

Note-Worthy Music Stamps, Part 5

By Ethel Bloesch

[Note: This installment completes the listing of notation stamps issued in 1995. More than twenty stamp sets were issued in 1996. These will be described in forthcoming installments. All indicated numbers are Scott numbers.]

AZERBAIJAN

Scott 505

Michel 229

A stamp issued June 30, 1995 for the 110th birthday of Uzeir (Abdul Huseyn) Hajibeyov (1885-1948). The Russian version of his last name (Romanized) is Gadzhibekov. An important composer, musicologist and teacher, Hajibeyov combined the traditions of Azerbaijani modal folk music with those of European art music. His most famous work, the epic opera *Kyor-ogli*, composed in 1936, deals with themes of art, love, and the nation's struggle for freedom. The text is based on episodes in the life of Kyor-ogli, leader of a peasant uprising. The opening musical theme of the overture is shown on the stamp, alongside a portrait of the composer.



BARBADOS

Scott 900

Michel 881

A sheet of five stamps issued July 25, 1995 for the 300th anniversary of the Combermere School. The individual stamps are devoted to various aspects of the school: scouting, music, cricket, art, and a notable alumnus and former staff member, Frank Collymore. The stamp devoted to music (also issued separately as Scott 897) shows a page of unidentified music, behind a violin and bow. Combermere School was founded in 1695 in Bridgetown for the purpose of educating the children of poor white families in Barbados. After the abolition of slavery, black children began to attend the school, and Combermere became the first institution in the Old British Empire to offer secondary education to blacks. It was later named for Lord Combermere, who was the Governor of Barbados when the school was founded. It has moved several times and now stands at Waterford, St. Michael. The school has long held a tradition of excellence in music.

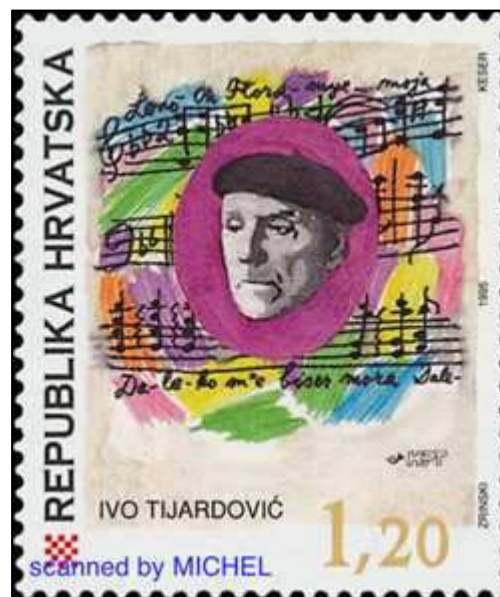


CROATIA

Scott 255

Michel 335

Two stamps in a set of three commemorating the history of Croatian music, issued September 23, 1995. The first stamp honors Ivo Tijardović (1895- 1976), a Croatian composer, conductor, and stage designer. His most popular works are his operettas, particularly those describing events and personalities from his native town of Split, on the Adriatic coast. These works incorporate local folk music and Mediterranean melodies. Best known is *Mala Floramye* (Little Floramye), an operetta composed in 1926. Tijardović wrote the libretto himself. The stamp shows excerpts from this work (in manuscript) behind a picture of the composer.



CROATIA

Scott 257

Michel 337

Two stamps in a set of three commemorating the history of Croatian music, issued September 23, 1995. The second stamp honors Jakov Gotovac (1895-1982), a prominent composer and conductor who helped develop the national movement in Croatian music in the period between the two World Wars. For many years he was a conductor at the Zagreb Opera and a director of several choirs. His music reflects these activities; he wrote operas, choral pieces, solo songs, and programmatic orchestral works. The music shown at the top of the stamp is an excerpt from his popular opera, *Ero s onoga svijeta* (Ero the joker), composed in 1935.



ESTONIA

Scott 296

Michel 269

A stamp issued November 1, 1995 for the 150th birthday of Aleksander Kunileid (1845-1875). Kunileid was one of the first native Estonian composers. He was a conductor at the first Estonian song festival in 1869, and two of his songs were the only pieces of Estonian music performed at the festival. Both are still popular today. One of them, "Sind Surmani", is featured on the stamp and also on the first-day cancellation. The stamp shows the melody of the song, behind a portrait of the composer.



MONACO

Scott 1958

Michel 2242

One of eight stamps issued October 24, 1995 for the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. The fourth stamp commemorates UNESCO. The foreground shows the temple of Abu Simbel. An excerpt from J.S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in B minor, BWV 544, is in the background (measures 4-6 of Bach's elegant autograph score). Composed in Leipzig in 1727-31, this organ work evokes some of Bach's most sublime music: the Kyrie of the B minor Mass and the 'Erbarme dich' of the St. Matthew Passion. This musical manuscript was featured earlier on an East German stamp honoring Albert Schweitzer on his 90th birthday in 1965.



