

## Note-Worthy Music Stamps, Part 7

By Ethel Bloesch

[Note: This installment covers music notation stamps issued in 1997. Sets issued in 1998 will be described in the next installment.]

### ARMENIA

Scott 552

Michel 309

A stamp issued March 26, 1997 for the 75th anniversary of the birth of Arno Babajanian, an Armenian composer and pianist. Babajanian, born in Erevan on January 22, 1921, studied music there and in Moscow. His compositions, while influenced by Khachaturian and Rachmaninoff, are unmistakably original. His piano works are virtuosic, and he himself was a brilliant pianist. The music on the stamp is reported to be from *Herosakan Ballad*, a set of symphonic variations for piano and orchestra, composed in 1950. A portion of the piano score is shown behind a profile portrait of the composer. Babajanian died in 1983.



## AUSTRIA

Scott 1719

Michel 2213

A stamp issued March 21, 1997 for the 100th anniversary of the birth of Erich Korngold (1897-1957). Son of the eminent Austrian music critic Julius Korngold, Erich was a remarkable child prodigy. At age 11 he composed a ballet, which was performed at the Vienna Court Opera. His opera *Die tote Stadt* (The Dead City), composed at age 20, brought him world fame. In 1934 Korngold came to Hollywood and over the next decade wrote many successful film scores. After World War II he composed large-scale orchestral works, including a symphony and concertos for violin and for cello. A skillful orchestrator, Korngold is recognized today as one of the last great Romantic composers. Austria's philatelic tribute features Korngold's celebrated opera *Die tote Stadt*, with a pictorial scene that captures the essence of the opera as a dream-tale. Superimposed on the bottom of the picture is a musical excerpt from Marietta's solo in Scène 5. In describing this work, Nicholas Slonimsky has written: "The libretto is Germanically morbid, but the score is one of the most effective operas of the post-Wagner era." The work was successfully revived in New York City in 1975.



## BRAZIL

Scott 2649

Michel 2773

A set of two stamps issued October 7, 1997 for the birth centenary of two Brazilian composers, Oscar Lorenzo Fernández and Francisco Mignone. Handsomely designed, each stamp features three elements: a half-tone portrait of the composer, a two-octave keyboard, and an extensive musical excerpt printed with gold ink on a black background.

The first stamp honors Oscar Lorenzo Fernández, of Spanish ancestry, who was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1897 and died there in 1948 at the age of 50. At 20, he entered the National Music Institute and soon won many composition prizes. He became an active member of the Musical Culture Society, and in 1936 he and five other professors founded the Brazilian Conservatory of Music. The works of Lorenzo Fernández are rooted in musical nationalism. *Malazarte* is considered the first successful Brazilian national opera, and most of his songs are based on native music. Some of his orchestral works are staples in the Brazilian repertory. He also composed significant chamber and piano music, and the stamp shows his last piano piece, *Sonato breve*, composed in 1947.



## BRAZIL

Scott 2650

Michel 2774

A set of two stamps issued October 7, 1997 for the birth centenary of two Brazilian composers, Oscar Lorenzo Fernandez and Francisco Mignone. Handsomely designed, each stamp features three elements: a half-tone portrait of the composer, a two-octave keyboard, and an extensive musical excerpt printed with gold ink on a black background.

The second stamp honors Francisco Mignone, who also was born in 1897, but who lived until 1986, thus surviving Lorenzo Fernandez by 38 years. Born to Italian immigrants, Mignone received his first musical training from his father. He then studied at the Sao Paulo Conservatory and later at the Milan Conservatory. After nearly a decade in Europe, Mignone returned to Brazil to teach, and in 1933 he was appointed official conductor and conducting teacher at the National Music School in Rio de Janeiro, where he served for many years. His early music reflects the influence of his Italian training, but his later works express musical nationalism. These works include his four *Fantasia brasileira* for piano and orchestra, rhapsodic pieces with a piano part recalling the spontaneous style of the popular pianist-composers. An excerpt from the second of these fantasias, composed in 1931, is shown on the stamp. In his long career, Mignone wrote successful music in a wide variety of genres, including significant vocal and choral works. His piano waltzes were especially popular. In later years Mignone moved to a more eclectic style. He wrote: "My music will have to be gradually more refined technically, but clear, honest and easily understandable to the majority."



## BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

Scott 250

Michel 260

One in a set of four stamps issued in 1997 for Christmas. It shows a Christmas scene with two penguins lustily singing Christmas carols by lamplight. Decorative eighth-notes float in the air above.



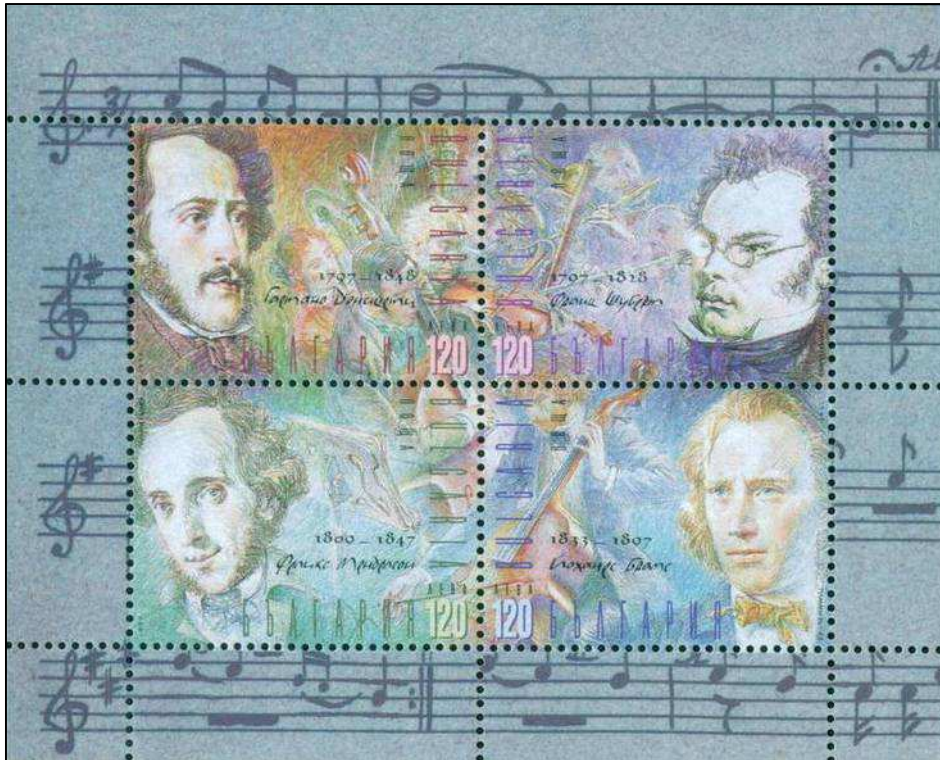


## BULGARIA

Scott 3988

Michel 4284-4287

A miniature sheet of four stamps issued May 29, 1997 to commemorate composer anniversaries. These composers are honored: Gaetano Donizetti (200th anniversary of his birth), Franz Schubert (200th anniversary of his birth), Felix Mendelssohn (150th anniversary of his death), and Johannes Brahms (100th anniversary of his death). Each stamp shows a portrait of the composer and a soft background image of performing musicians. Visible in the margins of the sheet are unidentified bars of music.



## CAPE VERDE

Scott 714

Michel 725

One in a set of three stamps portraying national symbols, issued April 16, 1997. Cape Verde, a republic consisting of a group of volcanic islands in the Atlantic Ocean, became independent in 1975. In 1992 a new Constitution was adopted with a new national flag and emblems. On May 28, 1996 the National Assembly approved the adoption of a new national anthem, "Cantico da Liberdade". It replaces an earlier song that was shared with Guinea-Bissau, with whom there had once been intentions to form a unified state. However, Cape Verde formally separated from Guinea-Bissau in 1981. The new anthem is featured on the 37 escudo stamp, which shows a melodic fragment (in two colors) clinging to wavy staff lines. Superimposed on one side are nine lines of the text. According to the author, the song celebrates hope, which is as big as the sea which embraces us. The song was first played internationally at the opening ceremony of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.



