Discoverability of Forgotten Repertoire: Lieder by Carl Gottlieb Reissiger in an American Woman's Bound Music Collection

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JULIA WARD HOWE

Julia’s Five Bound Volumes

- Full Rowe, George Mason University, Librarians acquire five owner-bound volumes of music collected by Julia Ward Howe in her lifetime. Each volume was compiled before marriage and bound their most treasured music just before marriage and included in the books, whether for few or many, to be taken to their new homes' libraries as part of the trousseau.

Why Were These Bound?

and... Are the Contents “Typical?”

- More than 90% of all 19th-century American women occasionally bound their best treasured music just before marriage and included in the books, whether for few or many, to be taken to their new homes’ libraries as part of the trousseau.

Contents of typical volumes included "parlor" songs of simple form, predictable melody, and easy accompaniment; on sentimental topics and themes that reinforced female domesticity.

- Novels and folk songs were often included in a performer's volumes, but not in Julia's volumes (at least, not those owned by JWH).

CARL GOTTLIEB REISSIGER

Hofkapellmeister at Dresden, Prolific Composer

- Born 1798, Belzig, Germany; dies 1859, Dresden; attracts early career support from influential musicians and benefactors, including the King of Prussia, assurance a recorded, and prolific German conductor and composer.

- Becomes director of the court opera at Dresden and Hofkapellmeister: most important music post in Saxony, defends the post and keeps the job 30 years later.

- Influential repertory in composing and presenting chamber and orchestral music. For the court, sacred music for its chapel, and theater music for its venue, additionally, he accepts occasional commissions, performs in solo and ensemble piano, adjudicates festivals, all two are

- Compositions include approximately 50 piano solos, 70 song collections, 300 works for chamber ensemble. His specific and extensive, Reissiger's (Gothic/Reissiger) compositions and performances are marked, was founded in 1820 to enforce, numerous in the genre by the late 20th century and into the early 21st century, etc.

- Perhaps Reissiger was Julia’s “likely” composer during her coming of age years! His bound volumes represent a significant treasury of this output. It may provide a valuable collection of the works of this prominent German composer, and of the materials for several recital or recordings in his remembered repertoire.

Given a Revival of Interest in Forgotten Composers by Scholars, Performers, and Record Producers... HOW CAN “HIDDEN” REPERTOIRE BECOME KNOWN?

- Three are labeled "Miss Julia Ward" (pre-dating her April 1843 marriage); two are labeled "Julia Howe" and were three owner-bound volumes of 19th-century vocal music collected by talented amateurs can be a hidden treasure of important, out-of-print repertoire; Our music cataloger first created WorldCat records for each volume that include brief contents notes, providing a modest level of keyword discoverability for composer names, as shown in screenshot on the right.

- Detailed comparison of each individual song with WorldCat holdings suggested that the scores are in excellent condition except for minor foxing, with (sadly) almost no markings or annotations.

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