

St. Cecilia Patron Saint of Music



"St. Cecilia and the Angel" by Carlo Saraceni (1579–1620)

Legend has it that St. Cecilia was a 3rd-century Roman Christian married against her wish to the pagan Valerian, whom she converted on their wedding night.

She became the patron saint of music because of a faulty translation of the antiphon for her feast day (November 22): the original "while the instruments



"St. Cecilia" by Bartolomeo Schedoni (1578–1615)



were playing" (*cantantibus organis*) became "while [she was] playing the instruments, she sang in her heart to God." Suddenly Cecilia became a musician; from the 15th century, she was often shown playing an organ. She has inspired many composers — Handel, Purcell, and Britten, among others. Many churches and academies



"St. Cecilia and an Angel" (holding music) by Domenico Zampieri, known as Domenichino (1581–1641).

Angel blowing a horn in St. Cecilia Cathedral in south-central France.

Sts. Cecilia and Valerian crowned by an Angel" in Hollenfells Church, Luxembourg.



The Philippines issued this FDC to mark the **Feast Day of St. Cecilia** on November 22, 1968 franked with the lowest value of 4 stamps of indigenous instruments. The 7-colour cachet is from a medieval woodcut showing St. Cecilia playing a lyre. The cancellation is a line sketch of St. Cecilia playing a small organ.

