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{THE AUTOPHONE COMPANY.}
ITHACA, N.Y.

AUTOPHONE MUSIC

"A STRIP IN TIME"

Gary G. Stevenson

NOT TOO LONG AGO, while looking for hand-cranked organettes, I came upon a Symphonia on the shelf of an antique store near Springfield, Missouri. After buying this rather broken-down Symphonia organette, I asked the owner to keep his eye open for other self-playing organs, for I would be interested in them in any condition. He told me he had an odd harmonica squeeze box that did not work, brought me to a back room of his shop and showed me a cardboard box filled with parts. He told me he had owned the machine for quite a while and was not sure how it was put together.

After looking over the contents I bought the box of dusty parts. We talked a short while longer and I started out the door with the Symphonia and Autophone parts. When I turned to say goodbye, the owner had returned to his shop. In a moment he appeared with another old box, this one full of original Autophone music strips. He told me these went with the box of parts, but he had forgotten where he had put them. I almost had not purchased the box of Autophone parts because of the price, but I was glad I did after seeing the music strips.

When I returned home, I contacted Carl Semon in Elk Grove, Illinois, to talk to him about my new acquisition. Carl makes recut rolls for various organettes, so I asked him to send me lists of his recut Symphonia and Autophone music. When I received them, I combined his Autophone list with the list I had compiled of my own strips. One interesting point soon became apparent — none of our strip numbers exceeded No. 313.

After receiving my combined list, Carl wrote back saying, "I would assume that the Autophone, being one of the earliest, if not the first organette, was quickly outdated by all the others which followed." This, we felt, was enough evidence for us to propose that only about 300 different Autophone music strips were ever punched by the company.

Our theory was tested almost immediately. In the *Silver Anniversary Collection*, (Musical Box Society International, 1974) an article on roller organs appeared on page 593. The author, Mr. Larry Givens, states that, "by 1883 the Autophone Company had issued nearly a thousand different musical selections for the 22-note Autophone . . ." There was also an article in the Spring, 1974 *Bulletin*, (Vol XX, No. 4, page 220) called *Local*

S. L. CHUBBUCK

Autophones and Music

347 Main Street,

Room C, BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

The Approach of Spring Waltz No. 4.

22
70
RESCUE THE PERISHING

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

UNION OF YOUNG REPUBLICANS

ARTHUR T. NELSON

Autophones and Music

Main Street

Room C, BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

No. 189

Mailuf

Histories as Source Material. That information was found in a book called *Ithaca and its Resources*, which did not give an original publishing date other than the nineteenth century. The information given in this book must be questioned, based on the fact that of my 179 strips and the 97 of Carl's, one would think that at least one strip would have a number higher than 313, if in fact a thousand strips had been made by 1883. (One thing to keep in mind, however, is that a boast in those years may today be misunderstood as fact.)

After the 1974 *Bulletin* article was published, another piece of the Autophone puzzle surfaced. In 1975 M.B.S.I. member Paul Wilkinson shared his Autophone music catalogue with the Society (*Bulletin*, Vol. XXI, No. 1, p. 39) and for the first time in many years an Autophone catalogue was published. The music was divided into two categories: sacred music was listed from song No. 1 to No. 86, and popular airs from No. 101 to No. 255. No songs are shown from No. 87 to No. 100 on this list,



originally compiled by The C.E. Wendell Co., of Albany, New York. At the end of the Wendell Company list is this footnote: "other songs will be added."

Mr. Howard Fitch provided me with another Autophone music-strip catalogue that shows more songs were added. This catalogue, lent to us by Mr. Glenn W. Grabinsky, adds ten more sacred strips and 87 more popular airs. This list of squeeze-box music strips again comes from a New York state company. This makes three different New York cities used as part of the Autophone Company's history. Some of my strips also came from two places in Buffalo, New York: the S.A. Chubbuck Autophone and Music Company, 19 Main Street, Room 1; and Arthur T. Nelson Autophone and Music, 317 Main Street, Room 6. Were they both there at the same time or were they one and the same company with different owners?

Some of Carl's strips came from the following places: The John H. Stredrers Book and Music Store, No. 268 W. Water St., and W.P. Parker, Agt., 41 Oneida Street, both in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and J.H. Erb, 92 E. Randolph at 57 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, Illinois.

As you will see in the list at the end of this article, some of the strips appear to be of Scandanavian origin. They were bought by Carl and John Bernhardt from Claes Friberg in Copenhagen. These original, new, old-stock strips are marked "The C.W. Skänström, Hörrebrogade 23 Hj. af Blaagaardsgade, Kjöbenhavn, N." The music shop names are marked on strips along with other bits of information. In the accompanying photo are some of the different strips in my collection to show their markings. These marks indicate the strip title and price in American cents. The prices varied from one distributor to another. For instance, "Rescue the Pershing" shows 22/10 on my strip, No. 22 at 10 cents. The Wendell catalogue lists this song at 12 cents and the Barber Company sold it for 9 cents. Price differences could have come about because of bulk buying, differences in profit margin, or a drop in demand. The Barber catalogue appears to be the latter of the sources for this article.

