

MORAVIAN MUSIC FOUNDATION

Finding aid for

Lancaster Manuscript Book 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: 1 box, 4.25 linear feet

Abstract: The Lancaster Manuscript Book Collection contains one music book in manuscript form. The book contains 38 chorales with melody and figured bass only, and 26 additional works for keyboard, one with text; most are unattributed.

Call number: LaMB – Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Language: Chorale titles are in German; the one item with text is in German. Other items 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 Manuscript Book 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, which belonged to Johannes Ebermann (1749-1835), consists of some 26 keyboard pieces and 38 chorales. The majority remain unattributed and the remaining identify the last name of a composer. None are noted to be by Moravian composers.

Title:

- Lancaster Manuscript Book Collection

Personal Names:

- Johannes Herbst, 1735-1812
- Johannes (John) Ebermann, 1749-1835

Corporate Names:

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

Geographic Names:

- Lancaster, Pa.

Subjects:

- Chorales -- Musical settings
- Piano music
- Sacred songs (High voice)

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 Manuscript Books collection

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