

Note-Worthy Music Stamps, Part 17

by Ethel Bloesch

(Note: Part 17 describes stamps with musical notation that were issued in 2007)

Ethel Bloesch has been a member of the Fine and Performing Arts Philatelists for over thirty years. Her annual article on musical notations has been a highlight of our December Journals since 1993. At that time she was asked to continue the work of Jacques Posell, whose articles on this topic had appeared since 1963. She began collecting music stamps in 1972 when she was given a Vaughan Williams stamp that had actual notes from his Sea Symphony. As any librarian would, she did a literature search (before the days of Google) on stamps with music notation. This led her to a lifelong friendship with Jacques Posell, a member of the Cleveland Orchestra and the recognized authority on this philatelic topic. It was Jacques who introduced her to the Fine and Performing Arts Philatelists. In 2002, Ethel retired after 32 years of dedicated service to the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa. As an administrator devoted to the needs of the School, Ethel developed and maintained strong ties with the Iowa library community, national LIS organizations, and University of Iowa administrators, librarians, and faculty. She also found the time to mentor hundreds of students and to contribute her annual articles to the FAP Journal. Ethel's love for music is evident in her thorough and knowledgeable articles.



ARMENIA

Scott ???

Michel Block 28

A sheet of four stamps issued March 13, 2007 for the 250th anniversary of the birth of Mozart. Each of the stamps contains a portrait of Mozart. Music is shown on two of the stamps and on the background of the sheet. The excerpts are from the first movement of Mozart's Duo for Violin and Viola, K. 423, in G major. Mozart composed this work and a companion Duo, K. 424 in the summer of 1783. He wrote them while visiting Michael Haydn, who was ill and unable to fulfill his obligation to complete six duos for the archbishop of Salzburg.



BELARUS

Scott 616

Michel Block 54

A souvenir sheet containing two stamps and two labels, issued February 14, 2007 for the birth bicentenary of Napoleon Orda (1807-1883). A writer, composer, and artist, Napoleon Orda was born near Minsk, Belarus. He entered Vilnya University, but was expelled when he was exposed as a member of an illegal Polish patriotic organization. He took an active part in the November uprising against Russia in 1831, receiving an award for bravery. However, when the revolt failed, he was forced to flee the country. In 1833 he emigrated to Paris where he became acquainted with Frédéric Chopin and Franz Liszt. He composed romances and songs and was also director of the Italian Opera House in Paris. While in Paris he also studied at the studio of the famous artist Pierre Gerard, whose genre was architectural landscapes. In 1856 Orda was allowed to return to his native country. He spent his summers traveling across Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine, making more than 1000 sketches of architectural monuments and landscapes. His drawings are a valuable source of information on the history and architecture of this region.

The stamps show a self-portrait of Orda, and the labels show the lithograph "Manor of the Mitskeviches". Also shown on the labels and the margin of the sheet: his "Virtuti Militari" medal, a broadsword of 1831, an easel tripod, and a grand piano that is superimposed on a fragmentary excerpt of unidentified music.



BELGIUM

An ATM stamp issue introduced March 24, 2007 for the 17th Premio Massari (an international music philatelic exhibition), held in Wetteren. The stamps were available in 6 values, obtained through an automatic vending machine. The design honors the Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) on the 100th anniversary of his death. The stamps contain a musical excerpt, reported to be measures 32-39 from Grieg's "Brudefolget drager forbi" (The bridal procession passes), the second piece in a piano set entitled "Folkelivsbilleder" (Pictures from life in the country), op. 19. It was composed in 1870-71.



BELGIUM

Scott 2260c, 2263

Michel Block124, 3765 DI, 3765 Dr

One of five stamps issued in two formats (a miniature sheet of five stamps and a self-adhesive booklet of ten stamps of five designs). The stamps were issued October 15, 2007 with the theme Postage Stamp Festival. The set traces the development of the typewriter by depicting cartoon characters using typewriters of different vintages, from the early 20th-century Remington through the 1970 Olivetti and today's Mac computer. One stamp shows a man pecking away at a 1950 Olympia typewriter, with musical notes filling the air around him. Peter van Dessel suggests that these notes might link the stamp to the popular orchestral piece "The Typewriter" by Leroy Anderson, also from the year 1950.