PHILIPPINES

Scott 2233

Michel 2516-2519

A sheet issued June 12, 1995, the third in an annual series to publicize the forthcoming centenary (1998) of Philippine independence. It contains four stamps relating to the Cavite Mutiny of 1872, a brief uprising against the Spanish that predated the Revolution of 1896-98. One of the stamps pictures Crisanto de los Reyes y Mendoza, a Filipino patriot who was exiled to Spain following the uprising. The bottom of the sheet continues the music of the national anthem (m. 17-24) with the words for verse 3 (which actually begins in m. 16). As with the first sheet in the series, the notation omits the dots for the dotted rhythms. The music was written in 1898 by Julian Felipe (1861-1994), and the original Spanish words are by José Palma (1876-1903).

CENTENARY OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE
1898-1998
SERIES 3: 1872 CAVITE MUTINY

NATIONAL ANTHEM (Ang Lupang Hinirang) Part 3

at bun-dok sa si-moy at sa langit mong bughaw May di-lag

ang tu-la at a-wit sa pag-la-yang mi-na-ma-hal. Ang kis-lap

MICHEL

POLAND

Scott 3261

Michel 3560

A stamp issued October 1, 1995 for the 13th International Chopin Competition for Pianists. The clean and colorful stamp design contains just one element — a one-measure fragment from an early Polonaise by Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849). This stamp is unusual in two ways: 1) the notes show the left-hand accompaniment without the melody, and 2) the notation is in color (the staff is filled with four parallel bands of color). Chopin wrote 17 Polonaises in all. This stamp features one of the earliest, the little A-flat Major Polonaise, written in 1821 when Chopin was 11 years old, and dedicated to Zywny, Chopin's first teacher. It was not published until 1902, long after Chopin's death. The stamp shows the left-hand notes from measure 7, with the D-flat accidental omitted.



SAN MARINO

Scott 1341

Michel 1635

A stamp issued November 6, 1995 to honor the Italian artist, Neri da Rimini, a leading miniature painter of the early 14th century. His illuminations reflect both the Byzantine tradition and the new gothic naturalism of painting initiated by Neri's contemporary, Giotto. The miniature chosen for the San Marino stamp comes from a folio-size manuscript leaf. One of four in the Lewis Collection of the Free Library of Philadelphia. These leaves originally came from the third volume of the Antiphony of the Convent of San Francesco in Rimini. The manuscript is dated 1314, and the historiated initial (M) shows the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary. Although the stamp itself shows only a few notes and no text, the full leaf contains five staves of music in plain-chant notation, with text in rounded gothic hand. The chant, a responsory for first Vespers at the Feast of the Annunciation, begins with these words: "Missus est Gabriel Angelus ad Mariam Virginem".



TUVALU

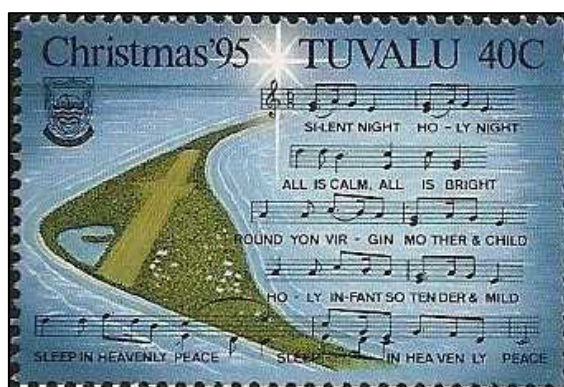
Scott 709-712

Michel 733-736

A set of four stamps issued December 15, 1995 for Christmas, each featuring a well-known carol and an illustration on a blue background. The carols are: "Silent Night", "O Come, All Ye Faithful", "The First Nowell", and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing".

Addendum (Peter Lang, April 2014)

The following information about the carols has been added from Wikipedia.



"Silent Night" (German: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht) is a popular Christmas carol, composed in 1818 by Franz Xaver Gruber to lyrics by Joseph Mohr in the small town of Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria.



The text to the Carol "O Come All Ye Faithful" was originally written in Latin (Adeste Fideles) and was intended to be a hymn. It is attributed to John Wade, an Englishman. The music to "O Come All Ye Faithful" was composed by fellow Englishman John Reading in the early 1700s. The tune was first published in a collection known as "Cantus Diversi" in 1751.



"The First Nowell" (also written "The First Noël" and "The First Noel") is a traditional classical English carol, most likely from the 18th century, although possibly earlier. In its current form, it is of Cornish origin, and was first published in 'Carols Ancient and Modern' (1823) and 'Gilbert and Sandys Carols' (1833), both of which were edited by William Sandys and arranged, edited and with extra lyrics written by Davies Gilbert for 'Hymns and Carols of God'. Today, it is usually performed in a four-part hymn arrangement by the English composer John Stainer, first published in his 'Carols, New and Old' in 1871.



"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" is a Christmas carol that first appeared in 1739 in the collection 'Hymns and Sacred Poems', having been written by Charles Wesley. The popular version is the result of alterations by various hands, notably by Wesley's co-worker George Whitefield who changed the opening couplet to the familiar one, and by Felix Mendelssohn. In 1840, Mendelssohn composed the cantata "Festgesang" to commemorate Johann Gutenberg's invention of the printing press. In 1855, the English musician William H. Cummings adapted Felix Mendelssohn's secular music from "Festgesang" to fit the lyrics of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" written by Charles Wesley.