Research Materials on Music in Boston, 1798-1830

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

Contact information: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2020570167

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu021051

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

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

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

Bibliography


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.
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       Series
BOX 1            

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

<table>
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<th>Contents</th>
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| BOX 1     | **Newspaper Transcriptions and Other Materials, 1798-1830**  
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| 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 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/11 | *Columbia Centinel*, 1817-1820  
Advertisements for music publications, instrument manufacturers, and music teachers; publicity materials for performances |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/12 | *Commercial Advertiser* and *New England Palladium*, 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 |