

MORAVIAN MUSIC FOUNDATION

Finding aid for

Lititz Collegium Musicum Collection

Date range: 1761-1850

Bulk dates: 1780-1810

Finding Aid created by Nola Reed Knouse, March 5, 2019

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Summary Information:

Creator: Lititz Congregation, Moravian Church in America, Northern Province, Lititz, Pennsylvania

Extent: 49 boxes, 69.5 linear feet

Abstract: The Lititz Collegium Musicum collection includes primarily instrumental chamber and small-orchestra music, as well as some oratorios, vocal collections, keyboard music and band music. The majority of pieces, both manuscript and printed, are by European composers active in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Call number: LCM – Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Language: The material is in German, with some English, Italian, and Latin.

Access and Use:

Acquisition Information: These materials are in the custody of the Moravian Music Foundation from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, PA

Access Restrictions: The record group is open to research.

Copyright: Copyright is with the Moravian Music Foundation

Cite as: [item], Lititz Collegium Musicum [number], Moravian Music Foundation.

Background Information:

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. In 1742 a small number of Lutherans in Warwick Township, Pennsylvania, requested spiritual guidance and support from the Moravians. By 1749 this spiritual community in Warwick was able to form its own congregation, building a *Gemeinhaus*, which served as a meeting place, school, and pastor's residence.

Many began to feel the need for more spiritual care than could be provided under the current organization, and a new settlement was proposed. In 1755 Matthaues Gottfried Hehl was appointed to oversee the establishment of this settlement, just west of the Warwick *Gemeinhaus*, which was named Lititz. In 1759 the Lititz and Warwick congregations united and became the Lititz Congregation.

Most Moravian settlements from the mid-eighteenth century forward established a *Collegium musicum* based on the earlier European concept of an amateur association for the practice and performance of chamber and orchestra music. Part of the purpose of such an organization, for the Moravians, was to give the musicians opportunity to hone their skills for participation in the many worship services held as central to the life of the community. A *Collegium musicum*, was noted in Lititz as early as 1765, directed by Bernard Abraham Grube.

The *Collegium* was generally under the leadership of the same music director who had charge of the congregation music (the sacred vocal music intended for use in worship). Most of these musical leaders added personal copies of pieces to the collection; in addition, receipts and ledger books indicate payment of several copyists to add items to the collection, as well as the purchase of some printed music. Music was added to the collection over some eighty years, with the bulk of the acquisitions coming in the last two decades of the eighteenth century.

In Lititz as well as in other Moravian settlements, by the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the *Collegium musicum* had lost much of its original character, as the appeal of the large public concert gradually took precedence over the more intimate character of the *Collegium musicum*. The organization was renamed the Lititz Philharmonic Society perhaps as early as 1815, though this date is uncertain. This "daughter" organization continued to exist and present concerts at least as late as 1897.

Scope and Content: The Lititz Collegium Musicum collection consists of some 300 compositions in printed and manuscript form. The collection is heavily weighted toward chamber music; even those works which appear to be orchestral music are intended for a

small chamber orchestra, providing internal evidence that the group was small for most of its existence.

This collection also includes oratorios, vocal collections, keyboard music and band music. With few exceptions, the music is almost exclusively in parts rather than score format, and their physical condition indicates that these parts were indeed used. Many of the manuscripts bear notations of past performances. The vast majority of composers represented are European.

There is no known catalog of the collection made during the years of its active creation and use.

Searchable Terms:

Title:

- Lititz Collegium Musicum Collection

Corporate Names:

- Lititz Congregation (Lititz, PA)
- Moravian Music Foundation

Subjects:

- Band music
- Canons, fugues, etc.
- Cantatas, Sacred
- Chorales
- Choruses, Sacred (Mixed voices) with orchestra (or chamber orchestra)
- Duets (of various kinds)
- Easter music
- Marches
- Opera--Excerpts
- Oratorios

- Overtures (orchestra)
- Passion music
- Piano music
- Psalms (Music)--103rd Psalm (for example)
- Sacred songs (High voice) with chamber orchestra (or orchestra)
- Sacred songs (Low voice) with chamber orchestra
- String quartets
- Symphonies
- Trios (of various kinds)

Related Materials:

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, by Robert Steelman. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, The University of North Carolina Press, © 2011.

“Catalog of the Lititz Collegium Musicum Collection,” by Richard D. Claypool. Unpublished typescript, Moravian Music Foundation, 1980.

GemeinKat, online catalog of the Moravian Music Foundation.

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

Search for the collection by title: ti=Lititz collegium musicum collection

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