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (Serb Administration)

Scott 290

Michel 381

A stamp issued April 10, 2007 for Easter. The stamp features an Easter egg, emblazoned with five staves of decorative musical notation. The relevance of music to an Easter egg is not apparent to this observer.



COLOMBIA

Scott 1723g

Michel 2457

One stamp on a sheet of 12 stamps celebrating aspects of life in the Sucre Department of Colombia. It shows the musical score of the popular song "Fiesta en Corraleja". The title evokes the national celebrations of that name. A famous Fiesta en Corraleja is held in the capital city of Sincelejo on January 20 each year with various events, including a bullfight.



Addendum 2016:

Ruben Dario Salcedo (* May 6, 1939 in Morroa, Sucre) is a Colombian author and composer. He composed more than 400 songs, many of them have been national and international successes. Undoubtedly his most famous composition is Fiesta en Corraleja, which has about 100 recordings in 4 languages. (Peter Lang)

FRANCE

Scott 3345d, 3350

Michel 4300

One stamp on a sheet of five stamps and five labels issued September 8, 2007. The stamps were also issued in a booklet pane, along with stickers. Intended for use on invitations, they depict gift boxes with various contents: butterflies, flowers, hearts, bubbles, and musical notes.



GEORGIA

Scott ???

Michel 541

A stamp issued July 11, 2007 (one year late) for the birth bicentenary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791). It shows a portrait of Mozart alongside a facsimile of the first page of the "Lacrimosa" movement of Mozart's Requiem, K. 626 in D Minor. Mozart was writing the Requiem during his last illness, and the music breaks off abruptly on the second page of the "Lacrimosa," after only eight measures of this movement. On the afternoon of December 4, 1791, Mozart had a steady stream of visitors. Three friends sang with him through the completed movements of the Requiem. When they reached the "Lacrimosa," Mozart began to weep violently and laid the score aside. Eleven hours later, at one the next morning, he died. The original manuscript of the Requiem score is owned by the Austrian National Library in Vienna. The portrait on the stamp (considered to be inauthentic) is by Jean-Baptiste Perroneau and is now in the Louvre in Paris.



GERMANY

Scott 2432

Michel 2592

A stamp issued March 1, 2007 for the 400th anniversary of the birth of the poet Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676), a prominent Lutheran hymn writer of the 17th century. His entire output consists of 134 hymns. Many of them, including the one shown on this stamp, "Lobet den Herren, alle, die ihn ehren", were set to music by Johann Crüger (1598-1662), a German composer and theorist. "Lobet den Herren" first appeared in the 1653 edition of Crüger's influential chorale collection *Praxis Pietatis Melica*. Gerhardt became a close friend of Crüger in 1657 when he was appointed deacon at the Nikolaikirche in Berlin, where Crüger was cantor. The stamp shows a portrait of Gerhardt, with a facsimile excerpt of the hymn in the background.



GUINEA BISSAU

Scott ????

Michel 3643-3646

A sheet issued November 26, 2007 for the 180th anniversary of the death of Ludwig van Beethoven (1770- 1827). The sheet contains four stamps with portraits of Beethoven and references to various genres of his works: piano, symphony, and opera. The background of the sheet shows the opening of the third movement of Beethoven's Piano Sonata no. 14, "Moonlight", op. 27, no. 2, in C-sharp minor.