Addendum: The composer of the National Anthem is Adalberto Higinio Tavares Silva (\* 1961), the text is by Amilcar Spencer Lopes (\* 1948). (Arnold van Berkel, 2014)

## CUBA

Scott 3857

Michel 4046

Three stamps in a set of six issued September 15, 1997 honoring great composers. Bach, Mozart, and Cuban native son Ignacio Cervantes are featured, with portraits and facsimiles of music manuscripts written in their own hand. The other three stamps in the set of six (for Liszt, Beethoven, and Chopin) do not contain music.

The Bach stamp shows the opening staves of his Sonata for Unaccompanied Violin in G minor, BWV 1001.





## CUBA

Scott 3859

Michel 4047

Three stamps in a set of six issued September 15, 1997 honoring great composers. Bach, Mozart, and Cuban native son Ignacio Cervantes are featured, with portraits and facsimiles of music manuscripts written in their own hand. The other three stamps in the set of six (for Liszt, Beethoven, and Chopin) do not contain music.

The second stamp honors Ignacio Cervantes (1847-1905), the most important Cuban composer of the 19th century. His piano pieces, particularly the danzas, reflect both his European musical training and native Cuban rhythms and themes. The manuscript shown on the stamp is the danza "La Solitaria".



## CUBA

Scott 3860

Michel 4048

Three stamps in a set of six issued September 15, 1997 honoring great composers. Bach, Mozart, and Cuban native son Ignacio Cervantes are featured, with portraits and facsimiles of music manuscripts written in their own hand. The other three stamps in the set of six (for Liszt, Beethoven, and Chopin) do not contain music.

The Mozart stamp contains the short motet "God Is Our Refuge", K. 20 (m. 5-8), written by the 9-year-old Wolfgang for presentation to the British Museum during his London visit in 1765.



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Scott 1245

Michel 1844-1845

One stamp in a set of two issued February 26, 1997 for Independence Day. Both stamps in the set feature the national anthem against a background of the flag: the \$2 stamp contains the words and the \$3 stamp the music.

"Quisqueyanos Valientes, Alcemos" was composed in 1883 and first sung as the national anthem in 1900. José Reyes (1835-1905) wrote the music and Emilio Prud'homme (1856-1932) the words. The music stamp presents the opening bars of the melody, in a format modeled after the historic set of five stamps issued by the Dominican Republic in 1946. The new stamp, however, has several notational errors not found in the earlier set.

An interesting sidelight: This is the fifth time that the national anthem of the Dominican Republic has appeared on stamps, making it one of the top musical philatelic hits of all time. In addition to the 1946 and the 1997 sets, single stamps featuring the national anthem were issued in 1982 (for the 50th anniversary of the death of Prud'homme), in 1988 by Mexico, and in 1994 for the 150th anniversary of independence. To my knowledge, the only musical compositions that have appeared on stamps more often are Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and Franz Gruber's "Stille Nacht".



## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Scott 220a

Michel 1829

A strip of three stamps issued April 23, 1997. Two of the stamps commemorate composer anniversaries: the 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Schubert (1797-1828) and the 100th anniversary of the death of Johannes Brahms (1833-1897). Each stamp features a portrait of the composer and a staff with two musical notes.





## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Scott 220c

Michel 1831

A strip of three stamps issued April 23, 1997. Two of the stamps commemorate composer anniversaries: the 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Schubert (1797-1828) and the 100th anniversary of the death of Johannes Brahms (1833-1897). Each stamp features a portrait of the composer and a staff with two musical notes.



## GERMANY

Scott 1980

Michel 1953

A stamp issued October 9, 1997 for the 150th anniversary of the death of Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847). The stamp shows a portrait of Mendelssohn after a lithograph from the Mendelssohn archives in the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin, and two bars from an unidentified keyboard score. The music appears to be a facsimile of an original manuscript, but my attempts to trace the source have not yet been successful.



