

















The Dolls Musical Festivals

While living in Chicago Mrs. Adams was inspired with the idea of a festival of dolls, an event that became a tradition enjoyed by many of her piano students. The idea grew out of her own collection of dolls - she had been an ardent collector most of her life. The first Dolls' Musical Festival was held on May 1, 1908. The program was entirely of music written for and about dolls and included some of Mrs. Adams' own compositions. The children were invited to bring their favorite dolls with them to the program. Thirty-three dolls came to the first festival. The recital was such a success that on May 1, 1909 another festival was held with 59 dolls in attendance. The next year each doll was asked to bring a "going-away doll" and at the end of the afternoon those dolls were packed and sent to families on the Kansas prairie. The following year, toys and books were added to the dolls to be given away.

When Mr. and Mrs. Adams moved to Montreat, the date of the Dolls' Musical Festival was changed to December, and the "going-away dolls" were given to mountain children. This tradition continued through December 1950 at the House-in-the-Woods.

In her booklet, "The Dolls' Musical Festivals", published in 1909, Mrs. Adams described how this event began - an event inspired by her own corn husk doll. The idea of the festivals met with widespread popularity among music teachers as a new approach to teaching beginners. The musicales were a novel way of introducing children to appropriate music gathered from among the works of the masters.

Mrs. Adams composed a number of piano pieces for children with dolls as the theme. "The Dolls' Miniature Suite" was written in 1910 for the Dolls' Musical Festivals. Among the piano solos included in these programs were Mrs. Adams' "Dance of the Marionettes," "Now Go to Sleep My Dolly," and "Doll's Reverie."

Mrs. Adams' love of dolls is reflected in her children's books, Six Dolls Alive (1912) and Days in a Doll's Life (1948). Six of the dolls left at Mrs. Adams' home after a Dolls' Musical Festival inspired Six Dolls Alive. This book expressed many of the ideals the author held for herself.

"I am largely concerned with inducing children to approach music from the angle of serious study, and yet to express themselves in an artistic way."

Mrs. Crosby Adams.



A NEW BOOK
THE DOLLS' MUSICAL FESTIVAL

A TRUE STORY

THIS quaint little tale of a musicale given in honor of the dolls and their friends at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Crosby Adams, will possess a charm for old and young alike. Children are always interested in what concerns dolls, and will therefore be delighted with the book, telling as it does of the happenings of the occasion. The music presented was from many different composers who have written for and about dolls, and proved most enjoyable to everyone present. Teachers in search of a novel program idea, suitable for any time of the year, will welcome the narrative, finding therein many helpful suggestions for a musicale for the dolls' sakes.

The book will be mailed on receipt of money order for 50 cents.

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YOUNG PEOPLE
OF ALL AGES

**SIX
DOLLS
ALIVE**

By

Mrs. Crosby Adams



— A NEW STORY —

THE Van-American Press of Chicago takes pleasure in announcing a charming new story.

The tale is of the simple happenings of six wide-awake dolls, whose speaking likenesses look out from the pages of the book. The illustrations from photographs of dolls are remarkably natural and lifelike, the various grouping and arrangement being most admiringly conceived and worked out.

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