

**The California mission music collection**  
**An inventory of holdings at the American Music Research Center**

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American Music Research Center, University of Colorado at Boulder

## Descriptive summary

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<b>Title</b>	California mission music collection
<b>Date(s)</b>	
<b>Identification</b>	COU-AMRC-16
<b>Creator(s)</b>	Ray, Mary Dominic, Sister, O.P., 1913-1994
<b>Repository</b>	The American Music Research Center University of Colorado at Boulder 288 UCB Boulder, CO 80309
<b>Location</b>	Housed in the American Music Research Center
<b>Physical Description</b>	5 linear feet (6 boxes)

## Scope and Contents

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Materials related to the early California missions, from the Sister Mary Dominic Ray Library. Portions pertaining to the research, teaching, and preparation for Sister Mary's book *Gloria Dei* have been brought together in this collection. Many of the materials in Series I and II are photographic copies of original documents held by other institutions. Includes articles and related writings relevant to the missions.

## Administrative Information

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### Arrangement

Arranged by topic.

### Access

Open

### Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the American Music Research Center.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], California mission music collection, University of Colorado, Boulder

## Index Terms

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Access points related to this collection:

### **Personal names**

Ray, Mary Dominic, Sister, O.P., 1913-1994

### **Corporate names**

American Music Research Center

### **Subject headings**

Church music -- Catholic Church

American Music Research Center (Sister Mary Collection)

Missions -- California

## Brief History of California Missions

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Between 1769 and 1834 Spanish-speaking Franciscan missionaries established and maintained a number of missions in the land Spanish and Mexican officials called Alta California.

Designated to Christianize the Indians of California, each of the twenty-one missions was a one-day walk from its nearest neighbor.

The old adobe mission buildings sheltered the padres and the Indians who were taught to work as weavers, tanners, potters, carpenters, blacksmiths, and herdsman or farmers. Great herds of cattle, sheep and horses surrounded the missions and storage rooms were full of cattle hides, corn, wheat, and other agricultural commodities.

During the mission period great bronze bells tolled the hours, start and end of the day, called the Indians to prayer, announced meal times, warned of approaching danger, and celebrated special events. Music was always important to the Indians of California missions. Their music and musical traditions came down to them from out of the deep and long forgotten past and had become an integral part of daily life. Carved and ornamental flutes, some of them as much as 2,000 years old, as well as other simpler musical instruments, drums, clappers, and whistles, have been found near these old missions. Music was used by the Indians for light-hearted entertainment and for the most solemn religious ceremonies.

In 1769, Padre Junipero Serra obtained official Spanish government permission to establish a series of missions in Alta California. Padre Serra was very musical, as were other padres among the missionaries who came to California. Music was important to all Franciscans, and became an essential element in the mission way of life. California mission music was primarily sacred music, and a large part of this was Gregorian chant, commonly known as plainchant or plainsong.

As time went on in the California missions the padres increasingly embellished the chant by writing it or arranging it for two-, three-, or four-part singing. This style of music is referred to today as Catalan since many of the California missionaries were from the province

of Catalonia in Spain. Along with chants there were also hymns of all kinds and solemn requiems. On the secular side, there were love songs, silly songs, and every other kind of song including lively dance music complete with trumpet, guitar, violin, drum and other instrumental accompaniment. The music of the missions was rich and diverse, including the whole range of Spanish Renaissance music.

There were many gifted and competent musicians in early California missions including Padre Florencio Ibanez, Padre Estevan Tapis, Padre Jose Viader, and most recognized Padre Narcisco Duran. Padre Duran held the respect and admiration of his Indian neophytes, created a choir and orchestra, and devised his own simplified notation system for writing choir music. His greatest musical accomplishment was his Misa de Cataluna and Misa Viscaina.

In 1834 a decree of secularization was passed by the provincial legislature of the Mexican province of Alta California. These decrees effectively closed down the missions by placing them under secular administrators who sold all the properties and instructed the Indians to move out into society and act like other free citizens of the time. Few California Indians were ready, willing, or able to compete for a living in agriculture or other fields in an individualistic, free enterprise society. Some missions continued as parish churches, and some missions managed to continue for a time without losing all their Indian neophytes. By 1846, when California became a part of the United States, and the gold was discovered in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, the whole mission system collapsed, just sixty-five years after the first mission was established.