Addendum: The music on the Mendelssohn stamp issued by Germany on October 9, 1997 has now been identified. It is from the autograph score of the Fugue for organ in F minor, five bars from the end. Composed on July 18, 1839, the work was not published until 38 years after Mendelssohn's death. It was not included in Mendelssohn's Collected Works, nor does it appear in the Thematic Catalog. Musical identification of the stamp, therefore, was particularly difficult. The mystery, however, was solved by David Shaw and reported in *The Baton*, November 1999.

## GRENADA GRENADINES

Scott 1995-1997

Michel 2628-2635

A sheetlet and two souvenir sheets issued August 22, 1997 as a "stamp tribute to the memory of master classical composers". The sheetlet contains nine vertical stamps, each depicting a well-known composer. Pictured are Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, J.S. Bach, Chopin, Schubert, Stravinsky, Haydn, Mahler, and Rossini. The souvenir sheets each contain single stamps, one for Schubert and the other for Mozart.

The same musical excerpt forms the background for the sheetlet and for the souvenir sheets. On the sheetlet the music is visible only in the margins, whereas on the souvenir sheets, the music is much more prominent. It is a little untitled piano piece composed by Mozart during his childhood visit to London. Identified in the Köchel catalogue as Rondeau (K. 15hh), it is one of 43 pieces in the London Sketchbook, a collection of short keyboard pieces or sketches for orchestra. The 8-year-old Wolfgang wrote these pieces sometime in the latter half of 1764, while his father Leopold was recovering from an illness and they were unable to give concerts. The Mozarts stayed in London until July of the following year. During their 15-month stay, Wolfgang composed his first symphonies.

It is curious that a piece by Mozart appears on all three of these postal items, even though, as noted above, only one item actually portrays Mozart. It should also be mentioned that the Stravinsky stamp contains musical fragments, probably taken from Stravinsky's own works.



## GRENADA GRENADINES

Scott ???

Michel 2632

A sheetlet and two souvenir sheets issued August 22, 1997 as a "stamp tribute to the memory of master classical composers". The sheetlet contains nine vertical stamps, each depicting a well-known composer. Pictured are Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, J.S. Bach, Chopin, Schubert, Stravinsky, Haydn, Mahler, and Rossini.

The Stravinsky stamp contains musical fragments, probably taken from Stravinsky's own works.





## GUERNSEY

Scott 597

Michel 741

One in a set of six stamps issued August 21, 1997 to celebrate technological advancement in communication. The six stamps feature radio, television, the telephone, the newspaper, the postal system, and the Internet. Each design depicts new as well as older technologies in that medium. For example, the telephone stamp includes a fax machine. The radio stamp features radio broadcasting by the BBC Radio Guernsey and the independent station Island FM. Decorative musical notes are incorporated into the design.



## INDONESIA

Scott 1703

Michel 1691

One stamp in a set of three issued April 30, 1997 featuring Indonesian artists in the fields of music, film, and painting. Wage Rudolf Soepratman (1903-1938) was a prominent Indonesian musician. He composed several patriotic songs, including the national anthem "Indonesia Raya", which was written to spur the people's spirit to fight against colonialism. Soepratman wrote both the words and the music to this song. It was first performed at the Indonesian Youth Congress on October 28, 1928 and was adopted as the national anthem either in 1945 (according to the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*) or in 1949 (according to *National Anthems of the World*). The small music fragment shown on the stamp is said to be an excerpt from this song.



## IRELAND

Scott 1055

Michel 997

One in a set of four stamps issued April 3, 1997 to mark the 75th anniversary of the state. The stamps cover these areas: culture, sport, commerce, and the arts. The stamp representing culture features a singer, a violinist, and a bodhran player, with an unidentified music score in the background. The bodhran (an Irish folk instrument) is a frame drum. The head of the drum is usually made from goatskin and is attached to an ash frame. The bodhran was used to announce the arrival of a party of revellers or as an accompaniment to dancing.



