

'A Daughter of Music'

Alicia Adelaide Needham's Anglo-Irish Life and Music

Axel Klein Ph.D.
Darmstadt, Germany

Joint Annual Conference of SMI and RMA,
Dublin, 9 July 2009

Alicia Adélaïde Needham (1863-1945)

- *b.* Oldcastle Co. Meath
- Grew up in Downpatrick Co. Down
- Boarding school in Derry
- Studied at R.A.M. 1880-1, 1884-7
- Married Joseph Needham, 1892
- First publications: 1894
- One son (J. Needham, 1900-1995)
- Most active period: 1895-1915
- Over 700 compositions: mainly songs,
plus piano and choral music
- *d.* London



Photo by Mrs. Alicia Adélaïde Needham. *[Lafayette.]*

(Photo *c.* 1900)

Immensely successful song composer

142 GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY.

No 1 in B^b

No 2 in C

SUNG BY MISS CLARA BUTT.

HUSHEEN

A MODERN HUSH-SONG (TWELVE HUSH SONGS)

BY A. Fahy

MUSIC BY Alicia Needham.

BOOSEY & CO. LTD. 342, CASTLE STREET, BRISTOL.

(PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN)

AN ALBUM OF HUSH SONGS

Alicia Adelaïde Needham

BOOSEY & CO. LTD.

CORONATION MUSIC.

A TRIUMPH FOR IRELAND.

BY A. W. P.

HUR British composers have certainly not been idle in doing musical honour to the great event which we see so now near of approach. Perhaps it is safe to say that no eminent musician of the present day has neglected to send in his or her contributions to the publishers, whether the manuscripts submitted have been fortunate enough

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THE EXILE'S RETURN.

Words by JOHN LOCKE.

Music by ALICIA ADÉLAÏDE NEEDHAM.

Allegro commodo.

VOICE.

PIANO.

f *trance* *ff*

Key works:

Single Irish songs before 1896:

An Irish Lullaby, Maureen,

My Dark Rosaleen, The Donovans

An Album of [12] Hush Songs (1897)

The Seventh English Edward (1902)

*A Bunch of Shamrocks. Irish Song-
Cycle for Four Solo Voices (1904)*

*Twelve Small Songs for Small People
(1904)*

*Four Songs for Women Suffragists
(1908)*

A Bunch of Heather.

Scottish Song-Cycle (1910)

Army and Navy Song-Cycle (1912)

Publishers: Boosey, Novello, Houghton, Pigott



(from *Every Woman's Encyclopaedia*, 1910)

Later life

Volunteered with Red Cross
during WWI

Difficult economic situation
after husband's death (1920),
(probably) also due to
copyright problems

Travelled Europe repeatedly
(1920-26)

In 1930s turned to occultism
(‘spirit photography’ etc.)

1933: Call for ‘testimonial’ by
influential friends

1934: Conceived into Roman
Catholic Church

1935 or later: writes autobiog.

1935-45: ??



(in Red Cross uniform during WWI, 1915)

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