



For Immediate Release
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January 10, 2003

UMFK's Blake Library receives donation of five original musical scores written by a Houlton woman during the Depression-era and believed lost

Fort Kent – Inez Day Richards may not be a familiar figure to many, but a mention of the late Houlton woman makes staff at the University of Maine at Fort Kent Blake Library take notice.

After all, it was Richard's grandson, Daniel Richards, a 1967 alumnus of UMFK, who, upon his untimely passing in 1996, bequeathed more than \$40,000 to the campus library in his paternal grandmother's name.

Upon receipt of the gift, the university established the Inez Day Richards Collection in 1997, and has since purchased in excess of \$13,000 of books and videos for the library, which at the request of the donor, have focused on music and American poetry.

Although 271 items on the shelves at the Blake Library include a donation decal with her name on it, little was known at UMFK of Inez Day Richards, aside from the fact that she had paid for her grandson's education at the university, and he in turn left money to the institution in her name.

The mystery of the grandmother from Houlton has unraveled a little in recent months with the accidental discovery of her name in the pages of an obscure book found on the very same shelves as many of the publications which bear her name as a donor.

The book, published in 1959 by the Maine Federation of Music Clubs, is entitled *Maine Composers and Their Music*, and the name Inez Day Richards appears alphabetically on page 83 along with the titles of four original musical compositions which she created and had copyrighted.

Songs listed under the entry are "The Faded Rose" 1925, "Oh Mother Dear" 1935, "I'm Drifting to Heaven With You" 1938, and "Because of Thee" 1937.

The discovery was made by Scott Brickman, UMFK's associate professor of music and a member of the Inez Day Richards Fund Steering Committee, who was conducting research for a class and immediately recognized the name because of his work with the library.

"I was intrigued. I assumed that there had to be another Inez Day Richards from Maine, who happened to be a composer. I couldn't believe it was *our* Inez Day Richards," said Brickman.

Wanting to share his finding, Brickman photocopied the page of the book with Richard's entry and left it on the desk of Leslie Kelly, UMFK's assistant director of the library. Kelly, in turn, brought the copy to the attention of Sharon Johnson, dean of information services.

"We were amazed. We had no idea she had composed music," said Johnson. "I thought, given the generosity of her grandson and the fact that we had a library fund in her name, we should have the musical compositions in our collection, so I asked my staff to help me track down the sheet music."

Blake Library staff then put over 900 librarians in Maine and elsewhere in the country on the hunt for the compositions through an e-mail listserv, but one by one, each of the public, school and university libraries reported they did not have possession of the musical scores.

One respondent suggested that UMFK contact the Bagaduce Music Lending Library, which collects and archives musical compositions from throughout the country, however, that search was fruitless as the company reported no record of Inez Day Richards or her compositions.

That's when a former St. John Valley native and librarian in Saco, Maine, Jerry Morin stepped in, responding to the UMFK library's request for assistance on the listserv. Morin, who it turned out, was once a roommate of Daniel Richards when both attended UMFK in the late 1960's had the address of Eric Richards, his former roommate's brother, who resides in Houlton.

Taking a chance that he might know where to find copies of the four pieces of sheet music, Johnson wrote Eric Richards asking for his assistance.

The response she received was better than expected. Eric Richards, who possessed original copies of the published music, wrote back to Johnson, enclosing sheet music for the four published pieces, as well as a fifth song composed by his grandmother, a handwritten piece entitled "The Dicky-Dicky-Doo School Song", which Inez Day Richards wrote for her nephew Richard Lynds. The song does not include the date in which it was written.

In the letter from Eric Richards to Johnson, the Houlton man explains he is donating the five musical compositions to the University to pay tribute to two very special people.

“I would like to donate the enclosed songs to the library in memory of my brother Daniel, in honor of our grandmother Inez,” wrote Eric Richards.

Although the original compositions will be placed in the special collections room at the Blake Library, staff at UMFK are now in the process of making an electronic image of each musical score to be placed on the university website, which will make them accessible to people around the world.

“Digitizing the pieces of music will not only allow someone at a distance to see a citation of what is available in our special collections room, but actually see the music,” said Johnson.

Visitors to the UMFK website may soon be able to do more than just see the compositions, if all goes according to plan, the music professor who first discovered the name Inez Day Richards in an outdated book of Maine music composers, will digitally record the music for the world to hear.

