

Note-Worthy Music Stamps, Part 4A + 4B

By Ethel Bloesch

AUSTRIA

Scott 1639

Michel 2120

Third stamp in the "Austropop" series, issued March 18, 1994. Johann Hölzl (alias Falco) is one of the best known and most eccentric pop artists in Austria today. His song "Rock Me Amadeus" remained on the U.S. charts for weeks, and his first world tour in 1985 brought sold-out halls. The stamp has a funky design; it is a pictorial representation of Falco's hit song and includes scraps of unidentified music and a parody portrait (Mozart as Falco ? Or Falco as Mozart ?).



BRAZIL

Scott 2521

Michel 2627

A set of two stamps in the series for Brazilian popular music, issued November 5, 1994. The first stamp features the song "O Mar" (The Sea), by Dorival Caymmi, composed in 1938. Caymmi, then 24, was considering a career in law, but his talent as composer, poet and singer caused him to change his plans. He achieved great success, and his songs are widely performed and recorded. The complete collection (98 songs) was published in 1994. For this stamp, Caymmi chose "O Mar" as the most representative and beautiful of his songs.



BRAZIL

Scott 2522

Michel 2628

A set of two stamps in the series for Brazilian popular music, issued November 5, 1994. The second stamp pays homage to Adoniran Barbosa (1910-1982). Barbosa (whose real name was Joao Rubinato) was the most original of Sao Paulo's samba composers. His songs, which mix humor and melancholy, tell the story of humble folk living through the violence brought about by the urbanization process. The stamp portrays the composer, with unidentified musical notes superimposed on his cloak. In the background, a keyboard/train symbolizes one of his best known songs "Trem das Onze" (The 11 O'clock Train).



BRAZIL

Scott 2523c

Michel 2630

One stamp in a block of four issued December 1, 1994 for Christmas. Cartoon characters (children and animals) are singing lustily, and four eighth notes hover in the air above them.



CHILE

Scott 1091

Michel 1595-1596

A se-tenant pair of stamps, issued January 27, 1994, for the Frutillar Music Festival. Frutillar, a tourist town on Lake Llanquihue in south-central Chile, was founded 137 years ago by German settlers. It has long been a center of cultural activity, with concerts and summer music camps and, since 1967, an annual music festival. The stamp pair shows Lake Llanquihue and what appears to be the Osorno volcano in the distance. Superimposed on this scene are a violin and a cello and a page of notation that does not make musical sense.



CROATIA

Scott 211

Michel 286

A set of three stamps commemorating the history of Croatian music, issued June 20, 1994. The first stamp honors a Croatian composer of the 20th century, Kresimir Baranovic (1894-1975). Born in Sibenik, Baranovic moved to Zagreb while still a young boy. He studied music in Vienna and then returned to Zagreb where he had a long and successful career as conductor at the Zagreb Opera, from 1915 to 1943. He expanded the repertory considerably, with greater attention to modern ballet and works by Slavonic composers. After the war he moved to Belgrade where he became a professor in the Belgrade Academy of Music and manager of the Belgrade Philharmonic. He died in Belgrade in 1975. As a composer, Baranovic contributed to the development of the national style in Croatian music, building largely on the folk music from a region in northern Croatia. His best compositions are stage and vocal-instrumental works. In addition to ballets, Baranovic wrote two comic operas. His music is inventive and dramatic and characterized by colorful orchestration. His major works include the ballet *Licitarsko srce* (Gingerbread Heart, 1924) and the song cycle *Z mojih bregov* (From my highlands, 1927). Both as a conductor and as a composer, then, Baranovic left a lasting impact on Croatian music.



CROATIA

Scott 212

Michel 287

A set of three stamps commemorating the history of Croatian music, issued June 20, 1994. The second stamp is represented by a nineteenth century Croatian composer Vatroslav Lisinski (1819-1854), the leading early Romantic composer in Croatia. Born in Zagreb as Ignac Fuchs, he later changed his name to the Croatian version, Vatroslav Lisinski. He lived and worked in the turbulent time of the Illyrian National Revival. At age 27 he wrote his first opera *Ljubav i zloba* (Love and Malice) - and the first opera ever written in Croatian. (The notes on this stamp are reported to come from this opera, from a male duet "Vuk i Obren"). A second opera *Porin*, a chivalric grand opera, was completed in 1851 but was not staged until after his death. However, it is in his shorter works, particularly the solo songs, that we see the true personality of Lisinski - his freshness and warmth of invention and his skill in creating expressive settings of texts, as well as his affinity for Croatian folk music. Following several years of advanced musical studies in Prague, Lisinski returned to Zagreb, where he faced many professional and personal disappointments. The initial enthusiasm of the Illyrian Revival had faded away, and Lisinski found it difficult to obtain commissions. His health failed and he died from dropsy at age 34. Although his life was cut short, Lisinski stands as a founder and important figure in the national movement in Croatian music.