## JAPAN

Scott 2587

Michel 2495

The first two stamps in a series entitled "My Favorite Songs". Like the previous Japanese song series of 1979-1981, this new series will contain 18 stamps when complete. Each stamp features a popular song, with a large colorful illustration and one line of melody with the words. The first two stamps were issued October 24, 1997.

The 50-yen stamp depicts "Ii Hi Tabidachi" (Departure on a fine day). Shinji Tanimura (b. 1948) wrote both the words and music. The song, published in 1978, was made popular by the singer Momoe Yamaguchi (b. 1959). (Information on these and other Japanese stamps has been provided by Chuichi Maeda).





## JAPAN

Scott 2588

Michel 2496

The first two stamps in a series entitled "My Favorite Songs". Like the previous Japanese song series of 1979-1981, this new series will contain 18 stamps when complete. Each stamp features a popular song, with a large colorful illustration and one line of melody with the words. The first two stamps were issued October 24, 1997.

The 80-yen stamp shows "Tsuki no Sabaku" (Desert under the moon), a famous children's song published in 1923. The words were written by Masao Kato (1897-1977) and the music by Suguru Sakaki (1892-1966). Kato was a painter as well as a poet, and the design of this stamp is from Kato's own painting. (Information on these and other Japanese stamps has been provided by Chuichi Maeda)



## JAPAN

Scott 2601

Michel 2513

The second pair of stamps in Japan's "My Favorite Songs" series was issued December 8, 1997. The 50-yen stamp depicts "Sunayama" (A sand hill), a children's song written and published in 1922. The words are by Hakushu Kitahara (1885-1942) and the music by Shimpei Nakayama (1887-1952).



## JAPAN

Scott 2602

Michel 2514

The second pair of stamps in Japan's "My Favorite Songs" series was issued December 8, 1997. The 80-yen stamp features the popular Christmas song "Jingle Bells", written by the American composer James S. Pierpont (1822-1893). The song was written in 1850 and published in 1857 as a ballad entitled "One Horse Open Sleigh". Two years later it was published under the title "Jingle Bells" or "The One Horse Open Sleigh". The song did not achieve widespread popularity until after his death, and the current version of the chorus is altered from the original. Pierpont was the uncle of the millionaire financier John Pierpont Morgan.



## KOREA SOUTH (ROK)

Scott 1917

Michel 1944

A stamp issued October 1, 1997 to mark the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Mokpo port to foreign trade. Mokpo is located at the southwestern tip of the Korean Peninsula. Long a hub of sea transportation, Mokpo is now expanding with a new express highway and airport to become a major harbor in the 21st century. Tourists are attracted to the scenic beauty of the area and to the city's cultural resources.

The stamp depicts the harbor as it looked in 1887. Below the picture are the opening bars of the song that helped to make the city famous: "The Tears of Mokpo". The music was composed by Son Mok-in and the words were written by Mun Il-sok. First sung by the singer Lee Nan-young in the 1930s, the mournful song reflected the mood of Koreans under Japanese colonial rule. The song still enjoys great national popularity today.



## MOLDOVA

Scott ???

Michel 229

A set of four stamps issued February 22, 1997 to honor four composers: Musicescu, Schubert, Rachmaninoff, and Enescu.

Gavriil Musicescu (1847-1903) was a Romanian composer, teacher, and choirmaster. His principal works are hymns, Psalm settings, and other liturgical service music. He also wrote secular choral and vocal music based on a variety of folksong. This stamp features Musicescu's portrait and a small picture of him conducting singers, superimposed upon an unidentified 5-part score (probably choral music, although no words are included).





## MOLDOVA

Scott ???

Michel 230

A set of four stamps issued February 22, 1997 to honor four composers: Musicescu, Schubert, Rachmaninoff, and Enescu.

The stamp for Franz Schubert (1797-1828) contains a portrait of Schubert and a smaller picture of him seated at a table. The background score shows the opening bars of the Allegretto from the second of Schubert's Drei Klavierstücke, D. 946. These three short pieces were composed in May 1828, just six months before his death. They were not published until 1868 and were edited anonymously by Johannes Brahms. According to biographer Maurice J.E. Brown, Schubert was an innovator in his short piano pieces and a forerunner of the Romantic school, helping composers like Schumann and Chopin have the freedom to throw off the shackles of the sonata form.



