

The Daughters of the American Revolution March

Arranger and composer: Jens Bodewalt Lampe (1869-1929)

Born: Ribe, Denmark, Lampe was a trained musician and writer of many musical compositions.

1873: Lampe immigrated with his parents, Christian and Sophia Lampe, moving to St. Paul, Minnesota. His father's occupation was that of a book binder, however Christian's musical experience qualified him for the leadership of the "Great Western Band", a touring group. The family benefited from his success.

Late 1870's-1880's: Bodewalt Lampe (he dropped Jens) was a child prodigy, especially on the violin although he played many other instruments. Selected as first chair violinist for the Minneapolis Symphony at age 16, he later studied music formally in Chicago.

Post 1880: He married Josephine H. Dell, an Illinois native. The couple and their first child moved to Buffalo, NY, where three of their four children were born. By the 1900 census Bodewalt was listed as a "musical director" and a naturalized citizen, probably through his father's own naturalization. Josephine joined the DAR after moving as she is listed as a member, number 56502, New York.

1900 and Success:

A year after the popularity of Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag", he published what is probably his most successful composition "Creole Belles", a rag or cakewalk which sold more than a million copies in sheet music. The piece was recorded by Sousa's Band in 1902 and has been used by jazz bands and ragtime pianists into the 21st century. It was also remade into a song.

"Mysterioso Pizzicato": This piece is associated with silent movie music as the main motif which became a standard cue for "the Villain." At the very least Lampe made this motif popular, but he is also viewed as originating it.

1904: The Lampe family moved to New York metropolis, with Bodewalt finding employment for Jerome H. Remick & Company, an important music publisher. New York was a Mecca for successful "tune arrangers" with Lampe being exceptionally busy at his craft.

1914: While the Lampe family would achieve the American dream of financial security and fame, tragedy intervened in the form of the Spanish flu epidemic which likely claimed their eldest son, who had been in an army camp, and also Josephine, who succumbed in a Bronx hospital less than two weeks later. While Bodewalt retreated from his work for a couple of years, he later remarried and continued arranging music for instrumental groups, eventually founding his own company.

1929: Bodewalt Lampe died

The DAR March: Composed and published in 1909, an analysis shows an introduction followed by three sections featuring familiar existing songs: the first part with the repeat consists of the tune “Hail Columbia!”, originally composed for George Washington’s inauguration, but currently utilized for Vice Presidential entrances. The second part has no easily recognizable existing tune, apparently, and thus, may be original. The trio heavily incorporates “America, My Country ‘Tis of Thee”, the tune which also serves for the national anthem of the United Kingdom, "God Save the Queen." Quoted in the trio is the tune best known as “The Girl I Left Behind Me”*, followed by two brief interjections of “Yankee Doodle” (in different keys) before the piece ends with “The Girl I Left Behind Me”.

Where Available: The NSDAR does not currently have copies for sale or distribution. However, the song may be purchased at Sheet MusicPlus, an online store.

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/daughters-of-the-american-revolution-march-two-step-digital-sheet-music/20030254>

*Origin:

“The Girl I Left Behind Me” is an English folk song dating back to the Elizabethan era. It is said to have been played when soldiers left for war or a naval vessel set sail. According to other sources the song originated in 1758 when English Admirals Hawke and Rodney were observing the French fleet. The first printed text of the song appeared in Dublin in 1791. A popular tune with several variations, "The Girl I Left Behind Me", may have been imported into America around 1650 as 'Brighton Camp' of which a copy dating from around 1796 may be found in the UK.