HUNGARY

Scott 4046

Michel 5243

A stamp issued July 16, 2007 for the 125th anniversary of the birth of Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967). An important musical figure in Hungary in the early 20th century, Kodály was a composer, ethnomusicologist and leader in music education. The stamp represents all three aspects of Kodály's career. The main picture shows Kodály as folk music collector, listening to one of his field recordings. The stamp also illustrates his work in music education, showing several people in the background. And prominently displayed on the stamp is a musical excerpt from one of his compositions, the orchestral poem *Nyári este* (Summer Evening), composed in 1906, an early work that marked Kodály's debut as a composer. Many years later, at the suggestion of Arturo Toscanini, Kodály revised the piece, and Toscanini conducted the premiere of the new version on April 3, 1930. The excerpt shown on the stamp is taken from measures 15-18 of the revised work.



IRAQ

Scott 1738

Michel 1751

Three stamps in a set of four self-adhesive stamps issued October 1, 2007, featuring three Iraqi musicians and an actor. The first musician is singer Mohammad al-Qubanchi (1900-1989). He was a singer of the Iraqi maqam, a classical tradition of improvised song based on specific melodic modes. Maqama texts are often derived from classical Arabic poetry. Each of the three stamps includes a portrait of the musician and an unidentified musical excerpt.



IRAQ

Scott 1739

Michel 1753

Three stamps in a set of four self-adhesive stamps issued October 1, 2007, featuring three Iraqi musicians and an actor. The second musician is singer Nazem al-Ghazali (1920-1963). He was a singer of the Iraqi maqam, a classical tradition of improvised song based on specific melodic modes. Maqama texts are often derived from classical Arabic poetry. Each of the three stamps includes a portrait of the musician and an unidentified musical excerpt.



IRAQ

Scott 1741

Michel 1754

Three stamps in a set of four self-adhesive stamps issued October 1, 2007, featuring three Iraqi musicians and an actor. The third musician is an instrumentalist Munir Bashir (1930-1997). Munir Bashir played the 'ud, an Arabic lute that is used primarily to accompany maqam singers, but can also be used as a solo concert instrument. Iraqi maqam is a classical tradition of improvised song based on specific melodic modes. Maqama texts are often derived from classical Arabic poetry. Each of the three stamps includes a portrait of the musician and an unidentified musical excerpt.



IRELAND

Scott ???

Michel 1772-1776

A set of five stamps and two booklets issued June 19, 2007 honoring these RTÉ performing groups: the National Symphony Orchestra, the Concert Orchestra, the Vanbrugh Quartet, the Philharmonic Choir, and the Children's Choir. A Prestige Booklet contains 20 stamps (four each of the five stamps), arranged on four panes. Each pane includes a musical excerpt in the background, taken from the following musical sources:

Pane 1: Symphony no. 3 in E-flat major, by Beethoven.



IRELAND

Scott ???

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Pane 2: Quartet in D major, by Haydn.



IRELAND

Scott ???

Michel 1772-1776

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Pane 3: Symphony no. 2, by Mahler.



IRELAND

Scott ???

Michel 1772-1776

A set of five stamps and two booklets issued June 19, 2007 honoring these RTÉ performing groups: the National Symphony Orchestra, the Concert Orchestra, the Vanbrugh Quartet, the Philharmonic Choir, and the Children's Choir. A Prestige Booklet contains 20 stamps (four each of the five stamps), arranged on four panes. Each pane includes a musical excerpt in the background, taken from the following musical sources:

Pane 4: An Chuaichín Bhinn, by Éamonn Ó Gallchobhair (1906-1982). The last-named work is the only one by an Irish composer. O Gallchobhair (anglicized O'Gallagher), studied at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and was a prolific composer of music in smaller forms. His music, which also includes five operas, shows a strong Irish traditional influence.



IRELAND

Scott 1746

Michel 1784

A stamp issued July 17, 2007 for the centenary of the national anthem. "Amhrán na bhFiann" (The soldier's song) was composed as a revolutionary song in 1907 and first published in the newspaper Irish Freedom in 1912. The words are by Peadar Kearney (1883-1942), who wrote the music with Patrick Heeney (1881-1911). It became popular through its use by the Irish Volunteers and was formally adopted as the national anthem in 1926. The stamp depicts a girls' choir from Coláiste Iosagáin, Co. Dublin, with a representation of the national flag and the first note of the anthem.



