

MRS. CROSBY ADAMS



Beloved Dean of North Carolina composers is Mrs. Crosby Adams, who with her husband chose a home in Montreal, where the two of them could continue their life and work in music. To speak of Mrs. Adams is to speak of her as the wife of Mr. Adams, so completely does she share all honors with the musicianly man who for more than half a century has shared all her activities.

Born Juliette Aurelia Graves in Niagara Falls, New York, March 25, 1858, in a family of musicians and music-lovers, she began the study of piano at the age of seven. Her natural ability to teach asserted itself at an early age, and she began teaching other children when she was fourteen. Several years later she began playing the organ for church services. She later studied piano with Mrs. C. S. P. Cary in Rochester, New York, and studied ensemble playing under Professor Henry Appy, who as a violinist had accompanied Jenny Lind on her concert tour. Later in Chicago she studied theory with Adolph Weidig.

After marrying Mr. Adams in 1883, she worked with him in teaching and in choir positions in many cities, including Buffalo, Kansas City, and Chicago.

In 1913 Mr. and Mrs. Adams built their "House-in-the-Woods" in Montreal. Here have come countless students and teachers for private instruction, and so the famous Teachers Classes. Their work and influence extended into Asheville, the whole of the State, and the entire nation. Tireless in her activities, Mrs. Adams has served long and well in virtually every musical organization of national scope.

Mrs. Adams' work as a composer began when she wrote teaching material for her own pupils because she found most available material unavailable. Other teachers liked her compositions and used them. In 1896 Chytrus F. Samny Co., Chicago, published her Opus 1, FIVE SACRIFICES—the first of a long list of publications. The composer's rich experience and understanding of children are manifest in a series of teaching pieces which have been accepted as standard material. Included is another long list of educational works (seven books for two hands and three books for four hands).

"While I have written very simple things," said Mrs. Adams in one interview, "I have never composed anything essentially childish . . . My test for my own writing has always been the same as the test for any serious composition: that is, 'Something worth saying, said in a way worth remembering!'"

Through her many and varied activities, Mrs. Adams has held membership and high office in many national organizations. She is an honorary member of Mu Phi Epsilon, and an honorary life member of the National Federation of Music Clubs and the Music Teachers' National Association. She has held high office in these organizations, and in the League of American Pen Women. She is also an honorary member of many music and literary clubs in North Carolina.

In 1932 Converse College conferred upon her the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music. At that time, Dr. Robert P. Pell, then President of the College, said: "Converse College desires not merely to show formal recognition of your many

¹ J. B. Hicklin, "Mrs. Adams Draws Music Lovers of Many States," *Charlotte Observer*, March 3, 1933.

from North Carolina Composers as reported in the Holograph Collection by
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(UNC-6 Special Collections)

Chicago, Sunny, 1896

outstanding contributions and achievements in the field of musical endeavor, but more especially to express to you through this Degree our deep appreciation of your great work and greater influence as an educator and musical missionary in the Southland."

Chicago, Sunny, 1897, 1st edition, 1897 ed., 1925 ed.

WORKS

(All published—dates unknown)

Chicago Sunny, 1910

PIANO SOLOS: *Shetland Ponies*; *Giant Steps*; *England Horns*; *Primary Tone Pictures*; *Six Small Gems*; *A Five-Way Sketch*; *The Fairy Ring*; **Children's Anthem*; *Pussy Willow March*; *Barcarolle*; *Four Little Wrist Studies*; *Doll's Miniature Suite*; *Two Left Hand Studies*; *Finger Solfeggio*; *Bourree Antique*; *The Angelus*; *Writhing the Christmas Tree*; *Five Tone-Sketches*; "Singing and Swinging,"

Op. 10
Hamburg
Fahnenau
Weid. 9
1901

Chicago Sunny 1892

also
ms for
2nd piano

"In the Rocking-Chair," "Dance of the Marionettes," "Lullaby," "What the Bells Say," *A Chord-Study*; *Shepherd's Song*; *Trumpet Flowers*; **Chimes*; *A Dream Fantasy*; *Outline Melodies*; "The Clock Story," "Fairies Dancing Song," "Brownie Steps," "The Fairy Raindrops"; *Tone Stories*: "Harp Song," "The Rainy Picnic Morning," "Doll's Lullaby"; *Church Music*: "Hymn Tune in F Major," "Hymn Tune in D Major," "Hymn Tune 'Thou Who Dost'," "Hymn Tune 'O God of Grace'"; *Three Artistic Piano Sketches for Young Players*: "Miniature Waltz and Doll's Reverie," "A Little Requiem"; *Four Duets for Two Beginners*: "Boatman's Tune," "The Nodding Grass-Star," "Old Folk-Melody," "A Voyage"; *Duets in Unfamiliar Keys*; **Song Without Words*; "Peter Pan," "Valse Arabesque."

2 copies
1895

VOCAL: **Four Lullabies for Voice and Piano*: "Love's Lullaby," "Indian Lullaby," "Lullaby," "Hush-A-Bye Song," "Slumber Song"; (Holograph Collection has these starred items in proof form as they first come from the publisher); **Four Love Songs for Voice and Piano*: "Spring," "Summer," "Autumn," "Winter"; *Our Shepherd* (also transcribed as an organ solo).

Boston
NY
Schmidt,
1907

Chicago
Sunny,
1909

[This list of Mrs. Adams' works does not attempt to include the numerous collections that she has edited, nor any of the educational writings she has done.—Editor]

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Our Shepherd, Op. 10, 1905
1. Chicago, Sunny, 1905
ms: 2 ms for voice
2 ms for organ

4 12
Shepherd's Song, Op. 10, Pastoral
Chicago, Sunny, 1897
The Nightingale, ms
(2nd piano)