was first sung as national anthem of the Republic of Latvia in 1920. It was suppressed during the time Latvia was part of the Soviet Union (1945-1990), but it has been restored as the national anthem. The stamp contains the entire anthem with words, shown behind a portrait of Baumanu Karlis.



MALTA

Scott 1211

Michel 1407

One of five stamps issued July 13, 2005 to honor famous people of Malta. The 46c stamp commemorates the 18th-century Maltese composer Girolamo Abos. The stamp identifies him as Geronimo Abos, but he is generally known in musicologist circles as Girolamo Abos. He was born in Valletta in 1715. At an early age Abos was sent to Naples to study. Instead of returning to Malta, he stayed in Naples, where he spent the major part of his career teaching at two conservatories and serving as maestro di cappella at several Neapolitan churches until his death in 1860. He composed 18 operas and many sacred works. In his church music, Abos sought to achieve a synthesis of the modern style with the older traditions of sacred vocal polyphony.

The stamp shows a few notes from one of his works, the *Stabat Mater*, composed in 1750. It is scored for three-part treble voices and orchestra and is divided into six sections.



MOLDOVA

Scott 495

Michel 516

One of three stamps issued July 1, 2005 to honor Russian musicians. The 2-Lei stamp features Anton Rubinstein (1829-1894). He is not to be confused with Artur Rubinstein (1887-1982), a famous virtuoso pianist of the 20th century. Anton Rubinstein was, however, a highly sought-after pianist of the 19th century, rivaled only by Franz Liszt. He had tremendous stamina as a performer - he gave 215 recitals during an 8,5 month tour of the United States in 1872-1873.

Rubinstein was also a prolific composer, although his works are not so widely performed today. He also founded the St. Petersburg Conservatory and was its director for nine years. The stamp shows Rubinstein in front of a piano, with an open score on the music rack. The notes are indecipherable. The other two stamps in the set (which have no musical notation) honor lesser known musicians – Sergei Lunchevich (1934-1995) and Valery Kupchea (1929-1989).



MONACO

Scott 2394

Michel 2764

Issued October 21, 2005 featuring the Nadia and Lili Boulanger Piano Competition. This international competition, sponsored by the Foundation internationale Nadia et Lili Boulanger, is held in Paris every two years, and prizes are awarded to the best singer, to the best piano accompanist and to the best duet. Both the foundation and the competition honor the work of Nadia and Lili Boulanger, two French musicians and sisters who made an extraordinary impact on musical life in the 20th century. Lili (1893-1918) was the first woman to win the coveted Prix de Rome, and Nadia (1887-1979) was one of the most influential musical teachers of her time. Lili's promising career as a composer was cut short, when she died at the age of 24. In her brief life, however, she composed a surprising amount of music, including choral music noted for its grandeur and subtlety. Lili's older sister Nadia also began as a composer, but after her sister's death, she devoted her live to conducting. As a conductor, she played an important part in the rediscovery of Monteverdi, and was the first woman to conduct a symphony orchestra in London. It was as teacher, however, that Nadia was most influential. Pupils from all over the world came to Paris to study with her. Among them were the American composers Aaron Copland, Elliott Carter, Virgil Thomson and Walter Piston. The stamp features portraits and signatures of both Nadia and Lili Boulanger, with the small outline of a piano and several bars of unidentified music.



Addendum: According to Mrs. Alena Pascual (Canada; former editor of "The Baton"), the musical notation on this stamp is from "Elle Était Descendue au Bas de la Prairie", the first song of "Clairières dans le Ciel" (13 songs) composed in 1914 (first performed in 1916) by Lili Boulanger with words by Francis Jammes (1868-1938).

PERU

Scott ???

Michel 2074-2076

One of three stamps issued February 27, 2006 featuring these national symbols of Peru: its flag, shield, and national anthem. The words of "Marcha Nacional" are by José de la Torre Ugarte (1786-1831) and the music by José Bernardo Alzedo (1788-1878), both of whom are pictured on the stamp, along with the music. This song was declared the winning national anthem in a contest held shortly after Peru gained independence. It is an example of the Latin American epic anthem that is typical of others in the region. It was sung for the first time in September 1821 and was chosen as Peru's anthem in the following year. It was adopted officially in 1913. These other South American countries have issued stamps with music of their national anthem: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela.