## MOLDOVA

Scott ???

Michel 231

A set of four stamps issued February 22, 1997 to honor four composers: Musicescu, Schubert, Rachmaninoff, and Enescu.

The third composer honored in this set is the Russian composer, pianist, and conductor Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943), the last great Russian representative of late Romanticism. Rachmaninoff's works include many expressive pieces for piano. The stamp features a portrait of the composer and a smaller picture of him playing the piano, superimposed upon an unidentified piano score.



## MOLDOVA

Scott ???

Michel 232

A set of four stamps issued February 22, 1997 to honor four composers: Musicescu, Schubert, Rachmaninoff, and Enescu.

The fourth stamp contains George Enescu (1881-1955), who is considered to be the greatest Romanian musician. He was highly regarded as a composer, violinist, conductor and teacher. While living in France he adopted the French form of his name, Georges Enesco. The stamp shows Enescu's portrait and a smaller picture of him playing the violin. The background score is an excerpt from the first movement of his Second Sonata for Violin and Piano, op. 6, composed in 1899.



## NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Scott B321

Michel 933

A set of four semi-postal stamps issued October 22, 1997. The surcharge for these stamps goes to the Antillean Youth Care Federation. The 1997 Youth Care stamps have as their theme: "Child and Music". Each stamp shows a young person playing a musical instrument, with related music in the background. The intent is to show the importance of being able to read music and to play an instrument. Four different genres of music are featured: salsa music, classical music, jazz, and rock. The first stamp (40+15c) shows hands beating a conga drum; in the background are musical notes from a samba, "Altras de nos". Although salsa music and the samba have different origins (Cuba and Brazil, respectively), some salsa musicians combine rhythms from various areas in a sort of pan-Latin American expression.



## NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Scott B322

Michel 934

A set of four semi-postal stamps issued October 22, 1997. The surcharge for these stamps goes to the Antillean Youth Care Federation. The 1997 Youth Care stamps have as their theme: "Child and Music". Each stamp shows a young person playing a musical instrument, with related music in the background. The intent is to show the importance of being able to read music and to play an instrument. Four different genres of music are featured: salsa music, classical music, jazz, and rock.

The second stamp (75+25c) shows hands on a piano keyboard, along with the opening measures of Beethoven's "Für Elise". This little bagatelle was probably written for Therese Malfatti, to whom Beethoven proposed marriage in the spring of 1810. When the piece was first published - more than fifty years later - the editor Ludwig Nohl apparently misread the inscription "Für Therese" as "Für Elise".





## NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Scott B323

Michel 935

A set of four semi-postal stamps issued October 22, 1997. The surcharge for these stamps goes to the Antillean Youth Care Federation. The 1997 Youth Care stamps have as their theme: "Child and Music". Each stamp shows a young person playing a musical instrument, with related music in the background. The intent is to show the importance of being able to read music and to play an instrument. Four different genres of music are featured: salsa music, classical music, jazz, and rock.

The third stamp (110+45c) shows a flute player and the jazz tune "Blues for Alice". This piece was written and made famous by the legendary Charlie Parker (1920-1955), a jazz alto saxophonist who was a central figure in the development of bop in the 1940s. Parker, a brilliant improviser, inspired a generation of jazz performers and composers.



## NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Scott B324

Michel 936

A set of four semi-postal stamps issued October 22, 1997. The surcharge for these stamps goes to the Antillean Youth Care Federation. The 1997 Youth Care stamps have as their theme: "Child and Music". Each stamp shows a young person playing a musical instrument, with related music in the background. The intent is to show the importance of being able to read music and to play an instrument. Four different genres of music are featured: salsa music, classical music, jazz, and rock.