CROATIA

Scott 213

Michel 288

A set of three stamps commemorating the history of Croatian music, issued June 20, 1994. The third stamp honors a 17th century songbook. The Pauline Songbook (1644) is part of a larger manuscript, the Pauline Codex, housed in the National University Library in Zagreb. Compiled by members of the Pauline Order, it contains various liturgical texts and religious songs in Latin and in the Kajkavian literary dialect. The Pauline Songbook is a treasury of religious songs that were sung throughout northern Croatia. Their origin is very old, some dating back to the Middle Ages. The tunes reflect the large vernacular and liturgical repertory of central Europe.



CZECH REPUBLIC

Scott 2912

Michel 30

A stamp issued January 19, 1994 to honor Jan Kubelik (1880-1940), Czech violinist and composer, and father of the conductor Rafael Kubelik. Behind a portrait of Kubelik, the stamp shows a fragment of unidentified music and part of a violin.



ESTONIA

Scott 269

Michel 228

A sheet issued May 31, 1994 for the 125th anniversary of the national song festivals. The establishment of the festivals grew out of a great national awakening in Estonia in the middle of the 19th century. Long subjugated as a people, Estonians turned to cultural expression, since the possibilities for political self-expression were extremely restricted. The first song festival was held in the university town of Tartu in the summer of 1869. It was a great success, and the festival movement gained strength. At the 100th anniversary festival in 1969 there were 30.000 singers and an audience of 250.000. The sheet honors two leaders in the song festival movement, with portraits and music.



The first one is Johann Voldemar Jannsen (1819-1890), founder of the song festivals and author of the national anthem, is portrayed on the left side. One of the leaders of the national awakening, Jannsen was editor of the first Estonian newspaper and a tireless promoter of Estonian singing. Jannsen wrote the words of the song that became the Estonian national anthem, "Mu isamaa, mu õnn ja rõõm" (My native land, my joy, delight). He wrote these words in 1865, to the tune of the Finnish national anthem (composed in 1848 by Fredrik Pacius). It became Estonia's national anthem when Estonia achieved independence in 1917, but was suppressed in 1944 by the Soviet authorities because it was considered too patriotic, and therefore anti-Soviet. This suppression continued throughout the nearly fifty years of Soviet Russian occupation. The words and the music are shown here below Jannsen's portrait. (Much information was provided by Ellen Laur of Tallinn, Estonia, and by Rudolf Hamar of the Estonian philatelic Society in New York.)

The second one and leader in the song festival movement was Gustav Ernesaks (1908-1993), a prominent Estonian musician of this century. Ernesaks established the National Male Choir of Estonia and was principal conductor at each song festival from 1947 until his death. He composed five operas, over 300 choral works, and hundreds of songs. Estonian patriotic sentiments found fervent expression in Ernesaks's best-loved song "Mu isamaa on minu arm" (My native land, my dearest

love), shown here under Ernesaks's portrait. It was composed in Moscow in 1944 to a 19th century text by Lydia Koidula, daughter of J. V. Jannsen. According to Ellen Laur, at the song festival in 1975 or 1980, the singers and audience demanded this song even though it had been banned. Nobody came up to conduct it. And then 30.000 singers and all 200.000 people in the stadium stood up and joined in the singing. In the middle of the song, Ernesaks came forward to the podium, and the song was repeated three times. This postal sheet epitomizes, I believe, the indomitable spirit of the Estonian people, their love of country, and their love of music. (Much information was provided by Ellen Laur of Tallinn, Estonia, and by Rudolf Hamar of the Estonian philatelic Society in New York.)

GERMANY

Scott 1901

Michel 1806

Stamp issued July 6, 1995 for the 100th anniversary of the birth of Carl Orff. Also issued as sheetlet of ten stamps, with additional music on all four margins. Born in Munich, Orff first came to prominence through his secular cantata *Carmina Burana* (1937), described in *The New Grove Dictionary* as "a work of driving rhythm and exultant hedonism". The texts are medieval Latin poems and songs from the *Benediktbeuren* manuscript. (Orff had found a 19th century edition of this collection in a second-hand bookshop). The stamp shows the opening notes of the cantata, along with figures from *Carmina* and three other of Orff's work: *Antigonae*, *Die Bernauerin*, and *Astutuli*.