POLAND

Scott 3793

Michel 4207

Issued September 16, 2005 to publicize 15th Frédéric Chopin International Piano Competition. Held at five-year intervals, it is one of the oldest and most prestigious competitions in the world. It is one of the few that is dedicated to the performing of the music of a single composer. The competition consists of several stages and is spread out over the span of a month. It is not surprising that the Polish stamp issued to mark the occasion of this competition contains music by Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849), the renowned Polish composer and pianist. What is unusual, however, is that the music selected is not taken from his major body of piano music, but is instead one of the few surviving songs in a collection published after his death as *17 Chants polonaise*, op. 74. The song shown on the stamp is the first one in the collection and is entitled "Zyczenie" (The Wish), also known by its German title "Mädchens Wunsch". This rather wistful love song was composed in 1829 to words by his friend Stefan Witwicki. There is also a portrait of Chopin on the stamp.



ROMANIA

Scott 4726

Michel 5932

One stamp in a set of five issued April 18, 2005 commemorating famous personalities. The 22,000-lei stamp honors George Enescu (1881-1955) on his 50th death anniversary. He was widely recognized as a composer, violinist, conductor and teacher. Two of his famous students were Yehudi Menuhin and Arthur Grumiaux. As a composer, his best known works are his two colorful Romanian Rhapsodies. Enescu himself, though, felt he had other more substantial compositions. One of these is the Violin Sonata No. 3, op 25, in a minor, composed in 1926. The opening notes of the violin part from the first movement are shown on the stamp, along with a portrait of Enescu. Subtitled, "Danse te caractère populaire roumain" the piece merges an Eastern rhapsodic and improvisatory character into Western sonata form. The improvisatory quality, however, is an illusion. The violin part is painstakingly notated as quarter-tones, bent tones, slides and intricate ornamentation.



ROMANIA

Scott 4739A-4739B

Michel 5953-5954

Two stamps in a set of twenty issued July 1, 2005 to mark the conversion of Romania's domestic currency from the old to the new Lei. This redenomination turned 10,000 old Lei into 1 new Leu. New coins were issued. The twenty stamps show the front and back of the new notes and coins. The background of each stamp shows the building and logo of the National Bank of Romania with the inscription "125" representing the anniversary of the founding of the institution. The two 80-Bani stamps picture the front and back of the new 5-Lei bank notes. The front of the bank note features a portrait of George Enescu (1881-1955), three decorative musical notes, a violin and a carnation. The back of the note shows the Romanian Athenaeum concert hall, a piano, a decorative musical note and an unidentified musical excerpt (probably from a work by Enescu).