The fourth stamp (225+100c) shows a guitar player and the Beatles song "Yesterday". Written by John Lennon (1940-1980) and Paul McCartney (b. 1942), "Yesterday" was recorded by the Beatles in June 1965. The lead vocalist and guitarist was Paul McCartney, and the song was accompanied by a string quartet. According to Broek Helender in *The Rock Who's Who*, "Yesterday" has been recorded by more than 2500 artists and played more than six million times, making it the most frequently performed pop song in history.



## NEW ZEALAND

Scott 1452-1458

Michel 1621-1626

A block of six stamps plus a single self-adhesive stamp issued September 3, 1997 for Christmas. The set commemorates one of the first Christmas services held in New Zealand. The service, led by the missionary Samuel Marsden, took place in 1814. Rev. Marsden preached to a large and responsive Maori audience on the text: "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy".

The pictures on the stamps portray scenes of the event, from the arrival of Marsden's ship to the extended hands of welcome, and finally the memorial cross that today marks the site. The story of the historic visit is also told in the words of a Christmas hymn, "Te Harinui", by Willow Macky. The words and melody of this song extend sequentially throughout the six stamps, with the separate stamp repeating the music on the sixth stamp. The words are all English except for the last phrase "Te Harinui" (Glad tidings of great joy). The song was first published in 1958. Willow Macky, born in 1921, is a leading composer of folk-style music in her native country of New Zealand. Many of her songs capture an authentic Maori flavor.





# PHILIPPINES

Scott 2435

Michel 2810-2813

A sheet issued June 12, 1997, the fifth in an annual series leading up to the centenary of Philippine independence in 1998. It contains four stamps that portray these historical leaders of 1897: Edilberto Evangelista, hero of the Battle of Zapote Bridge; Vicente Alvarez, Zamboanga revolutionary leader; Francisco Del Castillo, leader of the Katipungan in Aldan; and Pantaleon Villegas, Cebuano revolutionary leader.

The bottom of the sheet continues the music of the national anthem (m. 33-40) with the words for verse 5. As in previous sheets in the series, there are several errors in the notation. The music was written in 1898 by Julian Felipe (1860-1944), and the original Spanish words are by José Palma (1876-1903). The Tagalog version shown on the sheet is by Felipe P. de Leon. In this version, the song begins with the words "Byang magiliw".

**CENTENARY OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE**  
**1898-1998**  
**SERIES 5: HISTORICAL EVENTS AND PERSONAGES (1897)**

EDILBERTO EVANGELISTA  
Hero of the Battle of Zapote Bridge  
*Pilipinas*  
1997

VICENTE ALVAREZ  
Zamboanga Revolutionary Leader  
*Pilipinas*  
1997

FRANCISCO DEL CASTILLO  
Leader of the Katipungan in Aldan  
*Pilipinas*  
1997

PANTALEON VILLEGAS  
Cebuano Revolutionary Leader  
*Pilipinas*  
1997

**NATIONAL ANTHEM (Ang Lupang Hinirang) Part 5**

Lu - pa ng a - raw, ng lu - wal - ha - ti't pag - sin -  
ta Bu - hay ay la - ngit sa pi - ling mo;

MICHEL

## RUSSIA

Scott 6369

Michel 560

A stamp issued February 26, 1997 for an international music festival honoring Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975). Composer of 147 numbered works, Shostakovich is chiefly remembered for his fifteen symphonies, which show remarkable emotional power and technical invention. Although his education and entire career were carried on within the Soviet system, he was able to preserve his artistic integrity. In the words of his biographer Boris Schwarz, "Shostakovich, the composer can be described as an eclectic progressive, rooted in tradition and tonality, yet using dissonance and occasional atonality as expressive means without adhering to any particular school... Three basic strands [of his personality] can be identified: high-spirited humor, introspective meditation and declamatory grandeur".