“I have almost finished making computer generated sound files of the five compositions. UMFK’s web page will provide a link to the files so you can listen to her music,” said Brickman. “‘A Faded Rose’ and ‘I’m Drifting to Heaven with You’ are really first rate. They are as good as, if not better, than any early 20th Century popular/salon music. I’m really excited to find out as much as I can about Inez Day Richards. It would be small repayment for the vital role that her fund has played in making the music collection at UMFK a valuable resource.”

In an ironic twist of fate, the all but forgotten and thought lost original music of a woman who remained largely a mystery to the campus community where her name is found on hundreds of volumes in its library collection will no longer be obscure and now be heard by its largest audience.

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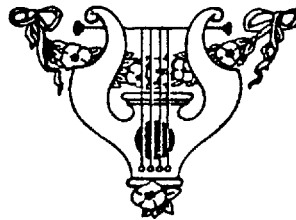
BECAUSE OF THEE



Words and Music

By

INEZ DAY RICHARDS



Price 25 Cents

I. D. RICHARDS
Houlton, Maine

MADE IN U. S. A.

Because of Thee

Words and Music by
INEZ DAY RICHARDS

Be-

The first system of the score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

cause of thee dear heart the sun shines bright _____ The stars are shed-ding love

The second system continues the vocal melody with the lyrics "cause of thee dear heart the sun shines bright _____ The stars are shed-ding love". The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and a consistent bass line.

throughout the night At morn the mists a - rise the day to greet And gold - en

The third system continues with the lyrics "throughout the night At morn the mists a - rise the day to greet And gold - en". The piano accompaniment includes some trills in the right hand.

blos-soms spread their per-fume sweet Be-cause of thee, be-cause of thee. _____

The fourth system concludes the piece with the lyrics "blos-soms spread their per-fume sweet Be-cause of thee, be-cause of thee. _____". The piano accompaniment features a final cadence with sustained chords in the right hand.

Copyright, 1937, by Inez Day Richards

Be - cause of

thee dear heart the an-gels sing And hal-lowed lights of Heaven 'round thee

cling ——— Your joy - ful heart turns sad - ness in to cheer And drear-y

days of doubt-ing now are clear Be-cause of thee, Be-cause of thee. —

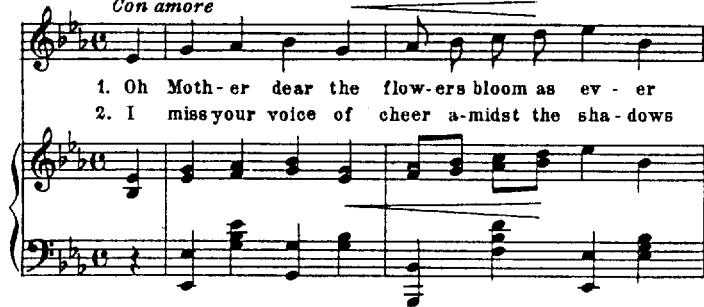
A Mothers' Day Song

To M.E.D.

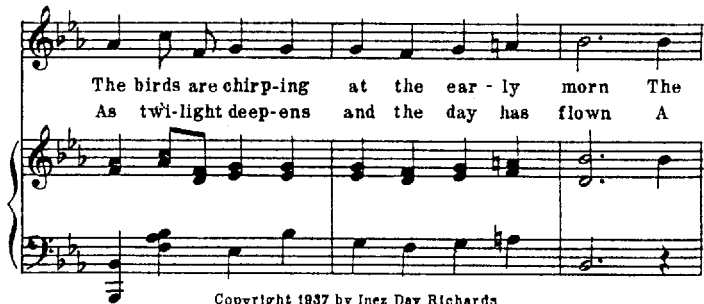
Oh Mother Dear!