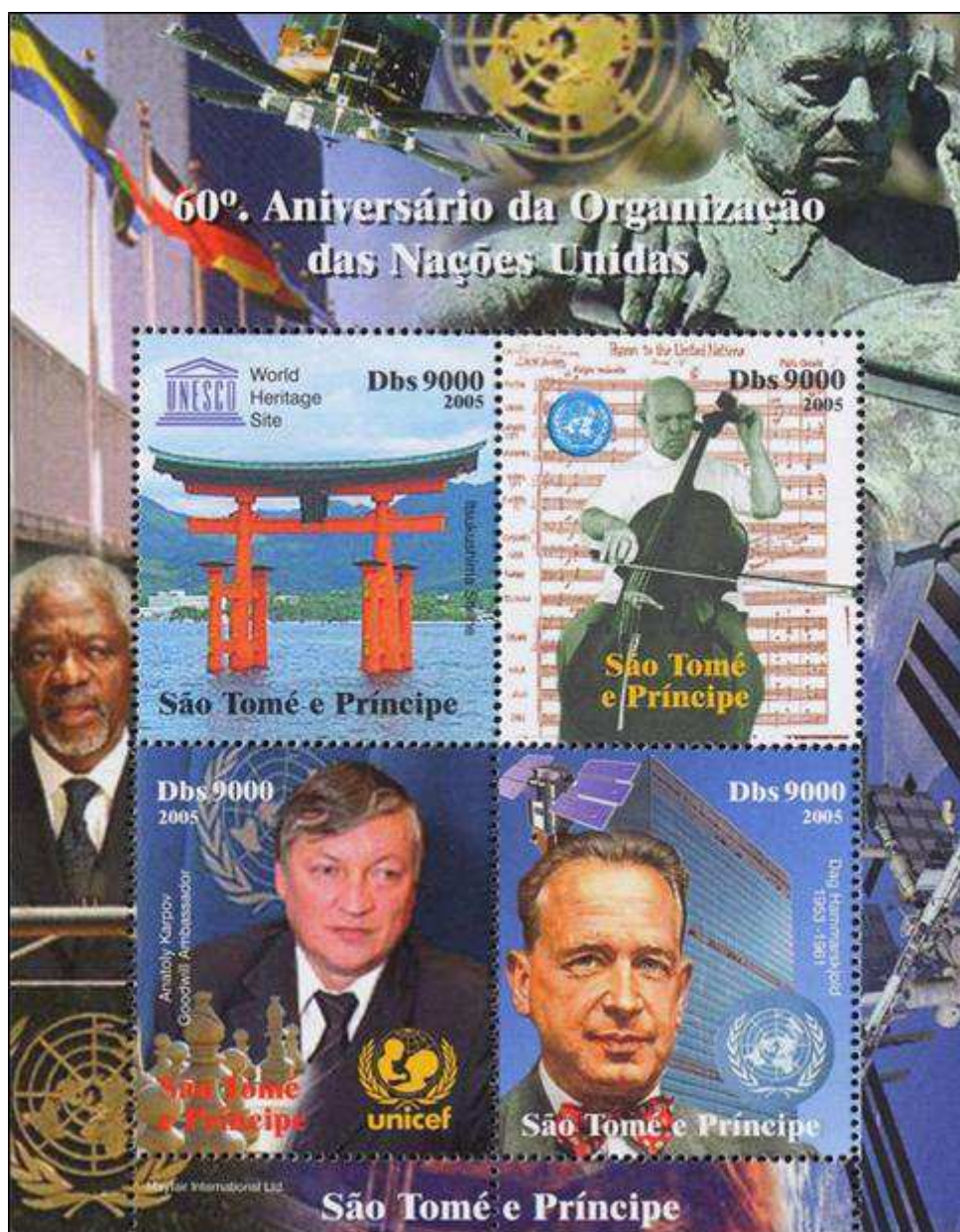
Addendum: According to Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banknotes_of_the_Romanian_leu) the musical notation on the second stamp is from Enescu's opera "Oedipe" (Peter Lang)

ST. THOMAS & PRINCE ISLANDS

Scott ???

Michel ???

A sheet of four stamps issued in 2005 for the 60th anniversary of the United Nations. One of the four stamps features the "Hymn to the United Nations", composed by Pablo Casals (1876-1973) to words written by W.H. Auden (1907-1973). While there is no official anthem for the UN, this song is often associated with the organization. It was written for its 25th anniversary and was first performed October 24, 1971. Casals and Auden were brought together in an unusual collaboration by U Thant, who was then Secretary General of the UN. He wanted the song to be a hymn to peace rather than a celebration of war. Pablo Casals, who was a personal friend of U Thant, agreed to compose the music, but he needed a suitable text. W.H. Auden was asked to provide a poem based on the ideals of the preamble of the organization. Casals, a noted humanitarian as well as a cellist and composer, conducted the Casals Festival Orchestra in the first performance. The stamp pictures Casals at the cello, with the first page of the music in the background.



TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

Scott 600-601

Michel 624-625

Two stamps in a set of four issued September 9, 2005 featuring cultural and art events organized by three municipalities in Northern Cyprus. The 10k stamp highlights the International Olive Festival of Kyrenia (Girne). It depicts a sandy beach with umbrellas, olive branches, an artist's palette and decorative musical notes. The 25k stamp highlights the International Culture and Art Festival of Farmagusta (Gazimagusa). Decorative musical notes fill the air above the Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque (formerly the Cathedral of St. Nicholas). The other two stamps, which have no musical symbols, feature the International Folk Dance Festival of Nicosia (Lefkosa) and the International Cyprus Theatre Festival, organized jointly by the three municipalities. The names in parentheses are the Turkish equivalents of the names by which the cities are otherwise known.