ITALY

Scott 2816

Michel 3184

A stamp issued May 23, 2007 to promote the "Bancarella Musica-Musica Dalla Terra", a folk-music project for Italian songwriters. The stamp reproduces the projected award logo - a third millennium BC stele containing music notation. Some Italian philatelists are critical of this stamp because it does not represent an award that actually exists, but only a project conceived fourteen years ago. In addition, the logo itself is derided: Is it a dry mushroom, or an ocarina, or perhaps the hat of Napoleon? As for the music notes on the stele, or monument, they appear to be a fanciful creation without suggesting a particular period of music.



ITALY

Scott 2822

Michel 3189

A stamp issued June 29, 2007 for the 50th anniversary of the Festival dei Due Mondi (Festival of the Two Worlds), held each June-July in Spoleto, Italy. Founded in 1958 by the composer Gian Carlo Menotti, the festival features music, theater, and dance performances, as well as other cultural events. The name "Two Worlds" reflects Menotti's intention to have a companion festival held each year in Charleston, South Carolina. The combining of the two festivals lasted only fifteen years. Since Menotti's death in 2007, talks have begun, though, to re-unite the two festivals once again. The stamp depicts a dancer in front of a drawing of the central rose window in the Cathedral of Santa Maria dell'Assunta in Spoleto. The window drawing is repeated several times on the stamp. Also in the background is a detail from the Ponte delle Torri (Bridge of Towers), with a music staff and decorative notes flowing out of its arches.



ITALY

Scott 2840

Michel 3207

A souvenir sheet with three stamps issued October 18, 2007 for anniversaries of two opera singers and an actor. The singers are Beniamino Gigli (1890-1957) and Maria Callas (1923-1977), and the actor is Amedeo Nazzari (1907-1979).

The Italian tenor Beniamino Gigli began singing at age seven, in the cathedral choir in his hometown of Recanati. After studying in Rome, he made his operatic debut in 1914. He had a long and highly successful worldwide career, known especially for his wide repertoire in Italian opera. The stamp features Gigli's portrait and a musical and a visual reference to his famous role as Pagliacci in Ruggero Leoncavallo's opera of that name. The background pictures him in costume, and the bottom of the stamp contains two notes from the aria "Vesti la giubba" at the end of Act I, where he begins to sing passionately the words "Ridi, Pagliaccio, sul tuo amore in franto" (Laugh, clown, keep smiling though your love has been shattered).



ITALY

Scott 2840

Michel 3208

A souvenir sheet with three stamps issued October 18, 2007 for anniversaries of two opera singers and an actor. The singers are Beniamino Gigli (1890-1957) and Maria Callas (1923-1977), and the actor is Amedeo Nazzari (1907-1979).

Maria Callas was born in New York of Greek parents. She made her operatic debut in Athens in 1941. Like Gigli, she excelled in the Italian opera repertoire, which she sang in the major opera houses of the world. Her last operatic appearance was as Tosca at Covent Garden in 1965. The stamp features Callas' portrait and a musical and a visual reference to her role as Turandot in Giacomo Puccini's opera of that name. The background pictures her in costume, and the bottom of the stamp contains the first two notes of Turandot's Air in Act II, beginning with the words "In questa Reggia".



KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF

Scott ???

Michel Bl.666

A souvenir sheet issued February 16, 2007 to celebrate the birthday of continuous design, depicting Mt. Paektu, a sacred mountain of the Korean revolution. Running across the bottom of the sheet are the melody and words of "Song of General Kim Jong-il". In 1994 a similar sheet was issued to honor his father, whom he succeeded as leader of North Korea. This sheet also depicted Mt. Paektu, but with the music to "Song of General Kim Il-sung".



Addendum 2016:

The "Song of General Kim Jong-il" is a marching song. It is composed by Sol Myong-sun and the words are written by Sin Un-ho. (Peter Lang)

KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF

Scott ???