Four additional musical excerpts, all in manuscript, fill the margins of this sheetlet. At the top of the sheet are the opening notes of the second movement of *Carmina Burana*, as sung by the basses. The other three excerpts may be from the same work, but have not been identified yet. Orff is also known for his system of music education for children. His last work, *De temporum fine comoedia*, was first performed at the Salzburg Festival in 1973. Orff died in 1982.



Addendum: The musical excerpts at the sheet margins have been identified as follows:

Right margin (shown on top of the above image): The notes are from the song "Ich hasse und ich liebe" (I hate and I love) from the 1st movement of "Catulli Carmina".

Bottom (shown on the right of the above image): The autograph shows an excerpt of the score for percussions from "Astutuli".

Left margin (shown on the bottom of the image above): Autograph from "Prometheus" (Vers 735) with text in Greek language. (Peter Lang, 4/2014)

ISRAËL

Scott 1225

Michel 1324

Two stamps issued February 7, 1995 honoring Jewish musicians. Each stamp pictures a well-known composer and the vignette of an Old Testament character relating to a musical work by that composer. The first stamp features Ernest Bloch (1880-1959), a Swiss-born composer and teacher who became a U.S. citizen in 1924. Shown here are the opening bars of the cello solo from *Schelomo*, A Hebrew Rhapsody for Violoncello and Orchestra, composed in 1916. The vignette pictures King Solomon ("Schelomo" is the Hebrew word for "Solomon", in its German phonetic spelling). This work, with its ecstasy and sorrow, has been described as "a sort of Odyssey of the Hebrew soul". The stamp has a tab containing the composer's distinctive signature.



ISRAËL

Scott 1226

Michel 1325

Two stamps issued February 7, 1995, honoring Jewish musicians. Each stamp pictures a well-known composer and the vignette of an Old Testament character relating to a musical work by that composer. The second stamp features the American conductor, composer and pianist, Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990), with a vignette of the prophet Jeremiah. Also shown are the opening bars of the mezzo-soprano solo in the last movement ("Lamentations") from Jeremiah. This symphony was Bernstein's first large-scale work, and it won the Music Critics Circle Award for 1943-44. The stamp has a tab containing the composer's distinctive signature.



ISRAËL

Scott 1232

Michel 1329

Two stamps issued April 25, 1995 honoring Jewish musicians. Each stamp pictures a well-known composer and the vignette of an Old Testament character relating to a musical work by that composer. The second stamp features the French composer Darius Milhaud (1892-1974), with a vignette of the young David and the final three measures of Milhaud's opera David, composed in 1952. The opera closes with these words: "Le message divin de la Justice et de la Paix". The stamp has a tab containing the composer's distinctive signature.



Note: The other stamp from this set, featuring Arnold Schönberg, doesn't show a musical excerpt.

KOREA DPRK (North Korea)

Scott ???

Michel 3537-3541

Souvenir sheet issued in 1994 to honor General Kim Il Sung. The sheet contains five se-tenant stamps with a continuous design that includes a panoramic scene and a melody. The music is "Song of General Kim Il Sung" composed in 1946 by Kim Wong-gyun. The words, by Ri Chan, are printed at the bottom of the sheet. Kim was born in 1917 and began self-education in music composition. After World War II he studied at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow. In the 1960s he held various important posts in North Korea, serving as president of the National Music University at Pyongyang and as a member of the Central Committee of the Musicians Union. He also composed the national anthem of North Korea.



KOREA DPRK (North Korea)

Scott ???

Michel 3664

Set of four stamps, issued November 25, 1994. Two stamps honor Korean composers; the other two feature Mozart and Beethoven. The first stamp shows Ri Myon Sang (1908-1989) and the melody to his song "Falling Snow". In the lower right hand corner is a golden silhouette of a woman soldier. Ri composed over 700 songs, including "Victorious May" and "The House of My Mother Country".



KOREA DPRK (North Korea)

Scott ???

Michel 3665

Set of four stamps, issued November 25, 1994. Two stamps honor Korean composers; the other two feature Mozart and Beethoven. The second stamp shows Pak Han Kyu (1919-1992) and music from his song "Nobody Knows". Pak composed more than 120 songs. (His last name would be spelled "Park" in South Korea, but appears as "Pak" on the stamp.)