California mission music shows the influence of 17th- and 18th-century music from Spain and South America and was clearly a primary tool of the early Franciscan missionaries. The mission music was also very important to the historical heritage and musical tradition of California.

Text from Gloria Dei: The Story of California Mission Music, by Sister Mary Dominic Ray, O.P. and Joseph H. Engbeck, Jr., State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, 1975.

## Detailed Description

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### Padres

Box	Folder	
1	1	Arroya de la Cuesta (and Oro Molido)
1	2	Durán, Padre Narciso – Choir Book – (Photographs), 1813 From Bancroft Library, University of California Berkeley
1	3	Durán, Padre Narciso – Choir Book – (Xerox copies, Pt. I, II, III), 1813 From Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley, MS C62 or C:C59
1	4	Durán, Padre Narciso – Misa Viscaina (Orchestral Parts)
1	5	Durán, Padre Narciso – Misa Viscaina (Vocal Parts)
1	6	Durán, Padre Narciso – Mission Songs
1	7	Jerusalem, Ignacio (Mass in G by Thurston Dox) Copied from MS parts from Santa Barbara archive
1	8	Sancho, Fray Juan B. – Manuscripts (from daSilva prints) San Antonio de Padua Mission
1	9	Sancho, Fray Juan B. – Misade los Angeles, 1790 From Music Library, University of California at Berkeley. Sancho copied out [composed?] this while in Mallorca and then brought it to California.
1	10	Serra, Father Junipero – Biography

### Missions

Box	Folder	
2	1	Carmel Basilica Mission
2	2	Casa de Adobe Mission
2	3	La Purisima Mission
2	4	San Antonio de Padua Mission
2	5	San Antonio de Padua Mission – Photos
2	6	San Antonio de Pala Mission
2	7	San Buenaventura Mission – Photos
2	8	San Buenaventura Mission - Manuscript Book signed by Felipe Arroya de la Cuesta Manuscript now at Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Mission San Fernando
2	9	San Carlos de Boromeso Mission
2	10	San Diego de Alcalá Mission – Information
2	11	San Diego de Alcalá Mission Book I
2	12	San Diego de Alcalá Mission Book II
2	13	San Diego de Alcalá Mission Book III
3	1	San Fernando Rey de Espan#a Mission
3	2	San Francisco de la Espada Mission
3	3	San Francisco Solano Mission
3	4	San Gabriel Mission

3	5	San Jose de Guadalupe Mission
3	6	San Juan Bautista Mission
3	7	San Juan Bautista Mission – Estevan Tapis – Benedictus Supplement
3	8	San Juan Bautista Mission – Photos
3	9	San Juan Capistrano Mission
3	10	San Luis Obispo Mission
3	11	San Luis Rey Mission
3	12	San Rafael Mission
3	13	San Xavier del Bac Mission
3	14	Santa Barbara Mission
3	15	Santa Inez Mission
3	16	Santa Ysabel Indian Mission
3	17	Tumacacori Mission

### Related publications

Box	Folder	
4	1	Article: Annotated Bibliography and Commentary Concerning Mission Music of Alta California from 1769 to 1834, by Margaret Long Crouch, from <i>Current Musicology</i> , No. 22 , 1976
4	2	Article: Christmas in California Missions, by Caroline Bates, from <i>Gourmet</i> 1981 (Dec.)
4	3	Article: Eleanor Hague Manuscript of Mexican Colonial Music, by Samuel Marti, from <i>Southwest Museum Leaflets</i> , No. 33, 1969
4	4	Article: French Abbe’s Visit to Gold Rush San Francisco in 1850, by John B. McGloin, from <i>Pacific Historian</i> , Vol. 15, No. 1, 1971 (Spring)
4	5	Article: Harmonious Notes in Spanish California, by Maynard Geiger, from <i>Southern California Quarterly</i> , Vol. LVII, No. 3, 1975 (Fall)
4	6	Article: Hispanic Origins of California Mission Music by William J. Summers, translated from <i>Revista Musical Chilena</i> , No. 149-150, 1980
4	7	Article: History of American Church Music, by Leonard Ellinwood, Chapter I, published by Morehouse-Gorham Co., New York, 1953
4	8	Article: Meaning and Art in the Croxton Play of the Sacrament, by Sister Nicholas Maltman, from <i>ELH, A Journal of English Literary History</i> , Vol. 41, No. 2, 1974
4	9	Article: Music of Mission, Rancho, and Pueblo, by Howard Swan, from <i>Music in the Southwest</i> , Chapter VI, published by Huntington Library, 1952
4	10	Article: Music of the California Missions, by William Summers; and Santa Barbara Studies 4: Missions of the Central Coasts Counties, by Albert Krichmar; both from <i>Soundings</i> , University of California, Santa Barbara, Vol. IX, No. 1, 1977 (Jun)

