

Introduction to the Autographed Musical Quotation (AMQ)

By Robert Abrams, Ph.D. & Anuj Bhutani (May 7, 2022)

These two undivided back AMQ postcards were chosen for their water theme. Each features music notation representative of the artist's work (hence "musical quotation"), an autograph and a date either written by the artist or in the cancellation mark. Anuj Bhutani transcribed and arranged the musical quotations into software so that the notation could be seen more easily, and heard. Arturo Saco del Valle, Spanish Composer, 1869-1932, AMQ Postcard 1903. Johannes Wolff, Dutch Composer & Violinist, 1861-1931, AMQ Postcard 1904. Both AMQs are from the collection of Robert Abrams. *Discover old music, be inspired, create new music!*



Arturo Saco del Valle



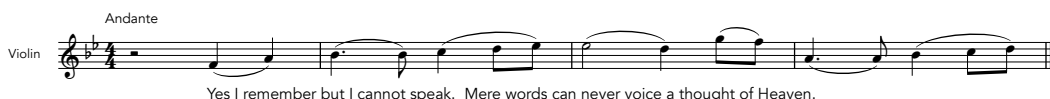
Arr. Anuj Bhutani



Johannes Wolff



Arr. Anuj Bhutani



Activities

- 1) If you are a musician, play the quotations and then riff off them, using the postcards to set a mood.
- 2) Research these two composers. When was the music originally composed and performed?
- 3) If you are a musician, write AMQs representative of your music, and send them to friends and fans.
- 4) Track down the address on the postcards, travel back in time to 1904, and ask Ms. Bella Toledo out to coffee and pastries. If your time machine is in the shop, I have a friend in Paris who is a French-trained pastry chef and leads chocolate tours. Who was Bella Toledo? What did the stamp cost her?
- 5) Identify the musical works these quotations come from, and play the whole songs.
- 6) Identify the images or paintings on the postcards.
- 7) What was happening in the world in 1903-04, or when the music was composed?
Write an essay connecting events, big or small, to the postcards.
- 8) Invite some friends over, make scrambled eggs, welcome everything, talk about music.
- 9) Go to a concert, pay the musicians what they are worth, have dinner with friends, converse, smile!

The players

Robert Abrams is a social dancer, with ten years of training. He publishes about all styles of dance at ExploreDance.com, and is trying to revive the Dance Critics Association, of which he has been president since 2008. He is also a playwright, currently working on setting Giselle and the Wilis free. As a photographer, he specializes in dance, food and youth soccer. His "real" work is in education research, most recently focusing on school food. His main claim to fame in music is that he took drum lessons as a kid, and when his father told his cousin, Aaron Copland, this, Mr. Copland responded "Not another damn timpanist!" Dr. Abrams taught himself the mini hunting horn and then the hunting horn in order to make louder noises during the 7 pm Clapping during the pandemic. He has now moved on to naïve trumpet. He also plays the acorn top. You can find some of his music at Breakfastmeet.com if you want to be mildly amused. If you want real music, you would be better off with the work of his friend, the contemporary cellist Ashley Bathgate, or Sima Abrams' (his wife's) album "Mix It Up" available on Bandcamp. His daughter performs with the Young People's Chorus (YPC). Find more at AbramsData.com, WhiskRecords.com, ExploreDance.com and BreakfastMeet.com.

Anuj Bhutani is quickly emerging as a unique and versatile composer whose music often features visceral grooves; ethereal, meditative spaces; a combination of acoustic instruments and electronics, and a strong sense of narrative. Since 2020, he won **1st prize** in **Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble's** Emerging Composer Competition, **Verdigris Ensemble's** ION Composer Competition, **Blank House Media's** Recording Competition, was a **Finalist** for the **ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award**, won **3rd prize** in the **American Prize in Choral Composition** and **The Choral Project's** Composition Competition, was a **Finalist** in the **RED NOTE Composition Competition** as well as the Keene State College Call for Scores, and was selected for the **NewAm Composer's Lab**, **Norfolk Chamber Music Festival's** New Music Workshop at Yale School of Music, **RED NOTE Festival** Composition Workshop (2021), an **Avaloch Farm Music Institute** residency, **SCI National Conference** and Student Mixtape, **SEAMUS** conference, **Impulse New Music Festival**, Nick Photinos' "1:2:1" string intensive, **New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival**, and the Sonic Murals and Electric LaTeX festivals. His work has been commissioned or performed by **Ashley Bathgate**, Raleigh Civic Symphony, **Metropolis Ensemble**, Verdant Vibes, Andrew Tholl of **Wild Up**, Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, Lauren Cauley Kalal of **Switch~ ensemble**, Inversion Ensemble (after winning the Happy Composer Commissioning Project), vocalist Daisy Press, soprano Molly Fillmore, the William Paterson University Percussion Ensemble, and more. In the fall of 2022, he will be starting his master's degree in composition at USC. He completed his bachelor's degree in composition at University of North Texas and received an Undergraduate Research Fellowship to study and write about the musical process/glitch in the music of David Lang under the guidance of Dr. David-Bard Schwarz. Since 2019, Anuj has also served as the Undergraduate Vice President of UNT Composer's Forum. His primary composition teachers have included Joseph Klein, Andrew May, Sungji Hong, Drew Schnurr, and UNT Composer-in-Residence Bruce Broughton. He also holds a BA in Psychology from UT Austin. Find more at AnujBhutani.com.

The authenticity of these postcards is guaranteed by eBay seller **articuloscurioso**. If you are a collector and want to get into AMQs (also called AMQsS for Autographed Musical Quotation Signed), check out his store.