KOREA DPRK (North Korea)

Scott ???

Michel 3666

Set of four stamps, issued November 25, 1994. Two stamps honor Korean composers; the other two feature Mozart and Beethoven. The Beethoven stamp shows the portrait by Schieler and behind it, the opening of the Presto agitato (last movement) of the Piano Sonata in C-sharp minor, Op. 27, no. 2, composed in 1801. Popularly known as the "Moonlight Sonata", it received its nickname from the Berlin critic and poet, Ludwig Rellstab, who wrote that the first movement suggests "a boar visiting, by moonlight, the primitive landscapes of Lake Lucerne".



KOREA DPRK (North Korea)

Scott ???

Michel 3667

Set of four stamps, issued November 25, 1994. Two stamps honor Korean composers; the other two feature Mozart and Beethoven. The Mozart stamp shows the opening bars of Symphony No. 39 in E-flat, K.543, behind the portrait by Lange. This is one of Mozart's final three symphonies, all of which were written in Vienna in the summer of 1788.



LITHUANIA

Scott 496

Michel 560

Single stamp issued July 6, 1994 for the World Song Festival. A decorative note appears in front of a stylized globe. In a visual pun, the flag of the eighth note is also the flag of Lithuania.



MALDIVE ISLANDS

Scott 1942A

Michel 2094

This souvenir sheet, issued January 11, 1994 reproduces an early painting by Rembrandt, "The Music Makers" (1626). Possibly an allegorical work, the painting portrays a musical scene - an older man playing a viola da gamba, a younger man playing a harp, a young woman singing, and an old woman listening in the background. The singer holds an open book of music. Two other music books are shown; one seems to be a lute tablature and the other an air for voice and lute. The painting is owned by the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.



Addendum: The three music books contain no realistic musical notation. See: <https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/nl/collectie/SK-A-4674> where you can increase the painting in detail. (Arnold van Berkel, 3/2014)

NEPAL

Scott 558

Michel 580

Stamp issued December 23, 1994 to honor singer Narayan Gopal Guruwacharya. Born in 1996 B.S. (1939/40 A.D.), he received training in classical music from Baroda University. He served as the General Manager of Sanskritik Sansthan and won many awards for his singing. One of his popular songs is depicted on the stamp. Guruwacharya died in 2047 B.D. (1990/91 A.D.)



NETHERLANDS

Scott 879

Michel 1537

Stamp issued March 21, 1995 in conjunction with the Amsterdam Mahler Festival. The festival, held during May 1995, was devoted to the performance of works by the great Austrian composer and conductor Gustav Mahler (1860-1911). It brought together three orchestras rich in the Mahler tradition, all conducted at one time by Mahler himself. They were the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, and the Berlin Philharmonic. The 1995 festival marked the 75th anniversary of the earlier Mahler Festival of 1920, when Willem Mengelberg conducted the Concertgebouw in the complete symphonies and other major orchestral works of Mahler. The festival stamp, featuring the music and likeness of Mahler, is rich with Dutch associations. On the left is a photograph of Mahler taken on one of his walks by the Zuiderzee. The rest of the stamp shows part of the first page of the autograph score of Mahler's 7th Symphony. This manuscript is now in the possession of the Concertgebouw. The stamp, in shades of blue and black, moves from dark on the left side to light on the right side. Arnold Poos suggests that this color transition on the stamp expresses the movement of the symphony from darkness and struggle in the first three movements to brightness and light in the final two movements.



NEW CALEDONIA

Scott 705

Michel 1020

A stamp issued November 4, 1994 to promote reading and philately in the schools. A drawing includes decorative notes floating in the air; their significance is not clear to this observer.



PALAU

Scott 338

Michel 774

A strip of 5 stamps issued October 1, 1994, the very day that Palau achieved independence from the United States. This tiny island group in the Western Pacific (population 15,000) was the last of the United Nations Trust Territories. Originally colonized by Spain, Palau was sold to Germany in 1885. Following World War I it became a Mandated Territory of the League of Nations under the jurisdiction of Japan and after World War II it became a Trust Territory administered by the United States. The right-hand stamp on the strip contains the music to the Palauan national anthem, "Belau Er Kid" by Ymesei O. Ezekiel. On the bottom margin of a sheetlet that contains three strips of stamps, the music is repeated, this time with words. The text is in Palauan, the language used in 13 of Palau's 16 states. The native form of the country's name is "Belau".