The stamp features a portrait of the composer; a vignette of quartet players; and a four-note musical motto (D-Eb-C-B), which represents the German form of his name, using German pitch names: D-Es[S]-C-H, for **D**mitri **SCH**ostakovich. Shostakovich used this four-note theme in several of his personal works, notably the Tenth Symphony and the Eighth Quartet. The theme in fact permeates the entire Eighth String Quartet (op. 110, C minor), serving as the generative force for four of the quartet movements. The quartet, composed during a visit to Dresden in July 1960, also contains quotes from six of his earlier works and from the revolutionary song "Tormented by Grievous Bondage". Shostakovich wrote to a friend: "When I die, it's hardly likely that someone will write a quartet dedicated to my memory. So I decided to write it myself".





## THAILAND

Scott 1781

Michel 1823

One stamp in a set of seven issued December 5, 1997 to honor the King's 70th birthday. Each of the stamps features a different talent of Bhumibol Adulyadev, King of Thailand (H.M. Rama IX). These talents are music, painting, engineering, sports, photography, writing, and information technology. The music stamp shows the King playing the saxophone. Also shown is the Certificate of Honorary Membership conferred on the King by the Institute of Music and Arts of the City of Vienna. In the background is the score to a song that he composed in 1946, "Saifon" (Falling Rain). The words are by Prince Chakkraphanpensiri Chakkraphan. The King was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on December 5, 1927. He ascended to the throne on June 9, 1946 and is currently the longest reigning monarch in the world.



## UNITED STATES

Scott 3163

Michel 2888

One stamp in a set of eight issued September 12, 1997 honoring American conductors (Leopold Stokowski, Arthur Fiedler, George Szell, Eugene Ormandy) and composers (Samuel Barber, Ferde Grofé, Charles Ives, and Louis Moreau Gottschalk). The stamp for Ferde Grofé is the only one that contains musical notes, and these seem to be only decorative in nature.

Ferde Grofé (1892-1972) was well known as an arranger as well as composer, working for Paul Whiteman from 1917 to 1933. His arrangement of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* was premiered by the Whiteman band in 1924. Many of his own compositions are programmatic in nature, bearing such titles as *Grand Canyon Suite*, *Kentucky Derby Suite*, *Niagara Falls Suite*, and *Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*.



## URUGUAY

Scott 1678

Michel 2279

A set of two stamps issued September 1, 1997 to commemorate two composer anniversaries. The first stamp marks the 150th anniversary of the death of Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847). The stamp shows a portrait alongside bars of music from autograph manuscript scores.

The stamp is more puzzling, since the music is reported by the Uruguayan postal authorities to be *Ali Baba Introduction*. Mendelssohn did not compose a work by this title, but he did conduct the overture to Luigi Cherubini's opera "Ali Baba" at his first concert as conductor of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra in October of 1835. This concert inaugurated a long and productive affiliation with the Gewandhaus Orchestra. Under Mendelssohn's tutelage that orchestra achieved a level of performance and programming that became a model for all of Europe.



## URUGUAY

Scott 1679

Michel 2280

A set of two stamps issued September 1, 1997 to commemorate two composer anniversaries. The second stamp commemorates the 100th anniversary of the death of Johannes Brahms (1833-1897). The stamp shows a portrait alongside bars of music from autograph manuscript scores. The Uruguayan postal authorities have reported that the Brahms stamp shows music from his *Tragische Ouverture*, op. 81.



## YUGOSLAVIA

Scott 2381

Michel 2826

A stamp issued June 25, 1997 for the 125th anniversary of the birth of the Serbian composer and conductor Stanislav Binički (1872-1942). After studying mathematics at Belgrade University, Binički taught for a brief time before going to Munich to study composition with Rheinberger. He returned to Belgrade, where he helped to found the Serbian School of Music and conducted symphonic concerts, as well as operas at the National Theatre. During World War I he was a bandmaster in France. After the War he served as director of the National Theatre for four years. Most of Binički's music was written for the theater. His best-known work is the opera *Na uranku* (At dawn), composed in 1903 and considered to be the first Serbian national opera. Based on a story of the conflict with the Turks, the opera incorporates Serbian folk music and idiomatic melisma's and augmented interval scales. An excerpt from the piano-vocal score is shown on the stamp, behind a portrait of Binički. The work was re-orchestrated by Krešimir Baranović in 1968.

