

Music at Home - Concerts - Drama

Conducted by Lawrence Mason

Musical Bibliographies of  
Canadian Composers: No. 5

Classified Summary of Principal Works by Clifford  
Higgin and Dr. Luigi Von Kunits—Further  
Lists of Good Canadian Music

A DISTINGUISHED Western Canadian, Clifford Higgin, is added today to The Globe's roster of leading Dominion musicians whose compositions are being called to the attention of Canada's concert-givers, program committees, Music Festival officials and music-loving public at large, through this series of authoritative musical bibliographies. Mr. Higgin was born near Manchester, England, soon gained an enviable reputation as organist and choirmaster, conducted the Blackpool Orpheus Glee Society for twelve years and the Blackpool Operatic Society for nine years, and won many awards at the famous Blackpool Festival. The present writer, when attending that festival in 1932, found that Mr. Higgin is still held in high esteem in musical Lancashire.

On the recommendation of the late Dr. A. S. Vogt, Mr. Higgin came out to Brantford, Ont., in 1914, as organist and choirmaster of a leading church, and as conductor of Brantford's celebrated Schubert Choir for six years. Again recommended by Dr. Vogt, he went out to Knox Church, Calgary, in 1920, where he is still organist and choir director. He is active in the music festival movement of the West, serving as adjudicator at some of the district events. He is President of the Calgary Branch of the Alberta Musical Association, a member of the Advisory Board for Music of the University of Alberta, musical director of the Calgary Light Opera Society, and organist of the Zetland Lodge of Freemasons.

His more important compositions are listed below. Many excellent numbers are still in manuscript (indicated by the notation "MS." in place of a publisher's name), but copies of these can be supplied by the composer for performance by responsible applicants.

1. Choral and Orchestral

Symphony in C major, Op. 35 (MS.).  
Symphonic Rhapsody in G minor, Op. 37 (MS.). "Calvary," short oratorio,

Op. 9, for soprano and baritone solo, chorus, and orchestra (Hartel). "The Elfman and the Frogs," secular cantata for children, Op. 33 (MS.). "Why Peter Believes in Fairies," secular cantata for children, Op. 18 (MS.). "O Nightingale," part song, SATB, Op. 8 (Westbrook). "To a Faded Violet," part song, SATB, Op. 19 (Ashdown). "The Angel's Requiem," part song, SSA, Op. 31 (MS.). Four Part Songs for Young Voices, SSA, Op. 13 (Whaley, Royce).

2. Anthems.

"Out of the Depths," Op. 29 (Waterloo). "Repentance," Op. 32 (Ditson).

3. Chamber Music.

Trio in A major for flute, clarinet, and piano, Op. 36 (MS.). "Slumber Song," for violin and piano, Op. 39 (MS.). Adagio Cantabile for violin and piano, Op. 40 (MS.). Tarantella in D minor for violin and piano, Op. 42 (MS.).

4. Piano.

Tarantella in C minor, Op. 1 (Cary). "Butterflies' Ball," Op. 5 (Cary). "Day Dreams," Op. 6 (Beal Stuttard). "Firefly," Op. 27 (Waterloo). Ten Recreations for Children, Op. 30 (Waterloo). "Badinage," Op. 41 (MS.).

5. Songs.

"The Skylark," Op. 7 (Larway). "Spring is Here," Op. 11 (Boosey). "Undaunted," Op. 28 (Waterloo). "Three Songs of Canadian Life: (1) Range Fever, (2) Little Babe, (3) The Call of the Woods," Op. 45 (MS.). "Three Canadian Songs: (1) A Prairie Flower Song, (2) Wonderland, (3) The Four Winds," Op. 44 (MS.).

DR. LUIGI VON KUNITS.

Eastern Canada is represented today by one of her finest artists and noblest personalities, the late Dr. Luigi Von Kunits. Born in Vienna, Austria, sixty-six years ago last Thursday, he enjoyed a brilliant career as violin virtuoso, conductor, composer and teacher in Europe and the United States. Johannes Brahms was an intimate friend of his father and a familiar figure in his own

youthful environment in Vienna. In some twenty years of varied success in the United States, Dr. Von Kunits was offered the conductorship of the Cincinnati Orchestra in succession to Leopold Stokowsky, in 1912, but elected to come to Toronto instead as head of the violin department of the Canadian Academy of Music. He established his permanent residence here, soon becoming a Canadian citizen. The string world of Toronto today is practically his creation, he alone having given our representative string-players a truly professional character and outlook; or so at least one of his most gifted pupils, now a recognized master in his own right, has assured the present writer.

The death of Dr. Von Kunits five years ago remains a lasting sorrow to all who knew him, and an irreparable loss to Canadian music. He left us a rich bequest, nevertheless, of compositions in many forms, all of them distinguished by his nobility of spirit and mellow musical scholarship. The following list is regrettably incomplete, but no systematic and exhaustive record is available at this time.

1. Violin Music.

Concerto for violin and orchestra in E-minor (unpublished, but widely and very successfully played by the composer). "Scotch Lullaby," violin solo (5th ed., Fischer, N.Y.; also arranged for orchestra, voice, organ, etc.). "Legend," "Album Leaf," "Tarantelle," violin solos (Fischer, N.Y.). Three unaccompanied Etudes for violin (3rd ed., Schirmer, N.Y.). American Folk-Melodies, violin solo (MS). Tipperary Caprice, violin solo (MS). Adagio and Polonaise in the style of Paganini, violin solo (MS). "Whip-Poor-Will," violin solo (MS).

Arranged or edited for solo violin: "God Save the King" (MS). "I Palpiti" by Paganini (MS). "Carnival de Venezia," by Paganini (MS). "Non Plumes-to," by Paganini (MS).

2. Chamber Music and Piano.

Quartet for four violins (MS). String quartet in D minor. Sonata for viola D and piano (MS). Two trios for viola d'amore, violin, bass (pub. in Vienna). Four pieces for violin and piano: "Gavotte," "Simple Romance," "The Swing," "Viennese Melody" (Frederick Harris, Oakville, Ont.). Other short pieces for violin and piano. Also "Scale Manual" and a "Violin Method" (Harris).

Scherzo, piano solo (pub. in Chicago). Piano Sketches (pub. in Vienna).

3. Choral and Vocal.

Cantata for female voices (pub. in Vienna). Cantata for male chorus (pub. in Vienna). Sacred Quartet: "Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee" (pub. in Pittsburg). Three songs: "Cabin d'Or," "Heart's Desire," "The Maple" (pub. in Musical Canada). Modern Greek song (MS.).