Only one of my strips came with a patent date marked on it. In the accompanying photo, No. 281 "Over the Garden Wall" shows a date of December 3, 1878. This indicates the inventor, Mr. Henry Horton, made an improvement on his original patent dated October 30, 1877.

Following is a list by number of the Autophone strips known to exist and those shown in the catalogues. I invite Autophone collectors to challenge my theory by submitting the names of sacred songs between 87 and 100 or popular airs numbered higher than 342.

Perhaps some response article could give titles owned by other collectors, so that the Society will be able to compile a complete listing of all the songs produced by the Autophone Company.

The songs listed here are keyed for ownership: Carl Semon's strips are marked with a dagger (†), Howard Fitch's are marked with a double dagger (‡), and the author's strips are marked with an asterisk (*). Those without a symbol are listed in one of the catalogues referenced earlier.

AUTOPHONE MUSIC STRIPS

22-note Scale:

A, A#, B, C, D, D#, E, F, G, A, A#, B, C, D, D#, E, F, G, A, A#, C, D

SACRED MUSIC

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Balerina* | 44 Hallelujah, 'tis Done† |
| 2 I Need Thee Every Hour† | 45 Greenland's Icy Mountain† |
| 3 Antioch* | 46 Morris* |
| 4 Nearer My Home† | 47 Hail Virgin, Dearest Mary |
| 5 Menoah | 48 Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep |
| 6 Nearer My God to Thee† | 49 I Long to be There* |
| 7 Rhine* | 50 Only an Armor Bearer |
| 8 America | 51 Rise and Shine* |
| 9 Loving Kindness† | 52 When the Swallows Homeward Fly† |
| 10 Hold the Fort† | 53 We Shall Meet Them* |
| 11 Mendon-Suwanne River* | 54 Precious Name† |
| 12 Horton | 55 Coronation† |
| 13 Louvan* | 56 Ring the Bells |
| 14 Even Me | 57 O, Do Not Be Discouraged* |
| 15 Sweet Hour of Prayer | 58 Duke Street |
| 16 Ithaca* | 59 He Leadeth Me* |
| 17 Golden Hill | 60 Onward Christian Soldiers† |
| 18 Come to Jesus | 61 Will You Meet Me at the Fountain?* |
| 19 St. Thomas* | 62 Joyfully* |
| 20 Gather at the River† | 63 Eventide |
| 21 Silver Street* | 64 Worthing |
| 22 Rescue the Pershing* | 65 The Gate Ajar for Me* |
| 23 Dennis | 66 I Love to Tell the Story |
| 24 Pass Me Not† | 67 The Great Physician |
| 25 Shirland | 68 There is Life for a Look* |
| 26 I'm Coming to the Cross* | 69 Nuremberg* |
| 27 Italian Hymn | 70 Autumn (Spanish Melody)* |
| 28 Pull for the Shore | 71 Brownell* |
| 29 Beulah Land† | 72 Hayden's Morning Hymn |
| 30 Close to Thee* | 73 Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah |
| 31 There'll be Joy | 74 Over the River* |
| 32 Rest for the Weary† | 75 Psalm 89, (Hauff) |
| 33 Rock of Ages | 76 Psalm 119 |
| 34 Shining Shore | 77 Weary of Earth |
| 35 Old Hundred | 78 Jesus of Nazareth Passeth By |
| 36 Onk* | 79 What Shall the Harvest Be? |
| 37 Pleyel's Hymn* | 80 Just As I Am |
| 38 Spanish Hymn | 81 Mary and Martha |
| 39 Webb | 82 The Lord Is My Shepherd |
| 40 Portuguese Hymn | 83 Today the Savior Calls |
| 41 What a Friend We Have in Jesus† | 84 My Beautiful Dream |
| 42 Home over There | 85 Yield Not to Temptation |
| 43 Marching Along | 86 Greenville |