- 4 11 Article: Music of the Early North American West, by Henry Hahn, from Pacific  
Historians, Vol. 15, No. 1, 1971
- 4 12 Article: Organs of Hispanic California, by William Summers, from Music  
Magazine, 1976
- 4 13 Article: Padres and Their Wards, by J. J. Peatfield, from Mission Music and  
Musicians, 1895 (Apr)
- 4 14 Article: Pioneering Padres in California Music, by Robert Commanday, from  
San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle – This World, 1968 (Jul 14)
- 4 15 Article: Revival of Early Mission Music, by Ardis O. Higgins, from Music,  
Vol. 10, No. 1, 1976 (Jan)
- 4 16 Article: Structure of Daily Life at the California Missions, by Francis J. Weber,  
from Pacific Historian, Vol. 15, No. 1, 1971 (Spring)
- 4 17 Article: Two Polyphonic Passions from California’s Mission Period, by  
Theodor Gollner, from Anuario VI, 1970
- 4 18 Article: California’s Missions Camino Real, Pen-Enchings, by Lloyd Harting,  
1950
- 4 19 Article: Spanish Mission Music from California Past, Present and Future  
Research, by John Koegel, AMRC Journal, Vol. 3, 1993
- 4 20 California Missions – Tourist Information
- 4 21 Dentzel, Carl S. and Elizabeth Waldo
- 4 22 Discography of California Mission Music
- 4 23 Franciscan “Pony Express” of California in 1803, by Maynard Geiger, Santa  
Barbara: Whitney T. Genns, 1972
- 4 24 Gloria Dei: The Story of California Mission Music, by Sister Mary Dominic  
Ray, and Joseph H. Engbeck, State of California, Department of Parks and  
Recreation, 1975
- 4 25 Indians of Southern California (three pamphlets)
- 4 26 Juana Maria – The Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island, by Maynard Geiger,  
Santa Barbara, Serra Shop, nd.
- 4 27 Case containing 272 slide photographs of missions and mission documents
- 5 1 Mass Liturgy
- 5 2 Mission Correspondence A – L
- 5 3 Mission Correspondence M – P
- 5 4 Mission Correspondence Q – Z, Misc.
- 5 5 Mission Memories: The Franciscan Missions of California; photographs by  
Vroman of Pasadena; engravings by C. M. Davis Engraving Co., Los Angeles;  
press of Kingsley-Barnes & Neuner Company, Los Angeles., 1893
- 5 6 Mission Music – Alabado
- 5 7 Mission Music – Composites
- 5 8 Mission Music – Credo Parisiense
- 5 9 Mission Music – Gregorian Chant (by Junipero Serra), 1794
- 5 10 Mission Music – Peon Song

5	11	Mission Music – Province Song
5	12	Mission Music – Spanish
5	13	Mission Music – Tantum Ergo
5	14	Mission Music Programs, 1956 – 1976
5	15	Mission Music Study Aids
6	1	Mission Research-Book “Gloria Dei”-Note Cards & Outline
6	2	Mission Research-Book “Gloria Dei”-Photo Notes
6	3	Mission Research-Book “Gloria Dei”-Contacts
6	4	Mission Research-Book “Gloria Dei”-Miscellaneous Notes
6	5	Mission Research-Book “Gloria Dei”-Notebooks, 1971, 1974, 1975
6	6	Missions of California, by Don Baxter, San Francisco: Pacific Gas & Elec.Co., 1970
6	7	Mutsun Language – Spanish Dictionary
6	8	St. Dominic English Mass
6	9	Southwest Museum Research Library, Los Angeles – Instrument Photos