Words and Music by
INEZ DAY RICHARDS

Con amore



1. Oh Moth-er dear the flow-ers bloom as ev - er
2. I miss your voice of cheer a-midst the sha-dows



The birds are chirp-ing at the ear - ly morn The
As twi-light deep-ens and the day has flown A

Copyright 1937 by Inez Day Richards

School Song

Words and Music-Inez Day Richard

Dick-y - Dick-y - Dos

I know a hap-py lit-tle boy, just five years old - Who is
He lis-tens to his teach-er as they form in line - and he

al-ways cut-ting cap-ers but he's neu-er bold - He goes to kin-der-gar-ten
keep his eyes straight for-ward as they march in time - He walks just line & side

He's qui-et as a mouse - But he's a lit-tle mis-chief, when he's in the house
He stands so ve-ry straight - The bug-le must be call-ed for his new - er

Chorus

Dick-y Dick-y - Dos - How I love you - with your sun-ny smile

- and your eyes of blue - with your dim-pled cheek - and your

voice so sweet - Dick-y - Dick-y - Dos - How I love you

A FADED ROSE

SONG



WORDS AND MUSIC

BY

INEZ DAY RICHARDS

Price 40 Cents

I. D. RICHARDS

Houlton, Me.

Made in U. S. A.

A FADED ROSE

Fair faded rose now withered at my breast
In sadness I behold thee, thy petals drooped to rest;
In love's young dream thou wakened and at the dawn of day
I plucked thee in thy beauty and stole thy heart away.

Now at the close of evening as dewy mists o'erspread,
I weep at thy love blighted, enwrapped in fragrance dead;
I would that I might see thee, as thou in beauty blushed
But thou hast left me mournful in twilight shadows hushed.

INEZ DAY RICHARDS

A FADED ROSE

Words and Music by
INEZ DAY RICHARDS

Fair fad-ed rose, — now
with-ered at my breast. — In sad-ness I be-hold thee, thy pet-als drooped to rest. — In
love's young dream thou wak - ened, And at the dawn of day — I
pluck thee in thy beau-ty and stole thy heart a - way. — I

Copyright, 1925, by Inez Day Richards.

plucked thee in thy beau - ty, and stole thy heart a -

rall.

way.

rall.

Now at the close of eve - ning, as dew - y mists o'er - spread I

weep at thy love blight - ed, en - wrapped in fra - grance dead. I

would that I might see thee as thou in beau - ty

blushed, — But thou — hast left me mourn - ful in

twi - light shad - ows hushed. — But thou hast left me

mourn - ful in twi - light shad - ows hushed. —

rall

Hymn For The Allied Nations:
 "Let Our Loved Ones Enter In" Words and Music
 Lucy Day Richards

Let our loved ones en-ter in, give them par-don
 Give our loved ones end-less bliss, they have nob-ly

For all sin Dear-est Sav-iour look-ing down from
 died for this Dear-est Sav-iour You will all their

Heav'n a-bove Take them to Your Sac-red Heart
 faults for-give End all sor-row and all pain

Let them nev-er, more de-part For Your
 So that Peace will once more reign Bles-sed

ten-der Arms are op-ened wide with
 Sav-iour You too died that we might live



No. 2.

1696 B'way, N. Y.



Copyright Lucy Day Richards
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MADE IN U. S. A.

