



A Concert of the Music of Helen C. Crane Saturday, June 1 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Featuring: Amy Sims, violin; Velleda Miragias, cello; plus others.

Who is Helen Crane? I came across her quite by accident – just wondering if there were any other Cranes who were composers. There is an online database of all the world's composers whose music is now in the public domain, where I discovered Helen Crane and one piece of music published in German around 1907. I was amazed at the quality, creativity, and “chops” of this composer, an

American schooled in a European Conservatory (before Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, or J.P. Sousa).

I became eager to find more of her music and discovered an article on the Crane family's donation to the New York Public Library of all their significant documents, including Helen Crane's original manuscripts. So I traveled to New York to see these items and, if possible, to come away with some images of the originals. What I found was 18 boxes of music (about 75 serious pieces of music, songs, chamber music, pieces for quartet, orchestra and chorus, even two symphonies and the sketches of a third). Most of these were in their original handwritten format, seemingly not seen or touched since 1940. Since these pages could not go through a copy machine, I photographed them and returned home to begin the task of printing them in a reproducible format.

Since that first visit to New York, I have retrieved 1,400 pages of her work, and it is amazing!! Breath-taking music, which has not been heard for over 80 years (Ms. Crane died in 1930 at the age of 62). I am eager to share with you this musical bounty! There is no charge, but donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of musicians. If you would like to get a preview of what you will hear live, check out www.soundcloud.com/bernardcrane; click on any of the pieces with her image. Listen and be surprised as I was. Please join me on June 1.