American Vernacular Music Manuscripts, ca. 1730-1910

Collections from the Center for Popular Music
And the American Antiquarian Society

Music Library Association
Annual Meeting
Denver, CO
February 27, 2015

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and
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Assistant Director/Archivist
Center for Popular Music
Center for Popular Music

- Research center established in 1985; state-sponsored Center for Excellence with a mission:
  - To promote research in American vernacular music
  - To foster an understanding of the nation’s diverse musical culture and its global reach.

- Library and archival collections

- State-of-the-art AV preservation/digitization lab

- Sponsors public programs, conferences, research projects, a record label, curriculum development, etc.

http://popmusic.mtsu.edu  Room 140, Bragg Mass Communications Bldg., Murfreesboro, TN
The American Antiquarian Society

- Began in 1812; holds approximately four million items related to American history/literature/culture.

- "Houses the largest and most accessible collection of printed materials from first contact through 1876."

- Includes music items:
  - Music manuscripts (500+)
  - Scores and Songsters: hymnals (5,000+), secular music (1,500+), songsters (1,000+)
  - General books about early American music (300+) including the 1640 Bay Psalm Book.
  - Sheet music (ca. 60,000 pieces), including about 250 from the Civil War.
  - Pre-1877 music periodicals (150+)

- Most items can be searched in the AAS online catalog.

American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-1634; Tel: 508-755-5221, Fax: 508-753-3311, library@americanantiquarian.org
Vernacular Music Manuscripts
The Center for Popular Music’s manuscript collection

or...

“The Center has a manuscript collection?”

• More than 150 music manuscripts, several types
• Secular & sacred tunes: Fiddle/fife/flute, Dance tunes, Ballads, Instrumental
• Date ranges from 1775-1910
• Access challenges
More than 230 music manuscripts, including volumes, loose pages, collections

Dates range from 1730-1870

Focus on New England

Sacred & secular tunes, especially hymn books, band books, and published volumes with manuscript content added.

Limited access
Union

The Union as it was; The Constitution as it is!

Ode! The Cry of Death is Ringing

Jan 1st AD 1863

Sheet Music: Fine

In charming life

ไหม้ไหม้

Fine
1st

Hark! the cry of Death is heard! It works its work among us!

Guilty are we, too, Sinners!

Thousands, on the field are lying, Slaughtered in the useless strife!

Wildly vomiting death and dying.

Here the word of Heaven!

Signed, John Doe. 1840.
The NEH Grant
National Endowment for the Humanities: Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

Goals: Preservation, Description, & Access

- Survey and conserve vernacular music manuscript collections
- Digitize them to archival standards
- Describe them bibliographically
- Inventory all contents at the song level
- Create and share MARC records
- Store PDF virtualizations of all manuscripts at Internet Archive
- Build and maintain the American Vernacular Music Manuscripts website
- Share our methods/guidelines with others.
Digitization

- Prepare manuscripts for digitization
- Establish an appropriate folder/file system
- Digitize pages; with minimal manipulation
- Execute quality control check on sampled images
- Archive images daily, with redundant backups
Cataloging and Access

- Original catalog records for each manuscript
- DCRM(M) – Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Music)
- Cataloging to the song level, AND including first lines.

Access points
- WorldCat
- Library OPAC
- AVMM Website, Inmagic
- Internet Archive
# MARC Record in OCLC Connexion

| 040   | TPJ +c TPJ +e rda +d TPJ +d OCLCO |
| 090   | #b                                    |
| 049   | TPJJ                                  |
| 245 04 | The melodist: #b a collection of music in two volumes. |
| 260   | Augusta, Maine, +c 1826, 1859          |
| 300   | 3 scores (68, 50, 19 pages); +c 12 x 24 cm. |
| 336   | notated music #b ntm +2 rdaccontent   |
| 337   | unmediated #b n +2 rdamedia           |
| 338   | volume #b nc +2 rdacarrier           |
| 500   | Inscription on the inside cover reads, "This is from the Bridge family of Augusta, Maine (Horatio Bridge, friend of Hawthorne's)". |
| 500   | 2 scores bound together with a supplement. |
| 500   | "Feb. 27, 1826" -- volume one, page 3. |
| 500   | "Nov. 27, 1859" -- volume two, page 41. |
| 500   | Item in different inks and at least two different hands. |
| 500   | Title pages for both volumes are intricate, possibly copied. |
Supplement to the Melodist, containing airs, marches, waltzes, etc. arranged for the flute or violin.


written by Houd [First line.] Our village, that's to say, not Miss Milford's village -- [No. 9] Touch not the nettle -- arranged by John Thomson [First line:] Touch not the nettle, lest it should sting thee -- [No. 10] The de'il cam fiddlin' thro' the town.
520 2 commonplace book consisting of 154 pieces for violin or flute divided into two volumes and one supplement.

524 8 The melodist: a collection of music in two volumes. MUMSS-00100. The Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University.

541 1 cPurchase; aSavoy Books; d1998.

546 Text in English.

546 bStaff notation.

590 CPM accession number: 98-017.

650 0 Music -- vManuscripts.

655 7 Music manuscripts. 21cgt

852 Middle Tennessee State University / bCenter for Popular Music / eMurfreesboro, TN, 37132.

856 41 3Digital version uhttps://archive.org/details/Melodist
Catalog Record
MARC/RDA IN OCLC Millennium to MTSU’s Walker Library OPAC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>The melodist a collection of music in two volumes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Author</td>
<td>(Press F7 before repeating fields)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Collection**

Muse Manuscript

**Subgroup** (Enter either AAS or CPMD and it will expand to entire Subgroup name)

**Center for Popular Music**

**Date**

1826-1859

**Place of Publication**

**Subject** (Press F7 before repeating fields)

**Physical Description** (Press F7 before repeating fields)

3 scores (68, 50, 10 pages) ; 12 x 24 cm.

