

MORAVIAN MUSIC FOUNDATION

Finding aid for Salem Liturgy Group Collection

Date range: 1771-1825

Bulk dates: 1780-1810

Finding Aid created by Nola Reed Knouse, May 29, 2018

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Creator: Salem Congregation, Moravian Church in America, Southern Province (Salem, now Winston-Salem, NC).

Extent: 4 boxes, 2 linear feet

Abstract: The Salem Liturgy Group Collection, associated with the Salem Congregation Collection, contains vocal and instrumental parts for some of the liturgical music used in worship in the Moravian community of Salem (now Winston-Salem), North Carolina. The vast majority of the pieces are by Moravian composers.

Call number: Ltgy – Archie Davis Center Vault

Language: The material is in German, with one item in English.

Access and Use:

Acquisition Information: These materials are in the custody of the Moravian Music Foundation from the Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem, NC.

Access Restrictions: The record group is open to research.

Copyright: Copyright is with the Moravian Music Foundation

Cite as: [item], Salem Liturgy Group [number], Moravian Music Foundation.

History: Salem, North Carolina, was founded by Moravian settlers primarily from Germany by way of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. This was the third intentional community established by the Moravians in North Carolina. The first, Bethabara, in the northwestern part of what is now Forsyth County, was founded in 1753; the second, Bethania, farther to the northwest, was established in 1759. The building of Salem was begun in 1766, and the Moravians' central North Carolina administration was moved to Salem in 1771.

Worship services structured life in Salem, as in all other Moravian settlement 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. Sunday morning preaching services included liturgies according to the Lutheran liturgical year, usually along with one or two anthems and congregational hymns.

The anthems, solos and duets used in worship services were accompanied not only by organ, but by an instrumental ensemble consisting primarily of strings, augmented by some wind instruments (most often flute and horns). By 1788 Salem is known to have had at least three violins, two viola, three cellos, a flute, two horns, and two clarini, all of which were used in worship. Other than the organ, instruments were not used in every worship service, but in festival services, and when present, these instruments also accompanied congregational hymns.

Scope and Content: The collection lists some 74 entries, over half of them without composer attribution. Nine composers are identified, and the ones most represented are Johann Christian Bechler (1784-1857), Christian David Jaeschke (1755-1827), and Johann Christian Till (1762-1844).

The collection contains anthems; chorales; and musical settings for liturgical texts, along with indications as to who sings which sections (*Lit. (Liturgus)*, liturgist; *Gem. (Gemeine)*, congregation; *Chor*, choir; *Kinder*, children; and so on. None of these pieces are in full score format. Rather, these are performance parts, and their condition indicates that they were used, with some having performance notations written in.

Title:

- Salem Liturgy Group Collection

Personal Names:

- Johann Christian Bechler, 1784-1857
- Christian David Jaeschke, 1755-1827
- Johann Christian Till, 1762-1844

Corporate Names:

- Salem Congregation (Winston-Salem, NC)
- Moravian Music Foundation

Geographic Names:

- Salem, NC

Subjects:

- Advent music
- Anniversaries
- Chorales
- Choruses, Sacred (Mixed voices) with orchestra (or chamber orchestra)
- Duets
- Easter music
- Passion music
- Pentecost Festival music
- Responses (Music)
- Sacred songs

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 Salem Congregation Collection, edited by Frances Cumnock. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, The University of North Carolina Press, ©1980.

Finding aid for the Salem Congregation Collection, Moravian Music Foundation

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