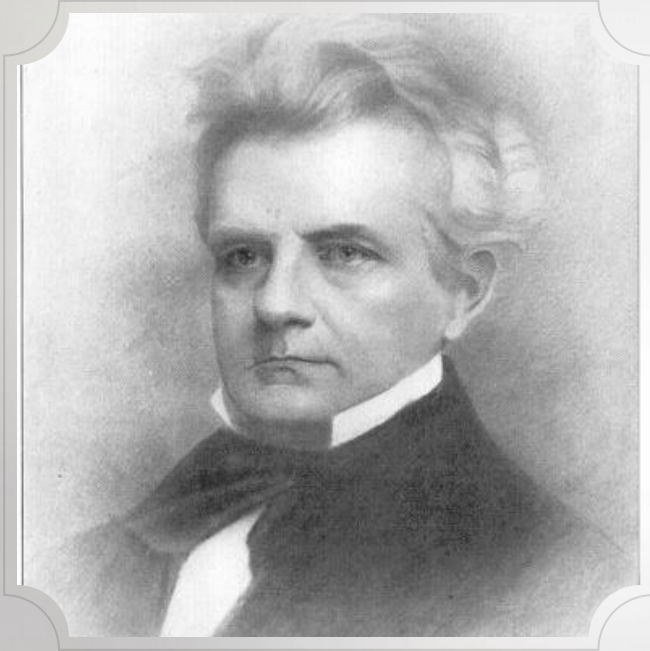




LOWELL MASON

The Father of Music Education

MASON HISTORY



- ❖ Born January 8, 1792 in Medfield, MA- died August 11, 1872 in Orange, NJ.
- ❖ Mason was raised in Medfield, Massachusetts, a village southwest of Boston.
- ❖ He was the firstborn child of his family.
- ❖ He was born into a middle-class family.

MASON HISTORY

- ❖ Mason was born into a musical family.
- ❖ Both of his parents were vocalists in their church choir.
- ❖ Mason's father played the bass viol.
- ❖ At a young age, Mason learned to play several instruments.
- ❖ He attended a singing-school taught by Amos Albee, compiler of *Norfolk Collection of Sacred Harmony*.
- ❖ Mason studied composition with composer Oliver Shaw.



MASON HISTORY

❖ At the age of 16, Mason became the choir director for his church choir.

❖ At the age of 18, Mason was placed as director of the Medfield town band.

❖ At age 20, Mason moved to Savannah, Georgia.

❖ At age 21, Mason worked as sales clerk in a dry-goods store.

❖ After leaving the dry-goods store, Mason became a successful banker



MASON HISTORY

- ❖ Mason spent 15 years in Savannah.
- ❖ Savannah brought him several musical part-time jobs including conducting singing-school and church choirs.
- ❖ Mason was known to attempt to play any instrument that he could find within his grasp.
- ❖ While in Savannah, he had the opportunity to study harmony and composition under the instruction of Fredrick Abel, a German immigrant and talented musician.

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MASON HISTORY

- ❖ Mason was married and had four sons. Each child was musically talented.
- ❖ The two eldest sons, Daniel Gregory and Lowell formed a publishing company in New York City.
- ❖ The third born son, Henry along with Emmons Hamlin founded Mason & Hamlin, a firm that manufactured organs and pianos.
- ❖ Mason's youngest son, William was a distinguished concert pianist and teacher. William studied in Europe and later organized a chamber-music ensemble that became of interest to many Americans. In 1909, William Mason wrote *Memories of a Musical Life*.



MASON HISTORY

- ❖ Mason did not venture out to obtain a musical profession, or to become a musician or a teacher. Mason only wanted to obtain the feat of becoming a successful businessman alike to his father. Mason was known to put business first and engage in musical pursuits on the side.
- ❖ Little did he know that he would create a lasting legacy of being known as a extraordinary classroom teacher, a music educator, a musician, a church organist, an academy choral director, a publicist, a composer, the editor of textbooks, hymnals, and choral music anthologies, and his greatest achievement as the *father of music education*.



MUSIC EDUCATION

❖ Mason's first request to the Boston public school system, was a testament to the commitment that he had wanted to change the system for the benefit of all of society with the simple goal of inserting music into the public education system. However, this proved to be quite challenging. Even when he offered to teach for nothing, the school system wasn't ready to devote the time that this would require. Mason persisted, and when he presented his offer a second time, he was allowed to run his programs.



MUSIC EDUCATION

❖ Lowell Mason is known to many as the founder of music education. In his lifetime he was also a composer of both secular and non-secular music and contributed greatly to putting actual staves and notes into church hymnals. Yet his greatest accomplishment shall always remain his enormous contribution to promoting the necessity of music education.

❖ Mason wrote, lectured and taught almost continuously for over half a century. From the time he was twenty-two years old until he was about thirty-five, he gradually evolved certain rather definite pedagogical and philosophical principles upon which he built the work of the last half of his life.

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MUSIC EDUCATION

❖ Mason studied both instrumental and vocal experience at a very young age and may have been something of a musical prodigy. He began going to local singing schools the age of 12 and he studied instruments on his own. He taught singing school at the age 15, conducted the town band at age of 16, and composed his first piece of music age 20.

❖ In Georgia, Mason had what might be described as a conversion experience. His personal diary for October 20, 1814 contains an entry in which he wrote of dedicating his life to the Lord. This may have been part of the impulse that led him to work so feverishly towards music education.

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MUSIC EDUCATION

❖ President of the Handel and Haydn Society in 1827. In 1833 he co-founded the Boston Academy of Music, and in 1837 taught music on a volunteer basis.

❖ Lowell mason taught music to visually impaired students for four years, when he was in his early forties. Mason taught at the Perkins School for the Blind from 1832- 1836, two years prior to his teaching music with the Boston schools.

MUSIC EDUCATION

❖ The report for that year offers some evidence of the way in which Mason built the Perkins music program. Even though Europeans had developed a system of music notation for the blind by this time, it is evident that mason taught his visually impaired students by rote.

❖ Mason became deeply involved in activities of the Boston academy of music. He helped organized the academy and wrote the famous *Manual of Boston Academy*.



MUSIC EDUCATION

❖ Lowell Mason makes a huge emphasis towards subject development. It is important for the student to touch reach and affect their thinking process.

❖ Lowell Mason concludes in his Philosophy towards Music Education, that the “exercise of our powers, or positive action, is the only way to growth, strength, and perfection through proper selection and guidance of experience.”



MASON'S IMPACT

❖ Before Lowell Mason

- The only music that existed in the United States was congregational music.
- Music was not taught in public schools.

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MASON'S IMPACT

❖ Volunteer

- He taught his first year for free.

❖ Boston School Committee

- After one year of teaching they made music a part of the curriculum in public schools.



MASON'S IMPACT

❖ Musical Convention

- Mason was very involved in teaching other teachers how to teach.
- He taught many lessons on musical pedagogy.
- By 1850 around 1500 teachers went to learn from Lowell Mason



MASON'S IMPACT

❖ Music Library

- Mason also taught others by developing and sharing his music library.
- His library consisted of musical literature and books on professional development.
- In his library he had many musical selections and explained how to teach certain ideas.



MASON'S IMPACT

- ❖ Mason brought many European influences to the United States.
- ❖ There would have been music education eventually.
 - What would music in America be like if Lowell Mason never decided to teach?



MASON'S IMPACT

❖ Music Education Today

- Many music programs around the country are being cut in today's society.
- Mason convinced people that music in schools was important in a time when music was not very popular.

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