



Domestic Ethnomusicology Indigenous Repertoire

By Megan Blood

Within the pedagogical world, music of different cultures is highly valued. However, the indigenous music of North America is not yet well known in mainstream pedagogical circles. Although Native Americans are a musical people, their music unfortunately has not yet been widely explored. I grew up in the state of Idaho, and many of my piano students were of Native heritage, yet I found it difficult to find repertoire influenced by their ancestry. I began searching for repertoire to fill that void, and I found the composers of the Indianist Movement.

The “Indianist Movement” of the early 1900s is a historical movement, during which Western classical music began to be influenced

by tribal music. Composers of this movement often spent time living with First Nations, transcribing and notating their music. The movement was led by Charles Wakefield Cadman, Arthur Farwell and Harvey Worthington Loomis (Collins 2014). Much like Bartók, these ethnomusicologists collected original melodies and blended them with western compositional styles for the piano. Their works have pedagogical value for students of many levels, and most importantly, they have an authentic sound. Many of these melodies were originally written for voice or flute, yet they are engaging as piano arrangements.

The poster highlights the three composers I have mentioned, their tribal affiliation and their compositional output. Arthur Farwell’s collection *American Indian Melodies, Op. 11* (Farwell 2012) and Charles Wakefield Cadman’s arrangement *From the Land of the Sky-Blue Water* (Cadman 1912) are ideal for the intermediate student. Cadman’s *Thunderbird Suite* (Cadman 2010) and Harvey Worthington Loomis’ collection *Op. 76* (Loomis 2012) are suitable for more advanced students. These pieces are based on original, collected melodies and are arranged to be accessible and authentic. ◀◀

Megan Blood is a pianist, teacher, and DMA candidate in piano pedagogy at the University of South Carolina. Her current research focuses on cultural representation of Native American music and composers of the First Nations.

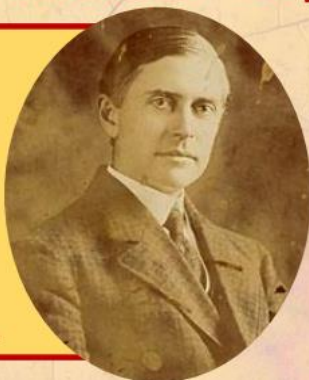


Domestic Ethnomusicology: Indigenous Pedagogical Repertoire

"Indianist Movement" Composers of the 1900s

Arthur Farwell

established the Wa-Wan Press, a publishing agency dedicated to promoting Native melodies and the works of tribal ethnomusicologists. He also harmonized original melodies in *American Indian Melodies, Op. 11*.

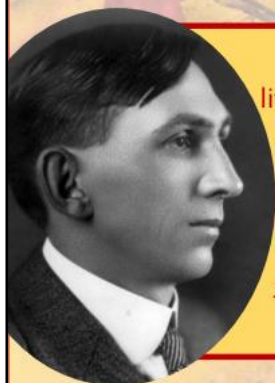


Megan Blood, NCTM

University of South Carolina

"Indianist Movement"

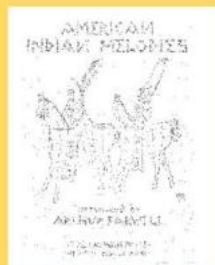
is a historical term, coined in the late 1800s. It refers to a period in which Native American music began to influence Western Classical music. Today, the terms "Native American" or "First Nation" are more appropriate.



Charles Wakefield Cadman

lived with the Omaha and Winnebago tribes in Nebraska. His considerable output includes the *Thunderbird Suite, Idealized Indian Themes Op. 54*, and *From the Land of the Sky-Blue Water* (an arrangement of a melody collected by Alice Fletcher).

Collections for Intermediate Students

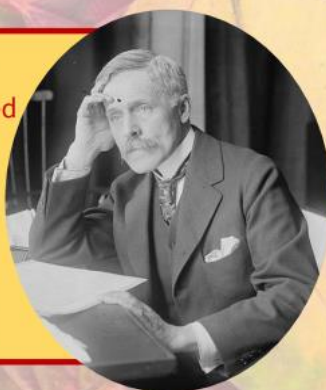


Collections for Advanced Students



Harvey Worthington

Loomis was also associated with the Wa-Wan Press. His great contribution to this movement was his work as an ethnomusicologist. He also harmonized original melodies for piano in *Op. 76*.



Resources

- Cadman, Charles Wakefield. *Cheerful Indian*. McKinley Publishers, 1945.
—*Idealized Indian Themes, Op. 54*. Boston: White-Smith Music Publishing Co., 1912.
—*Music of the American Indian*. Educational Sheet Music & Books, 1976.
—*Thunderbird Suite for Piano*. Charleston, South Carolina: Nabu Press, 2010.
- Collins, Daniel F. *An Annotated Survey of the Indianist Movement Represented by Arthur Farwell and Charles Wakefield Cadman: A Performance Guide to 20th Century American Art Songs Based on American Indian Melodies*. DMA. Diss., Florida State University, 2014.
- Farwell, Arthur. *American Indian Melodies, Op. 11*. Edited by Maurice Hinson. Charleston, South Carolina: Nabu Press, 2012.
- Loomis, Harvey Worthington. *Lyrics of the Red Man, Op. 76*. Grafton, OH: LudwigMasters Publications, 2012.
- Sanford-Tefft, Lulu. *Little Intimate Stories Of Charles Wakefield Cadman*. Whitefish, Montana: Kessinger Publishing, 2010.