

MORAVIAN MUSIC FOUNDATION

Finding Aid for Massah M. Warner Collection

Date range: 1869-1901

Bulk dates: 1880-1899

Finding Aid created by Nola Reed Knouse, October 14, 2019

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Creator: Bethlehem Area Moravians (formerly Bethlehem Congregation), Moravian Church in America, Northern Province, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Extent: 3 boxes, 4.25 linear feet

Abstract: The Massah M. Warner

Bethlehem Bound Volumes Collection contains

Call number: Warner – Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Language: The material is in English.

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], Warner Collection [number], Moravian Music Foundation.

History: Massah Miksch Warner (1836-1900) was born in Salem (now Winston-Salem), NC, on January 9, 1836. After serving an apprenticeship in the printing trade in Salem, he spent a year in Philadelphia and three years in Leipzig, Germany, in the study of music, concentrating on his piano technique. He is said to have been one of Hans von Bülow's favorite pupils. Returning to Philadelphia, he took up music as his profession and served as organist at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Germantown, and later at the Woodland Church. He was married in 1869 to Celestina V. Reinke, a daughter of Moravian Bishop Samuel Reinke. He helped compile the Moravian *Liturgy and Offices of Worship and Hymns* of 1891, which included his lovely setting of *The Lord's Prayer*. He was regarded as one of the finest piano teachers in Philadelphia, and was highly regarded as an organist and choirmaster in churches and synagogues in Philadelphia. After his sudden death on December 22, 1900, in Philadelphia, he was laid to rest on Christmas Day, 1900, in the Nisky Hill Cemetery in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Also familiar from his pen is a hymn tune which bears his name and which is sung with the text "Softly the Night Is Sleeping".

Scope and Content: The collection contains instructional materials used in Warner's teaching; sketches and unfinished compositions; cantatas, songs, and choral selections; in 3 boxes, 36 folders, and one large bound volume of remembrance of his life.

Box 1:

1. Exercises in Passing, preparatory to the study of the scales; additional sketch on back
Exercises in Passing, preparatory to the practice of the C scale, in progress; continues with exercises in G, D, and (unfinished) A scales
Practice material; includes key correspondence
2. Exercises/Reference/Practice material (2 pages): contains chord progressions, extensive combinations of Tonic, Dominant, and passing chords in various keys
3. Duo (unfinished): contains technique and repetition, used likely for practice with pupil
Exercise for both hands in C, scales ascending and descending
4. Sketch in 6/8
Sketch in 3/4
5. Sketches: in 3/4 and 4/4; illegible title; Monday Aug. 27 '88
6. We praise thee, O Lord (unfinished)
7. Anniversary May 23, 1869 (melodies only), sacred; additional sketch on back
8. Musical questions regarding terminology and properties
Poems chosen for use below
A True Love Song; The Poet's Song to his wife (unfinished, no music), 1899
9. Sketch in 6/8, likely not Warner's composition
10. Angels, Roll the Rock Away! (song)
11. What Equal Honors Shall we Bring; text by Britton L.M., 2 parts (Alto, Bass)
Melody for bass clef
12. Notes in treble and bass clefs (student handwriting)
Lesson in musical properties
Music tablet, contains series of musical lessons, practice material, and theory information, likely used for teaching
13. Through the tender mercy of our Lord... (cantata), manuscript from Philadelphia
14. Thy Will is Best (cantata); last page on different manuscript
15. Jesus! The Very Thought of Thee (cantata); 1900, some sections unfinished
16. Sing, Sing unto the Lord (recitative); manuscript from Philadelphia
17. Unto thee, O Lord... (cantata) (unfinished); 1895; contains sketch from 1894
18. Sketches for Shall I Complain; draft for the multi-movement oratorio below (3 pages)
Multi-movement oratorio, manuscript from Philadelphia
 1. Shall I Complain
 2. Home (text: Edward McCollin)
 3. The Sky Lark (to Edward McCollin)
 4. Sleep, weary one, Sleep
 5. The Brook (text: Eugene Field)For Love's Sweet Sake (SATB and piano)
19. A Midnight Murder (cantata), 1890
20. The Sun has Set... (cantata), English and German text
21. The Four Winds (chorus for 4 voices), 1893; Words by Charles H. Luders, to Mr. Thomas L Luders; 2 copies; Copyright 1893 W.H. Boner & Co.