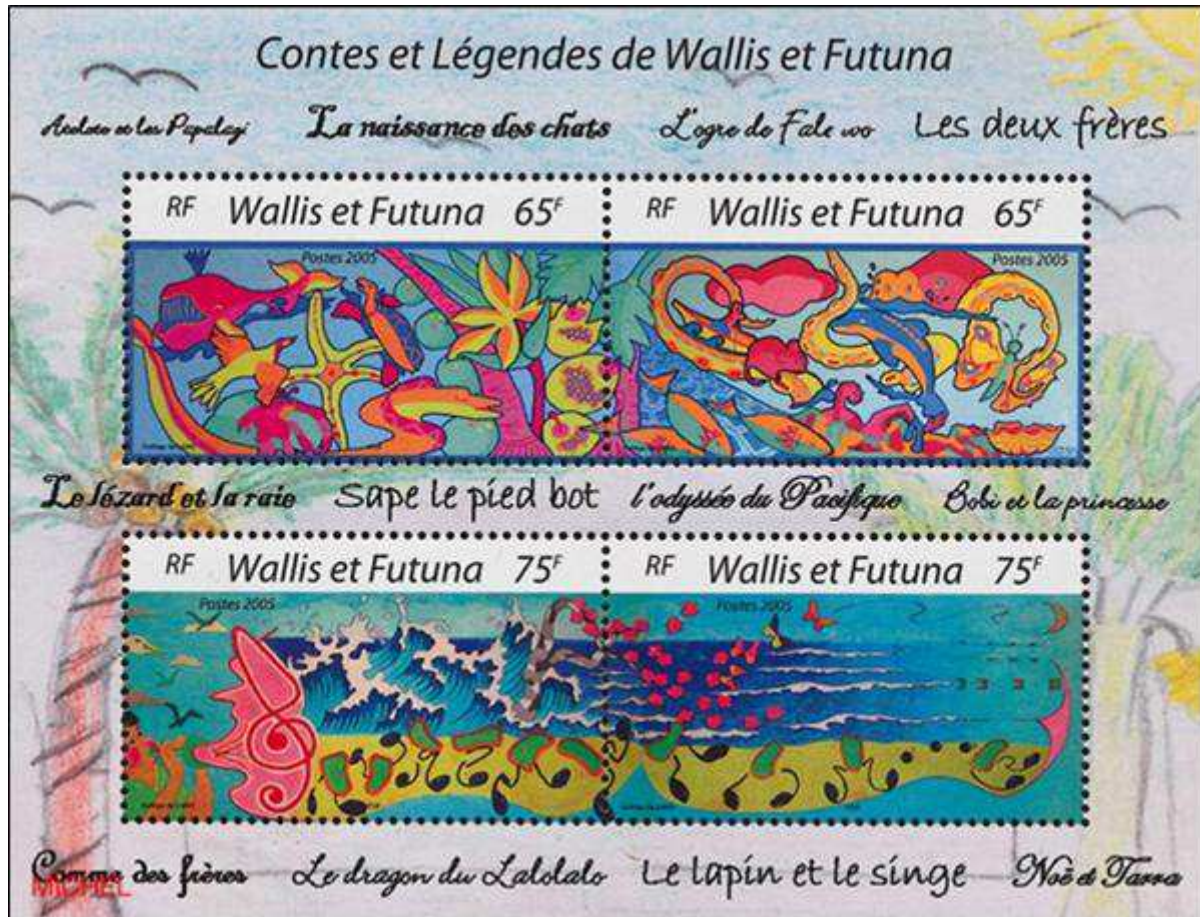


WALLIS AND FUTUNA

Scott 598

Michel 896-897

A souvenir sheet with four stamps issued January 31, 2005 featuring tales and legends of these islands. The bottom two stamps form a continuous design showing an ocean scene. In front of the waves is a boy playing a horn from which appear a treble clef and whimsical music creatures (with note heads for feet and note stems for legs) who are dancing on the shore.



Edit by Arnold van Berkel December 2013