Teaching the U.S. Antislavery Movement through Music

Curriculum created for public use by Rebecca Edwards, Vassar College, under auspices of the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project, Poughkeepsie, NY mhantislaveryhistoryproject.org

Lesson 3: *Uncle Tom's Cabin* Depicts a Dramatic Escape from Slavery

Song: Have students read, listen to, or sing "Eliza's Flight," available online at the Lester S. Levy Sheet Music Collection of The Johns Hopkins University Library. The sheet music includes a cover illustration of Eliza escaping across the ice with her infant son (attached, courtesy the Lester S. Levy Collection).

Students could use this musical piece to explore the story of Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) and consider why it became both popular and controversial.

A search of the Levy sheet music collection, above, will find many other pieces of music drawn from the musical stage version of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Advanced students may be interested in exploring the ways in which George Aiken's *stage* version of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* drew on blackface minstrel traditions and reflected racist stereotypes, while at the same time popularizing the antislavery cause.

Additional resources:

Widely available (\$20) is a wonderful 2011 stage production of Aiken's 1852 play, condensed to 50 minutes for classroom use, with additional resources on the DVD. (Search "Uncle Tom's Cabin George Aiken National Endowment for the Humanities" for listings.)

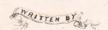
See also "Uncle Tom's Cabin on the Antebellum Stage": http://utc.iath.virginia.edu/interpret/exhibits/frick/frick.html

ANTERNO RATERY,



A SCENE FROM

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.



MISS M.A. COLLIER Ausichy E.J. LODER.

Price 25 cts. net.

BOSTON.

Bufford's Lith Boston

Published by OLIVER DITSON, 115 Washington St.

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