While he remains quite eclipsed by the scholarly attention given to his father and his brother Samuel, the life and musical abilities of Charles Wesley Jr. (1757–1834) have been the subject of some recent helpful short treatments. Among these recent treatments is a catalogue of Charles Jr.’s musical compositions.

There is another catalogue of musical compositions that throws light on Charles Wesley Jr. at the Methodist Archives in The John Rylands University Library. It is found in an untitled manuscript notebook containing an assortment of financial records and other materials related to Charles Wesley Sr. and his family. It is a list of musical texts owned by Charles Jr. dated 1768, when he was ten years old (he was born in December of 1757). I reproduce the list below.

The length and quality of the items on the list might be surprising, given the limited financial means of the Charles Wesley family. However Charles Sr. reports that the bulk of the collection was a gift of benefactors like Lady Gertrude Hotham (d. 1775), Priscilla Rich (née Wilford, c. 1713–83), and John Beard (1717–91), when they heard young Charles play around 1764–65. The list gives a more detailed sense of the type of music that Charles Jr. was playing at this early age.

The manuscript list typically provides only last name and short titles (e.g., Arne’s Sonatas), but the specific identity of the works could almost always be determined with resources like WorldCat. Where there are multiple editions of a work, I list the first edition. I have retained the spelling of the original titles.

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3This notebook is catalogued as DDCW 8/7. The list of music appears on (unnumbered) pp. 18–19. My thanks to Gareth Lloyd, Peter Nockles, and their associates for help in consulting this material.

4This account is a manuscript also present in the Methodist Archives: DDCW 8/2. It was published by Thomas Jackson in The Journal of the Rev. Charles Wesley (London: Mason, 1849), 2:140–44.


*Clio and Euterpe; or, British harmony, an admired an rare collection of the most celebrated old English and Scotch songs … adapted for the German flute, violin, and harpsicord … in four volumes*. London: Printed by John Welcker, 1762–68.

Corelli, Arcangelo (1653–1713). *XII Sonatas of Three Parts; for two violins and a bass with a through bass for ye organ, harpsicord, or arch lute*. London: Printed for J. Walsh, 1730. [2 copies]


Loeillet, Jean Baptiste (b. 1688). *Six Sonatas of Two Parts, fitted and contrived for two flutes*. London: Printed for J. Walsh & J. Hare, 1715.

Morrell, Thomas (1703–84). *Judas Macchabeus; a sacred drama, as it is performed at the Theatre Royal ...the music by Mr. Handel*. London: Printed for John Watts, 1747.


Purcell, Henry (1659–95). *Orpheus Britannicus; A Collection of all the Choicest Songs for One, Two, and Three Voices*. London: Printed by J. Heptinstall for Henry Playford, 1698.