POPULAR AIRS

- 101 Auld Lang Syne†
- 102 Listen to the Mocking Bird† ‡
- 103 Baby Mine†
- 104 Bonnie Eloise*
- 105 Blue Bells of Scotland*
- 106 Money Musk*
- 107 Grandfather's Clock, and Chorus†
- 108 When I Was a Lad (Pinafore)*
- 109 Home, Sweet Home† ‡
- 110 Farewell My Own (Pinafore)*
- 111 Suwanee River
- 112 Little Buttercup (Pinafore)
- 113 Sweet Bye and Bye
- 114 Last Rose of Summer†
- 115 Annie of the Vale
- 116 Fisher's Hornpipe
- 117 Autophone Polka*
- 118 Girl I Left Behind Me†
- 119 Ellen Bayne
- 120 Robin Adair†
- 121 Die Wacht am Rhein†
- 122 Cinderella Waltz†
- 123 Mutterschmerz*
- 124 Hours That Were, Waltz*
- 125 Abscheid*
- 126 Ah! So Pure (Martha)*
- 127 Der Landmann†
- 128 Old Kentucky Home†
- 129 Yankee Doodle*
- 130 Traumerei†
- 131 Bonnie Doon*
- 132 Swiss Waltz
- 133 Irish Washer Woman*
- 134 Speed the Plough*
- 135 Then You'll Remember Me
(Bohemian Girl)
- 136 Nettie Moore*
- 137 Nancy Till*
- 138 John Brown†
- 139 Annie Laurie*
- 140 Tramp, Tramp*
- 141 Old Uncle Ned
- 142 Rally Round the Flag†
- 143 Cagliostro Waltz No. 3 (Strauss)*
- 144 He Is an Englishman (Pinafore)*
- 145 Merry Maiden and the Tar (Pinafore)*
- 146 Farewell to Erin*
- 147 Scots Wha Hae*
- 148 O'er the Sea (Pinafore)*
- 149 Dem Golden Slippers†
- 150 Eileen Alanna*
- 151 Ithaca March*
- 152 Pretty Jane*
- 153 When the Corn Is Waving*
- 154 Wearing of the Green*
- 155 Marching Through Georgia†
- 156 Come Back to Erin
- 157 Morning Journal's Waltz, No. 4
- 158 One Thousand and One Nights Waltz,
No. 3*
- 159 Manuscript Waltz, No. 4*
- 160 The Approach of Spring Waltz, No. 1*
- 161 Leap Year Waltz, No. 1*
- 162 Grandmother's Chair†
- 163 Red, White and Blue†
- 164 Old Black Joe†
- 165 Coming Through the Rye*
- 166 Dearest May*
- 167 Bonnie Blue Flag†
- 168 Forest Glen Waltz†
- 169 There's a Light in the Window*
- 170 Babies on our Block*
- 171 Dixie
- 172 Full Moon Union†
- 173 Take Back the Heart*
- 174 Take This Letter to My Mother†
- 175 Wait for the Wagon*
- 176 Flower from my Mother's Grave
- 177 Nelly Gray†
- 178 Cheer, Boys, Cheer†
- 179 Theme from Mozart's 12th Mass*
- 180 Rosalie the Prairie Flower*
- 181 Pirates Chorus*
- 182 Hark! the Angels Sweetly Singing
- 183 St. Patrick's Day†
- 184 Scotch Lassie Jean*
- 185 Secret Love
- 186 Mailtute*
- 187 Tyroler Kind*
- 188 Old Wooden Rocker
- 189 Slavery Days*
- 190 See That My Grave's Kept Green†
- 191 Gathering Shells from the Sea Shore†
- 192 Jar Furwahr, Martha*
- 193 Racquet Galop
- 194 Vive l'Amour*
- 195 Secret Love, No. 2*
- 196 Dar am Honey on Desc Lips*
- 197 There's Music in the Air*
- 198 Jamie's on the Stormy Sea*
- 199 Marseillaise Hymn†
- 200 Twinkle Little Star, or
Meet Me at the Bars*
- 201 Cradle's Empty, Baby's Gone