22. A Rose Leaned Over a Woodland Pool (four part song), 1893; Copyright 1893 W.H. Boner & Co.
23. Psalm XC, Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place; individual scores, 5 parts (SATB, Piano/organ)
24. Blessed is the Man (psalm/canticle), individual scores, 4 parts (SATB)
25. I Give my Heart to Thee (psalm/canticle), individual scores, 4 parts (SATB)
26. Softly the Night is Sleeping (sacred song)
27. Three songs: (1 page)
 1. The Other Side
 2. Sweet is the Time of Spring...
 3. God Bless our School (see below)
28. God Bless our School (song)
29. Lord, have mercy... (draft of song)
30. As the Hart panteth after the water brook (choral song for four voices); see next folder
31. Music by Massah M. Warner (36 pages), 1895
 1. Seek ye the Lord, while he may be found
 2. Come unto me
 3. Worship the Lord
 4. The Lord is my Light
 5. Hear, O Lord, When I Cry with My Voice
 6. The Lord is in His Holy Temple
 7. Come unto me
 8. As the Hart panteth after the water brook
 9. Create in me a clean heart
 10. Cast me not Away
 11. How Lovely are the Messengers...
 12. Why Standest thou afar off, O Lord?
 13. Be thou exalted
 14. Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place
 15. Seek ye the Lord, While he may be found
 16. Blessed are all they that put their Trust in Him
 17. ...My Redeemer
 18. Be Merciful unto me, O God
 19. ...Our God, Who dwelleth on High
 20. The Lord is my Shepherd
 21. O Holy Saviour, Friend Unseen

Box 2

32. Booklet; Contains songs and exercises by/for Warner and students, ca. 1899. Student handwriting interspersed throughout; faint exercises on back side, could be a favorite exercise?
33. Psalm books (four); text only. Binding broken; Basso and 3 unlabeled parts. Covers are cut from two larger published books. Contains psalms 105, 27, 20, 23, 103, 30, 84, 121, 90, XIII, XI, 29, 67, in that order. One loose excerpt - different psalms/order
34. Psalm/Hymn sketchbook, 1870-1881: contains psalms for organist/pianist/conductor reference and performance; special selections for Easter and Baptism; Warner was in Bethlehem for a portion of book's development. One loose insert; alto melody

35. Chant books (four); contains inserts for psalm 103. Binding broken; SATB.
36. Songbooks by Massah M Warner, ca.1880. (Four) SATB:
Blest Redeemers
Piece by Mendelssohn
Eternal...
How Sweet the name of Jesus sounds

Box 3

Bound volume: In Remembrance - Massah M. Warner (epistolary scrapbook), ca. 1950

Contents:

- Biographical statement by son Paul T. Warner
- Letters from friends, family, and professional acquaintances (including John Wanamaker) in regards to his death, 1900-01
- Newspaper excerpts including the obituaries
- Selected poetry and texts for consolation
- Pressed leaves - from his grave?

Title:

- Massah M. Warner Collection

Personal Names:

- Hans von Bülow, 1830-1894
- Celestina V. Reinke, 1839-
- Massah Miksch Warner, 1836-1900

Corporate Names:

- Bethlehem Area Moravians (Bethlehem, PA)
- Moravian Music Foundation

Geographic Names:

- Bethlehem, PA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Salem, NC

Subjects:

- Cantatas, Sacred
- Chorales
- Choruses, Sacred (Mixed voices)
- Christmas music
- Sacred songs (High voice)

Related Materials:

Researchers interested in this archive may also wish to consult the following resources:

GemeinKat, online catalog of the Moravian Music Foundation.

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

Search for the collection by title: ti=Warner collection

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

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