Michel 5198

A stamp issued March 26, 2007 for the 180th anniversary of the death of Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827). The stamp shows a portrait of Beethoven, with a manuscript score in the background. The music has not been identified, but it appears to be the autograph manuscript of a string quartet.



KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF

Scott ???

Michel Block 681

A souvenir sheet issued November 15, 2007 for the Arirang Festival Mass Games, held in Pyongyang, North Korea each year to celebrate the late Kim Il-sung's birthday on April 15. The games are the opening event of the two-month festival. They feature huge mosaic pictures created by thousands of school children, which are accompanied by highly choreographed routines performed by thousands of gymnasts and dancers. In recent years the event has been open to foreign tourists and has been recognized in Guinness World Records as the biggest event of its kind in the world. The sheet pictures the various routines, as well as the words and melody to the famous Korean folksong "Arirang".



LIECHTENSTEIN

Scott 1372

Michel 1439

One in a set of four stamps issued March 5, 2007 entitled "Music/Tempi and Temperament". Each stamp features a cartoon depiction of a specific musical term. One of the terms is primarily a tempo indication (*Allegro*), another a dynamic marking (*Crescendo*), and two are character designations (*Capriccio* and *Con fuoco*). The stamp designer, Swiss artist Oskar Weiss, seems to have been inspired by the original Italian meaning of the terms. Thus, *Con fuoco* ("with fire") depicts a pianist furiously attacking a grand piano, causing flames to rise from the strings. *Capriccio* ("whim") shows decorative notes of music blasting from an old wind-up phonograph, causing pages to blow off of a nearby music stand. Meanwhile, a woman seated there is bowing on the music stand as though it were a cello.



LITHUANIA

Scott 836

Michel 933

One of two Europa stamps issued April 14, 2007 for the 100th anniversary of the Scout Movement, founded by Robert Baden-Powell in 1907. Lithuania's participation in the movement dates to 1918. One stamp shows symbols of the Lithuanian Scout Movement. The other features the World Scouting flag and the song of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship. The English words begin "We're men and women joined together by a strong thread of unity." The song was adopted as the ISGF song in 1996 during the 21st World Conference in Montegrotto, Italy. It was composed and written by Mrs. Sheena Prince of Australia.

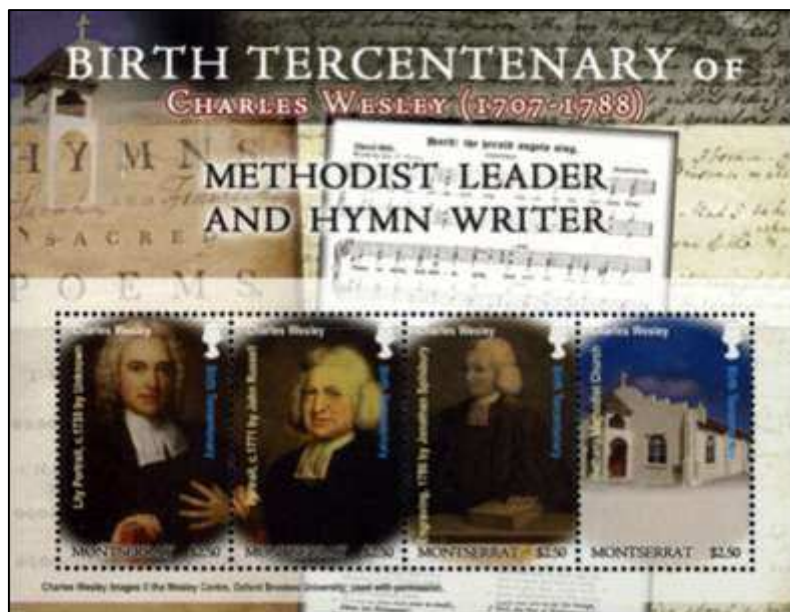


MONTSERRAT

Scott ???

