

June Night (ca. 1917)

Edward Joseph Collins, composer

Notes by Jon Becker, editor for the Collins project

The assistance of an alert reference librarian led to the recovery of *June Night*, in October of 2003, in Madison, Wisconsin.

This writer's previous search of the University of Wisconsin's Mills Music Library had born no fruit; there was no record of *June Night* in the library's card catalogue.

A plaza is all that separates the Music Library from the building that houses the Wisconsin Historical Society. After a short walk there, and various inquiries, a librarian searching the Society's comprehensive online catalogue found that *June Night* actually was supposed to be on a shelf at the Mills Music Library.

And so it was. An archival entry in the UW's bound *June Night* score states that the Collins song was "...added to holdings in 1975 ...[a] Copyist ms, with composer's name possibly in composer's hand."

While the UW's manuscript is undated, a 12 July 1917 recital program confirms that *June Night* was sung that afternoon in Chicago.

That program is one of many documents that fortunately were stored in the Joliet, Illinois home of Joe Collins, who had the foresight to preserve his uncle's letters, and other memorabilia from the composer's career. Those materials eventually have now been added to the Collins archives, which are part of the *Midwest Collection* of Chicago's Newberry Library.