

Sonata, Op. 2/14 (for violin and piano) I. Allegro (ca. 1906-1922?)

Edward Joseph Collins, composer

Notes by Jon Becker, Collins project editor

There is evidence that Collins composed sonatas for violin with piano in D Major, G Major, C Minor, A Major, and F Major. Some are mentioned in the composer's writings, others in contemporary documents such as advertisements, reviews, and symphony programs. Unfortunately only two partial sonata manuscripts are now extant.

The movement performed on this recording is from the G major *Sonata*. Collins probably re-worked this composition, because the extant score is marked *Op. 2* while the violin part is marked *Op. 14*.

Like his *Piano Trio, Op. 1*, this sonata is a well-crafted composition; the influences of other composers can be heard, but the youthful music is already dominated by Collins's own "voice." Original and effective melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic combinations would continue to be mined by the composer for decades.

Although the *Sonata's* source manuscripts are undated, the piano score is found in a notebook with music dated 1917-1920, so most likely was composed prior to the *Four Waltzes, Op. 15* [pub. 1916] and the *Six Valses, Op. 18* [pub. 1922].

Like those works, the *Sonata* may have been composed when Collins was studying with Ganz in Chicago (1900-1906) or when studying at Berlin's *Hochschule* (1906-12). From letters mailed to his family from Europe, it is known that Collins was composing songs and chamber music during those years.

Only a portion of the first movement of one other violin sonata survives, dedicated to Leon Sametini. Holland born, Sametini earned awards and kudos in Europe as a young performer. Following immigration to the USA, he became known in the early 20th century as "one of the most successful teachers of his instrument in this country." Sametini was on the Chicago Music College faculty, where Collins's mentor Rudolph Ganz also taught, and eventually Collins as well.