**Location**

**Notes** (Press F7 before repeating fields)

- "Feb. 27, 1826" — volume one, page 3.
- "Nov. 27, 1859" — volume two, page 41.
- Item in different hands and sizes.
- *Title* pages for both volumes are intimate, likely copied.

**Contents** (Press F7 before repeating fields)

- No. 2. Salem cadets' march: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n2/mode/2up
- No. 3. Campbell's fancy: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n3/mode/2up
- No. 4. Reel: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n2/mode/2up
- No. 5. Pledge to Julia: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n3/mode/2up
- No. 6. Opera reel: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n7/mode/2up
- No. 7. Traitor's victory: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n7/mode/2up
- No. 8. Races of Bradley: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n7/mode/2up
- No. 9. Scotch Poesy: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n7/mode/2up
- No. 10. March: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n7/mode/2up
- No. 11. Red bon hompipe: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n9/mode/2up
- No. 12. Democratic rage: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n9/mode/2up
- No. 13. Skanda mourning rant: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n9/mode/2up
- No. 15. Indian chief: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n11/mode/2up
- No. 16. Persian waltz: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n11/mode/2up
- No. 17. Beam of Albany: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n13/mode/2up
- No. 18. Democratic hompipe: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n13/mode/2up
- No. 19. President's hompipe: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n13/mode/2up
- No. 20. Nelson's victory: https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-001000/page/n13/mode/2up
American Vernacular Music Manuscripts, ca. 1730-1910

Digital Collections from the American Antiquarian Society and the Center for Popular Music

Handwritten music manuscripts by common Americans contain primary and direct evidence of their musical preferences during a particular time and in a particular place. To see, play from, or study one of these old manuscripts brings us as close to that person’s musical life as history allows. Laborious inscriptions of a tune, hymn, or song — made by musicians of the music they played, loved, or wanted to learn — are precious and unique windows into music-making, acknowledging that this music mattered to them and, thus, matters to us!

Search the entire collection with keywords:

Search only Song/Tune Titles:

Search

"American Vernacular Music Manuscripts, ca. 1730-1910: Digital Collections from the American Antiquarian Society and the Center for Popular Music" has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this Web resource do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Additional support has been provided by the American Antiquarian Society, the Center for Popular Music, and Middle Tennessee State University.

Some of these resources may contain offensive language or negative stereotypes. Such materials should be seen in the context of the time period and as a reflection of contemporaneous attitudes. These items are presented here as part of the historical record and do not represent the views of the Center for Popular Music, the American Antiquarian Society, Middle Tennessee State University, or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Searching

Search the collection using simple keywords or the advanced search.

You may add selected records to a list, then email, save or print your selections.

Links connect you to scanned images of music manuscripts stored at the Internet Archive. From there you may flip through a manuscript forwards and backwards, download a page, or return to your search.

We welcome your feedback at popular.music@mtsu.edu

Search Tips

- Search terms are automatically joined by ‘and’ (e.g. quantities waltzes finds quantities and waltzes)
- Truncation is automatic (e.g. waltz finds waltz, waltzers, waltzing, etc.)
- Use / for OR (e.g. vocal / instrumental)
- Use I for NOT (e.g. vocal I instrumental)
- Use “ ” to search for a phrase (e.g. "holographic notation")
- Use >, <, >=, <= for greater or less than (e.g. <= 1850 finds dates earlier than
American Vernacular Music Manuscripts, ca. 1730-1910

Digital Collections from the American Antiquarian Society and the Center for Popular Music

Record Detail

Result 1 of 1  First  Previous  Next  Last  Revise Search  Back to Search Results  Permanent Link

Title: The melodist: a collection of music in two volumes

Date of Publication: 1826-1859

Sub-group: Center for Popular Music

Physical Description: 3 scores (68, 50, 19 pages), 12 x 24 cm.

Contents: Links open individual songs at Internet Archive.

No. 2. Salem cadets’ march -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n6/mode/2up
No. 3. Campbell’s fancy -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n5/mode/2up
No. 4. Italian serenade -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n5/mode/2up
No. 5. Pledge to Julia -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n5/mode/2up
No. 6. Opera reel -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n7/mode/2up
No. 7. Truxtun’s victory -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n7/mode/2up
No. 8. Brass of Beasley -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n7/mode/2up
No. 9. Scotch Poesy -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n7/mode/2up
No. 10. March -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n9/mode/2up
No. 11. Red lion hornpipe -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n9/mode/2up
No. 12. Democratic rage -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n9/mode/2up
No. 13. Skimmer roaring rant -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n9/mode/2up
No. 15. Indian chief -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n11/mode/2up
No. 16. Prussian waltz -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n11/mode/2up
No. 17. Beaux of Albany -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n13/mode/2up
No. 18. Democratic hornpipe -- https://archive.org/stream/MelodistMUMSS-00100#page/n13/mode/2up
Online Access to The Melodist

- **WorldCat**
  http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/869299008

- **MTSU’s James E. Walker Library**
  http://library2.mtsu.edu/record=b2792438~S1

- **AVMM Website**
  http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/ManuscriptMusic/permalink/13/

- **Internet Archive**
  https://archive.org/details/Melodist
Bumps along the way...

- The items themselves; lettering, pages
- Time; underestimated; finding more items
- Technology; updates in equipment
- Working with another institution; communication

Examples of early s’s.

Some r’s looked like h’s
Thank you!

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