Michel 1399-1402

A souvenir sheet issued December 18, 2007 for the 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Charles and his older brother John led a religious revival in England that resulted in the rise of Methodism. Charles Wesley's greatest contribution was as a hymn writer. He wrote more than 6,500 hymns. Together the Wesley's compiled over 50 hymnbooks. "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" is one of Charles Wesley's most popular hymns. It first appeared in his Hymns and Sacred Poems, 1739, with the opening line being "Hark how all the welkin rings". It was not until a century later, in 1855, that the words were combined with the tune by Felix Mendelssohn (from his Festgesang, op. 68, for male voices and brass instruments). The sheet contains four stamps (three portraits and a picture of Bethany Methodist Church on the island of Montserrat). The top half of the sheet has facsimiles of a hymn book title page, a manuscript, and an early edition of "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing".

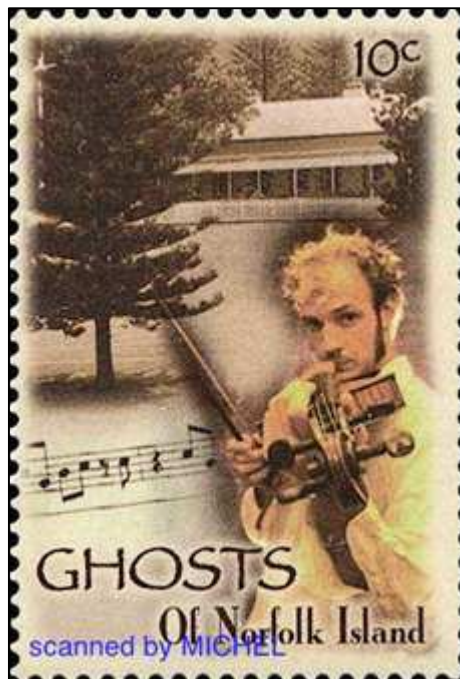


NORFOLK ISLAND

Scott 908

Michel 989

One stamp in a set of four issued June 26, 2007 with the title "Ghosts of Norfolk Island". A penal colony from 1788 to 1854, and later a refuge for descendants of the HMS Bounty mutineers, Norfolk Island is said to have more ghosts per square kilometer than any other Australian state or territory. One of the stamps shows a violinist and six musical notes (which do not represent actual music, according to the Norfolk Post). The violinist, very much alive in the picture, calls to mind the legend of the ghost-fiddler who entertained his prison-mates with his playing, but was executed when he fell in love with the jailer's daughter. After his death the fiddler haunted the jailer with his nocturnal playing and, it is said, still today fills the silence of Norfolk nights.



PERU

Scott 1546-1548

Michel 2149-2151

A set of three stamps issued January 23, 2007 featuring traditional Andean wind instruments. The quena is a front-blown bamboo flute with a notched mouthpiece. The antara and the zampoña are varieties of the panpipe, an instrument with a series of tubes of different lengths bound together. Typically these instruments are made of bamboo. The zampoña usually has a double row of pipes, and to play a scale the player must alternate between the rows. Traditionally, panpipes are played as Ensemble instruments at fiestas, weddings, and other celebrations. Each stamp illustrates one of the instruments, along with a brief musical excerpt that seems to be decorative rather than actual music.



Addendum 2016:

The melody shown on the stamp is from the well known Peruvian melody "El Cóndor Pasa". The seems to be taken from a sheet music set for Violin or Clarinet. (Peter Lang).

Information from Wikipedia: El Cóndor Pasa (Spanish for "The Condor passes") is an orchestral musical piece from the zarzuela El Cóndor Pasa by the Peruvian composer Daniel Alomía Robles, written in 1913 and based on traditional Andean folk tunes. Since then, it has been estimated that around the world, more than 4000 versions of the melody have been produced, along with 300 sets of lyrics. In 2004, Peru declared this song as part of the national cultural heritage. This song is now considered the second national anthem of Peru. It is the best-known Peruvian song to anglo-centric radio play due to a 1970 cover version by Simon & Garfunkel on their Bridge over Troubled Water album.

