

MORAVIAN MUSIC FOUNDATION

Finding aid for

Lancaster Congregation Collection

Inclusive dates: 1750-1870

Bulk dates: 1780-1830

Finding Aid created by Nola Reed Knouse, April 9, 2019

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Creator: Lancaster Congregation, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Extent: 4 boxes, 5.7 linear feet

Abstract: The Lancaster Congregation Collection contains sacred vocal music used in worship services in the Moravian community of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The majority of the pieces are by Moravian composers, but the collection also contains a significant number of works by other composers, including *contrafacta*.

Call number: La – Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Language: Approximately half of the items are in German; 1/3 in English. There are 9 items with multiple languages, and the remaining have no linguistic content.

Acquisition Information: These materials are in the custody of the Moravian Music Foundation from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. They were transferred to the Moravian Archives from the Lancaster Congregation, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Access Restrictions: The record group is open to research. Use restricted by the terms of the Moravian Music Foundation Research Policies.

Copyright: Copyright is with the Moravian Music Foundation

Cite as: [item], Lancaster Congregation Collection, Moravian Music Foundation.

History: Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was founded in 1741 by Moravian settlers, including the remnants of a failed settlement in Georgia (begun 1735), and served as a home base for missionaries and traveling preachers whose duties carried them to native Americans and European settlers in New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New Jersey, the Caribbean, and South America. The Lancaster Moravian congregation was formed in 1746.

Worship services structured life in Lancaster, as in all other Moravian congregations in the eighteenth century. Devotional meetings for small groups or the whole community occurred several times daily. In smaller assemblies hymns might be sung without accompaniment. Three services involved music in special ways. Sunday morning preaching services included liturgies according to the Lutheran liturgical year, usually along with one or two anthems and congregational hymns.

Some ten miles apart, Lancaster and Lititz Moravian congregations shared many resources, notably the musical gifts of Johannes Herbst (1735-1812), who served in Lancaster from 1786-1791 before being called to Lititz. Herbst traveled often to Lititz to direct the music at festival occasions, most notably the dedication of the new church building at Lititz in 1787.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of some 250 titles of sacred vocal music, the bulk of which was written for accompaniment by chamber orchestra. Some two dozen composers are represented, most Moravians. The most frequently-represented Moravian composers are Christian Gregor (1723-1801); Johann Christian Bechler (1784-1857); and Johann Gottfried Gebhard (1755-after 1799). Non-Moravian composers with works in the collection include Johann Heinrich Rolle (1716-1785) and Karl Heinrich Graun (1704-1759).

Many of the works in this collection are duplicated in other collections. Many in this collection do not have the instrumental parts which exist in other collections.

Title:

- Lancaster Congregation Collection

Corporate Names:

- Lancaster Congregation (Lancaster, Pennsylvania)
- Moravian Music Foundation

Subjects:

- Advent music
- Chorales -- Musical settings
- Choruses, Sacred
- Christmas music
- Good Friday music
- Holy Saturday music

- Holy Week music
- Oratorios
- Psalms (Music)
- Sacred songs (High voice)
- Sacred songs (Low voice)
- Married Choir Covenant Day (Moravian Church) -- Anniversaries

Related Materials:

Because of the close relationship of the two congregations, resources concerning the Lititz Congregation may be valuable to the researcher studying the Lancaster Congregation. Researchers interested in this archive may also wish to consult the following resources:

The Music of the Moravian Church in America, edited by Nola Reed Knouse. Rochester, New York, The University of Rochester Press, © 2008.

Catalog of the Lititz Congregation Collection, edited by Robert Steelman. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, The University of North Carolina Press, © 1981.

Johannes Herbst: The Lititz Anthems, volume I, edited by Jeffrey Gemmell. Musical Treasures from Moravian Archives, Steglein Press © 2018.

GemeinKat, online catalog of the Moravian Music Foundation.

<https://moravianmusic.on.worldcat.org/discovery>

Search for the collection by title: ti=Lancaster congregation collection

Other materials in the Archives and Foundation holdings may relate to the topics in this archive. See the archivist for further research assistance.