- 202 Free That Reed Galop*
- 203 Fauncy Dancers*
- 204 Schubert's Praise of Tears*
- 205 Star Spangled Banner†
- 206 Darling Bessie of the Lea‡
- 207 Little Footsteps
- 208 In the Eye Abides the Heart*
- 209 Little Maggie May*
- 210 God Save our President
- 211 Take Me Back to Home and Mother
- 212 The Torpedo and the Whale (Olivette)*
- 213 Deutsches Volkslied
- 214 Down Among the Sugar Cane
- 215 Natalie the Maid of the Mill*
- 216 Love's Greeting Galop*
- 217 Oft in the Stilly Night*
- 218 I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls
- 219 Don't be Angry with Me, Darling
- 220 The Banjo now Hangs Silent on the Door*
- 221 Andante, from the 10th Sonata (Beethoven)
- 222 Andante, from 12th Sonata
- 223 Adagio, from 8th Sonata*
- 224 Policeman's Chorus (Pirates of Penzance)
- 225 The Whip-poor-will's Song†
- 226 Mother Dearest Raise my Pillow
- 227 Poor old Robinson Crusoe*
- 228 Lardy Dah Galop*
- 229 Songs Without Words, No. 4 (Mendelssohn)
- 230 Songs Without Words, No. 9
- 231 Don't You Hear the Baby Crying?
- 232 How Can I Leave Thee?*
- 233 Reverie, Dreaming of Angels
- 234 Mary Ann, I'll Tell Your Ma
- 235 Les Sirenes Waltz
- 236 Kittie King†
- 237 Lorelei*
- 238 You Never Miss the Water
- 239 De Little Cabins all am Empty Now
- 240 Gott Erhalte Franz Den Kaiser (Hayden)
- 241 See the Conquering Hero Comes*
- 242 Oh Come in Beautiful Dreams
- 243 Just the Stuff Galop
- 244 Only a Dream of My Mother*
- 245 Nancy Lee*
- 246 Amaryllis*
- 247 Cornet Solo (Wm. Tell)*
- 248 Violet from Mother's Grave*
- 249 Slumber on Baby Dear*
- 250 The Little Widow Dunn*
- 251 Song Without Words, No. 19*
- 252 Song Without Words, No. 29*
- 253 Jolly Bros.' Galop
- 254 Larboard Watch*
- 255 Scenes that are Brightest
- 256 "Miserere," from Il Trovatore*
- 257 It was a Song My Mother Sang*
- 258 The Blue Alsatian Mountains*
- 259 A Song of Summer
- 260 Guiteau's Trial Comic End Song
- 261 De Camp Meeting Fire Bell*
- 262 Lullaby (Arthur Sullivan)*
- 263 Mozart's Minuet, No. 1
- 264 Back to our Mountains (Il Trovatore)*
- 265 Lauerbach Waltz*
- 266 The Patter of the Shingle*
- 267 Ask Me not Why (Fille du Regiment)*
- 268 Andante, and Galop*
- 269 Chorus from I Puritani*
- 270 Emmet's Lullaby*
- 271 Thou Art so Near and Yet so Far†
- 272 Never Take the Horse Show from the Door
- 273 Betty and the Baby
- 274 On de Banks ob de Ribber Side
- 275 Thy Face
- 276 Down the Shady Grove
- 277 Some Day I'll Wander Back Again
- 278 Silver Threads Among the Gold†
- 279 Mazurka—El Alma Enferma*
- 280 Polka—Flor de un Dia
- 281 Over the Garden Wall*
- 282 For Goodness' Sake, Don't Say I Told You*
- 283 L'Amour
- 284 Therese La Blonde*
- 285 The Widow Nolan's Goat*
- 286 Wait Till the Clouds Roll By
- 287 Paddy Duffy's Cart*
- 288 The Home Schottische
- 289 Sweet Little Stannie Snow
- 290 Let Me Dream
- 291 Peek-a-boo
- 292
- 293 Butterfly Mazurka
- 294 Wien Uber Alles Polka
- 295 Gretchen Waltz†
- 296 Z—Mantua In Banden
- 297 -enn-en Von Tharau
- 298 Das Zerbrochene Ringlein
- 299 -Bellied
- 300 Sweet Violets

- 301 —e Will Roll the Clouds Away
 302 Come in and Shut the Door
 303 Waltz—Nur Fur Natur
 304 In the Gloaming
 305 Laura Waltz, No. 2
 (Beggar Student)
 306 Laura Waltz, No. 4
 (Beggar Student)
 307 —ucke- Lager March
 308 Waltz, The Beautiful Blue Danube,
 No. 1
 309 Waltz, The Beautiful Blue Danube,
 No. 5
 310 —twine for Thee the Maiden's Wreath
 311 Waltz, from The Chimes of Corneville
 312 Apajune March
 313 Violette Polka, from The Merry War†
 314 Pizzicato from Sylvia (?)
 315 The Stephanie Gavotte (?)
 316 —, Ichi Ban
 317 Good Night Darling, Come Tomorrow
 318 Baby's Lulaby
 319 — the Kitchen Range
 320 Always Gallant Polka
 321 Victoria Polonaise
 322 Waltz—Les Roses
 323 Polka—La Bonne Bouche
 324 The Parade March
 325 Fairy Tales Waltz
 326 Send Dem Up a Higher and a Higher
 327 Tenting on the Old Camp Ground
 328 March of the Cameron Men
 329 Pretty Little Dark Blue Eyes
 330 Ah! This is Leap Year
 331 Her Soft Bown Eyes
 332 Happy Greetings at the Gate
 333 Angel Bring a Kiss from Mother
 334 The New Electric Light
 335 The Telephone Wonder
 336 I'm a Farmer's Merry Daughter
 337 Fairy Georgia Ann
 338 The Old Broken Bridge
 339 La Petite Coquette Waltz, No. 1
 340 Bicycle Waltz, No. 1
 341 The Letter That Never Came
 342 Rock-a-bye Baby

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