SLOVENIA

Scott RA34d

Michel Zwangszuschlagsmarke 47

One stamp in a block of four issued May 8, 2007 for Red Cross Week. Each stamp depicts a pair of block figures, in which one figure appears to be helping the other. The fourth stamp depicts the head of a man and a child with earphones, above which float individual musical notes.

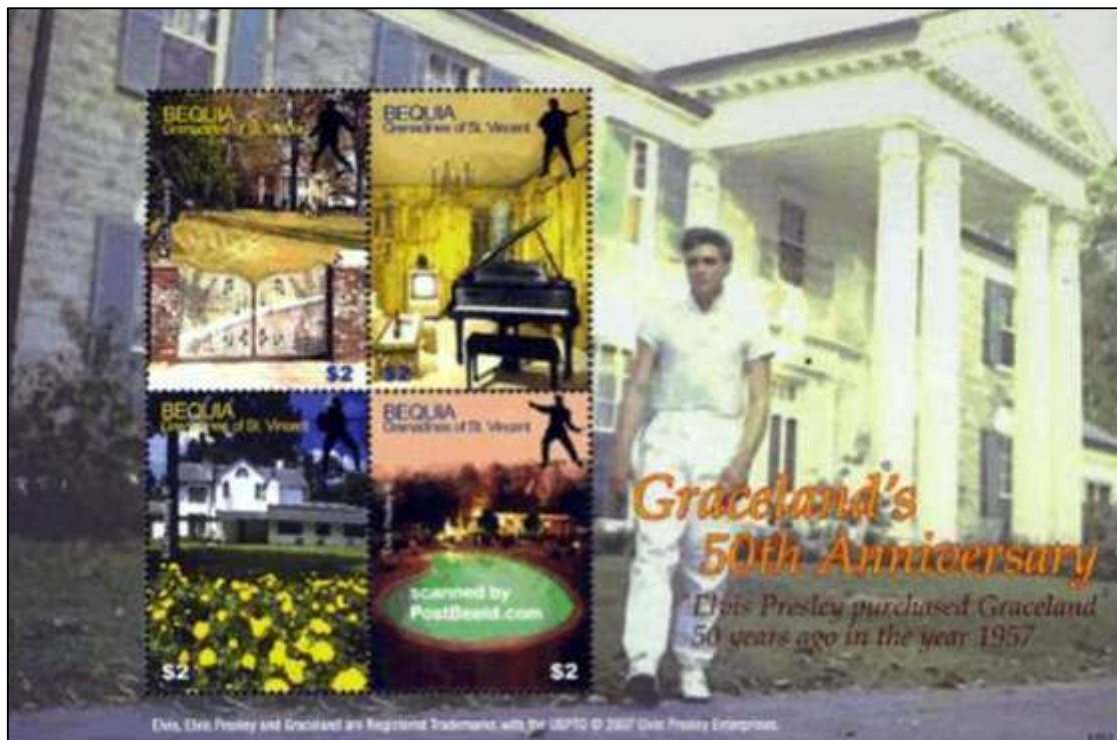


ST. VINCENT GRENADINES - BEQUIA

Scott ???

Michel 559-562

A sheet issued in 2007 for the 50th anniversary of the purchase of Graceland by Elvis Presley. Located in a suburb of Memphis, Tennessee, Graceland attracts as many as 700,000 visitors each year, making it the second most visited home in the U.S. (Only the White House has more annual visitors). The property was established as a 500-acre farm during the Civil War and was named after the daughter of the original owner. A two-story mansion was built in 1939. Various views of Graceland are shown on the four stamps and background of the souvenir sheet. One of the stamps shows the mansion as it appears from the entrance to the grounds. In front are the famous custom-made gates, which depict the singer with his guitar and a series of decorative notes cast into the gates themselves.



SWEDEN

Scott 2551a, 2551d

Michel 2565, 2568

Two stamps in a block of four (also in a booklet), issued January 25, 2007. The overall theme is Spring Feelings. Each stamp has a stylized representation of spring. Two of the stamps show a bird singing, with decorative musical notes in the air.