I'M DRIFTING TO HEAVEN WITH YOU

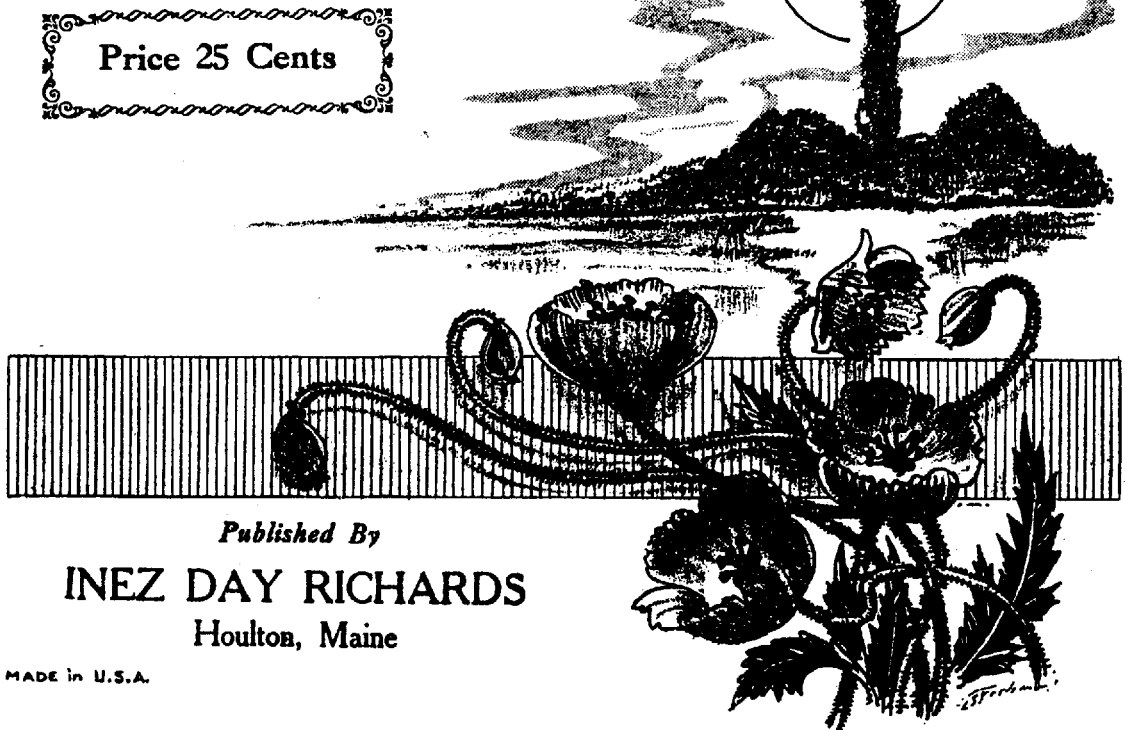
Waltz Song

WORDS and MUSIC

BY

INEZ DAY RICHARDS

Price 25 Cents



Published By

INEZ DAY RICHARDS

Houlton, Maine

MADE in U.S.A.

I'm Drifting to Heaven With You

INEZ DAY RICHARDS

Our love

came to us in the Spring - - time When fra - grance was flood - ing the

air, When breez - es were blow - ing And brooks gen - tly

flow - ing Were bor - dered with blos - soms so fair

Copyright 1938 by Inez Day Richards

CHORUS

Now our hearts beat just the same, dear; Now our lips

are all a - flame, dear, With love that is burn - ing us

through, ——— With love that is burn - ing us through ———

— And when you en - fold me And ten - der - ly hold me, I'm

I'm Drifting 3

Fine Second verse

drift - ing to heav - en with you. ————— At twi - light in

shad - ows The per - fume of mead - ows Em - braced us to Na - ture's warm

breast, ————— And whip - poor - will's sing - ing with mel - o - dies

to Chorus

ring - ing Sweet mu - sic that lulled us to rest. —————

SUCCESSFUL SONGS

By

Inez Day Richards

Oh Mother Dear!

Words and Music by
INEZ DAY RICHARDS

con amore

Oh Moth - er dear
I miss your voice

The musical score for "Oh Mother Dear!" is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part begins with a series of chords in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. The vocal line enters with the lyrics "Oh Moth - er dear" and "I miss your voice".

Copyright, 1935, by Inez Day Richards

Because of Thee

Words and Music by
INEZ DAY RICHARDS

Be -
cause of thee dear heart the sun shines bright ——— The stars are shed-ding love

The musical score for "Because of Thee" is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part has a rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand and chordal accompaniment in the right hand. The vocal line begins with the word "Be -" and continues with the lyrics "cause of thee dear heart the sun shines bright ——— The stars are shed-ding love".

Copyright, 1937, by Inez Day Richards



Oh Mother Dear

(A Mother's Day Song)

Words and Music by

INEZ DAY RICHARDS

Price 25 Cents

Published By
THE AUTHOR

Houlton - - Maine

Made in U.S.A.

CHORUS

Oh Moth - er dear I hear your sweet voice plead - ing!

As on your grave I kneel to say a prayer,

For God will know how much your care I'm need - ing,

And bid the an - gels bring me safe - ly to you there.

Oh Mother Dear!

Words and Music by
INEZ DAY RICHARDS*con amore*

Oh Moth - er dear
I miss your voice

the flow - ers bloom as ev - er, The birds are chirp - ing
of cheer a - midst the sha - dows, As twi - light deep - ens

at the ear - ly morn; The frogs sing in the ponds and in the
and the day has flown; A mis - ty fra - granceris - es from the

riv - ers, In mourn - ful mel - o - dy since you have gone.
mead - ows, And spreads a bless - ing o'er the deeds you've done.

Copyright, 1935, by Inez Day Richards