

# Research Materials on Music in Boston, 1798-1830



**Music Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2022**

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Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Stephanie Akau and Rachel McNellis, 2022 February

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Research Materials on Music in Boston,

**Inclusive Dates:** 1798-1830

**Bulk Dates:** 1800-1815

**Call No.:** ML31.T54

**Compiler:** Tilton, Donald

**Extent:** approximately 150 items

**Extent:** 1 container

**Extent:** 0.25 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English.

**Location:** Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2020570167>

**Summary:** Following the American Revolutionary War, the city of Boston emerged as a vibrant scene for music performance and publishing. This collection contains transcriptions of newspaper articles and advertisements related to music from Boston publications during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Contents include performance reviews, concert publicity, sheet music publisher advertisements, instrument retail sales, music instruction, and other matters of business.

## Acquisition Information

Gift, H. Earle Johnson, 1967

## Custodial History

Harvard graduate student Donald Tilton compiled these materials after receiving project funding from arts patron Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge in the early 1930s. They were subsequently distributed by Otto Kinkeldey, an American music librarian and musicologist. Kinkeldey later loaned the materials to H. Earle Johnson for his book, *Musical Interludes in Boston, 1795-1830*, published in 1943.

## Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Processing History

Vincent Novara, Shantel Lambert, and Rachel McNellis processed the Research Materials on Music in Boston, 1798-1830, in 2021. Stephanie Akau and McNellis coded the finding aid in 2022.

## Related Material

Materials related to classical music in Boston in the late nineteenth to early twentieth century can be found in the [William A. Newland and Charles Zeuner Collection of Music](#) and in the Library of Congress's general collections.

## Copyright Status

The Research Materials on Music in Boston, 1798-1830, are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

## Access and Restrictions

The Research Materials on Music in Boston, 1798-1830, are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions on using or copying materials may apply.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Research Materials on Music in Boston, 1798-1830, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Historical Note

Date	Event
1630	Puritans arrive in Pawtucket and Wampanoag land now known as Boston
1640	<i>The Bay Song Book</i> was printed in Massachusetts Bay Colony by Cambridge Press
1714	First church organ in the American colonies assembled in Queen's Chapel (now King's Chapel) Faneuil Hall began hosting performances
1731 December	First advertisement for public concert in America published in <i>Boston News-Letter</i>
1754	Gilbert and Lewis Deblois build performance space known as the "Concert Hall" above their shop, the Crown and Comb
1770	<i>The New England Psalm Singer</i> by Williams Billings published
1797	First music shops opened in Boston Singer and actress Mrs. Catherine Graupner gave Boston debut performance with Federal Theatre company
1798	The Van Hagen family opened a music firm Instrumentalist and conductor Gottlieb Graupner started a business providing music lessons and instrument repair
circa 1800	Graupner began publishing music, eventually becoming a leader in the Boston music scene
1809	The Philharmonic Society held first documented meeting
1810	Boylston Hall opened on the third floor of Boylston Market
1815 December 24	Handel and Haydn Society gave first public performance
circa 1821	<i>Handel and Haydn Society Collection of Church Music</i> published
1826	Lowell Mason became conductor and president of Handel and Haydn Society
1828	Mason introduced compulsory music education in Boston schools, widely regarded as the birth of school music in the United States

## Bibliography

Fisher, William Arms. *Notes on Music in Old Boston*. Boston: Oliver Ditson Company, 1918, reprinted 1976.

Johnson, H. Earle. *Musical Interludes in Boston, 1795-1830*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1943.

## Scope and Content Note

The Research Materials on Music in Boston chiefly consist of newspaper clippings from Boston serials published from 1798 to 1830, transcribed and compiled by Harvard University graduate student Donald Tilton. The clippings provide evidence of a growing interest in sacred and secular music in Boston in the wake of the Revolutionary War. Article content includes performance reviews, concert publicity, sheet music publisher advertisements, instrument retail sales, and music instruction from a variety of publications, such as the *Independent Chronicle*, *Columbian Centinel*, *Massachusetts*

*Federalist*, *Boston Gazette*, and *New England Palladium*. Boston's Handel and Haydn Society, one of the oldest music societies in the United States, appears frequently throughout this collection.

## Organization of the Research Materials on Music in Boston, 1798-1830

The collection is arranged in one series:

- [Newspaper Transcriptions and Other Materials, 1798-1830](#)

### Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

#### People

Coolidge, Elizabeth Sprague, 1864-1953.

Johnson, H. Earle (Harold Earle), 1903-1988.

Kinkeldey, Otto, 1878-1966.

Tilton, Donald (Historian)

#### Organizations

Handel and Haydn Society (Boston, Mass.)

#### Subjects

Music--Instruction and study--Boston (Massachusetts)--History.

Music--Massachusetts--Boston--18th century--History and criticism--Sources.

Music--Massachusetts--Boston--19th century--History and criticism--Sources.

#### Places

Boston (Mass.)--History--Sources.

#### Titles

*Columbian centinel* (Boston, Mass. : 1804)

#### Form/Genre

Clippings (Information artifacts)

Music criticism and reviews.

Newspaper ads.

Promotional materials.

## Description of Series

**Container**  
BOX 1

**Series**  
**Newspaper Transcriptions and Other Materials, 1798-1830**

This series mostly consists of transcribed newspaper clippings from Boston serials published between 1798 and 1830. Collectively, these provide evidence of a burgeoning interest in music in Boston after the American Revolutionary War. Article content includes performance reviews, concert publicity, sheet music publisher advertisements, instrument retail sales, and music instruction from a variety of publishers, such as the *Independent Chronicle*, *Columbian Centinel*, *Massachusetts Federalist*, *Boston Gazette*, and *New England Palladium*. Boston's Handel and Haydn Society, one of the oldest music societies in the United States, appears frequently throughout the materials.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	<p><b>Newspaper Transcriptions and Other Materials, 1798-1830</b></p> <p>This series mostly consists of transcribed newspaper clippings from Boston serials published between 1798 and 1830. Collectively, these provide evidence of a burgeoning interest in music in Boston after the American Revolutionary War. Article content includes performance reviews, concert publicity, sheet music publisher advertisements, instrument retail sales, and music instruction from a variety of publishers, such as the <i>Independent Chronicle</i>, <i>Columbian Centinel</i>, <i>Massachusetts Federalist</i>, <i>Boston Gazette</i>, and <i>New England Palladium</i>. Boston's Handel and Haydn Society, one of the oldest music societies in the United States, appears frequently throughout the materials.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p> <p>Boston, 1798-1830</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/1-3	Concerts, 1801-1814, 1822-1830 Publicity materials and reviews
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Directories, 1798-1825 Lists of names and addresses for musicians, instrument makers, dancers, and visual artists
BOX-FOLDER 1/5-6	Music publishers and dealers, 1801-1814 Publication announcements, advertisements, and inventories
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Music teachers, 1801-1810 School announcements
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	Operas, 1811-1815 List of performances
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	Productions, circa 1801-1815 List of titles, genres, and dates for first performances of theatrical and operatic works
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	Theater, 1801-1810 Publicity materials and reviews Other materials, 1815-1820
BOX-FOLDER 1/11	<i>Columbia Centinel</i> , 1817-1820 Advertisements for music publications, instrument manufacturers, and music teachers; publicity materials for performances
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	<i>Commercial Advertiser</i> and <i>New England Palladium</i> , 1815-1816 Advertisements for music publications, instrument manufacturers, and music teachers; publicity materials for performances
BOX-FOLDER 1/13	Salem, Massachusetts, 1817-1820 Advertisements, concert information, publicity materials and reviews, musician directories