PORTUGAL

Scott 1996

Michel 2017

One of four stamps issued July 1, 1994 to commemorate the naming of Lisbon as the European capital of culture 1994. Each stamp shows a stylized bird with a symbol of culture. The first stamp has a brief musical excerpt (five repeated chords).



SINGAPORE

Scott 689

Michel 726

One stamp in a set of four, issued May 18, 1994 for the 10th Singapore Festival of Arts. This festival has been held every two years since its founding in 1977. The individual stamps feature dance, drama, music, and the fine arts. The music stamp shows musicians in the foreground, with an unidentified musical score in the background.



SINGAPORE

Scott 720, 721, 721a

Michel 763-766

Two stamps in a set of four and a souvenir sheet, issued April 19, 1995 for the 30th anniversary of Singapore's independence. Each of the four stamps has the greeting "My Singapore, My Country, Happy Birthday" in a different language. The four languages shown (English, Mandarin, Malay, and Tamil) are recognized as the official languages of Singapore. The souvenir sheet incorporates the four stamps into an overall open-book design that includes both pages of the national anthem "Majulah Singapura". The words and music are by Zubir Said (b. 1907). The song was first performed in 1958 and was adopted as the national anthem in 1959 when Singapore gained international self-government. (It did not become an independent nation until 1965.)



SLOVENIA

Scott 204

Michel 95

One of two stamps issued October 20, 1994 for the 200th anniversary of the Ljubljana philharmonic Society. The stamp features the facade of the philharmonic Society's hall in Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital and largest city. In the background are several measures from an autograph manuscript by Joseph Haydn (1732-1809). Haydn's long and productive career spanned the entire life of Mozart and the rise to fame of the young Beethoven. A pivotal figure in the Viennese Classical period, Haydn worked almost exclusively in the service of the Esterhazy family, a wealthy and powerful Hungarian noble family and patron of the arts. Haydn achieved great eminence in his own lifetime, and his fame has continued to this day. His output was enormous - the list of his compositions spans 40 pages in the New Grove Dictionary. The music shown on the stamp is an excerpt from his *Missa in tempore belli* (the "Paukenmesse"). The passage is from the soprano solo part in the first movement of the Mass, the Kyrie. Written in 1796 after Haydn returned from his second visit to London, this is one of six late masses that employ full orchestra in a symphonic style. The title, *Missa in tempore belli*, reflects the troubled state of Europe in the 1790s. In the summer of 1796 Napoleon's troops were threatening Austria.



SWEDEN

Scott 2093

Michel 1845

Set of two stamps, issued August 26, 1994. The postal bulletin titles the set "From Roman to Space Opera". The first stamp commemorates the 300th anniversary of the birth of Johan Helmich Roman (1694-1758), called "the father of Swedish music". The first Swedish composer of distinction, Roman was also master of the royal chapel and the first conductor to give concerts for the general public. In his younger years, Roman studied music in England, where he came in contact with Handel and others. He was a prolific composer; about 400 works survive, mostly in manuscript, in the Royal Swedish Academy of Music in Stockholm. His most famous work is Drottningholm Music, a large orchestral suite written in 1744 for a royal wedding. The stamp shows part of the first page of the musical index of this work (incipits for movements 1, 2, 3, 13, 14, 15) in Roman's hand. Also on the stamp is a sketch of a 17th century painting of musicians, found in the Drottningholm Palace.



SWEDEN

Scott 2094

Michel 1846

Set of two stamps, issued August 26, 1994. The postal bulletin titles the set "From Roman to Space Opera". The second stamp commemorates the opening of the new opera house in Gothenburg. The building is pictured on the stamp, along with a musical excerpt from *Aniara*, the first opera performed in the house, on October 15, 1994. Composed by Karl Birger Blomdahl (1916-1968), the opera is subtitled "A Review about Man in Time and Space". The libretto, based on an epic verse by Harry Martinson, describes how the spaceship *Aniara*, carrying emigrants from a destroyed earth, gets off course on its trip to Mars and sails out into cold, desolate space. Thus, the subject is man's ingenuity but also his ultimate powerlessness in the face of technology. Blomdahl composed *Aniara* in 1957-58, and it was first performed in 1959 at the Royal Opera in Stockholm. The musical language moves abruptly between different idioms, including electronic episodes. In later works, Blomdahl composed purely electronic music.



Note: In addition to the sources noted, this article includes information from postal bulletins supplied by Chuichi Maeda and from *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (Macmillan, 1980).