

## Chronology

September 5, 1867	Amy Marcy Cheney is born in Henniker, New Hampshire, to Clara Imogene (Marcy) Cheney and Charles Abbott Cheney.	
1871	Clara Cheney allows her child to sit at the piano for the first time. Amy Cheney is able to pick out tunes and harmonize them from memory. Starting at age six, mother and daughter hold lessons in their home three times a week.	“Mamma’s Waltz”
1876	Amy Cheney begins piano study with Ernst Perabo. Mentors recommend that Amy be sent to Europe, but her mother declines.	“Air and Variations” (1877) “Minuetto” (1877) “Romanza” (1877) “Petite Waltz” (1878)

- 1881 Cheney begins to study harmony with Junius Welch Hill at Wellesley College. She takes lessons for only one year.
- 1882 Cheney ends her study with Perabo and begins study with Carl Baermann, a pupil of Liszt. Amy also begins to educate herself on counterpoint and orchestration by examining works of prominent composers such as J. S. Bach.
- October 24, 1883 Amy Cheney gives her official debut, performing in Alfred P. Peck's Anniversary Concert in Boston.
- January 9, 1884 Cheney's first public recital is given at Chickering Hall in Boston. "A Rainy Day" (1884)
- February 1885 Cheney's composition, "With Violets," is published by the Arthur P. Schmidt Company. "With Violets," op. 1, no. 1 (1885)
- March 28, 1885 Amy Cheney performs Chopin's Concerto in F minor, op. 21, in her debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

December 2, 1885	At age 18, Amy Marcy Cheney is married to Henry Harris Aubrey Beach, a prominent Boston physician. In accordance with Henry's wishes, Amy limits her public piano performances and turns to composing under her married name,	<i>Valse Caprice</i> , op. 4 (1889) <i>Grand Mass in E-flat major</i> , op. 5 (1890) "Empress of the Night," op. 2 (1891)
February 7, 1892	The Handel and Haydn Society of Boston performs Beach's first major work, the <i>Grand Mass in E-flat major</i> , op. 5.	<i>Festival Jubilate</i> , op. 17 (1891) <i>Sketches</i> , op. 15 (1892)
May 1– October 30, 1893	Several of Beach's works are performed at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.	"Ecstasy," op. 19, no. 2 (1893) <i>Romance</i> , op. 23 (1893)
November 21, 1894	Beach begins composing the first movement of her "Gaelic" Symphony, basing many of the work's themes on Gaelic folk tunes.	<i>Ballade</i> , op. 6 (1894) <i>Bal Masqué</i> , op. 22 (1894)

- October 31, 1896 The Boston Symphony Orchestra performs Beach's "Gaelic" Symphony, op. 32, under Emil Paur's baton. This work is met with outstanding success.
- April 7, 1900 Amy Beach premieres her Piano Concerto in C-sharp minor, op. 45, with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.
- February 8, 1905 Amy Beach premieres her *Variations on Balkan Themes*, op. 60, a large-scale work for solo piano.
- June 28, 1910 Henry Harris Aubrey Beach dies of infection following a fall.
- February 18, 1911 Amy Beach's mother dies.
- September 5, 1911 Newly widowed, Amy Beach sets sail for her European tour, where she promotes her own music outside the United States for the first time.
- "Gaelic" Symphony, op. 32 (1896)  
*Three Shakespeare Songs*, op. 37 (1897)
- Sonata in A minor for Piano and Violin, op. 34 (1899)  
*Three Browning Songs*, op. 44 (1900)  
*Variations on Balkan Themes*, op. 60 (1904)  
*The Sea-Fairies*, op. 59 (1904)  
Service in A, op. 63 (1906)  
*Four Eskimo Pieces*, op. 64 (1907)  
*The Chambered Nautilus*, op. 66 (1907)  
Quintet for Piano and Strings, op. 67 (1907)

- 1911–1914 Amy Beach's compositions are met with popularity in Germany, especially her larger works.
- September 18, 1914 Shortly after the outbreak of World War I, Amy Beach arrives in New York after her three-year tour.
- February 1915 Amy Beach begins renting an apartment in New York City, leaving her residence at 28 Commonwealth Avenue behind.
- 1915–1916 Beach continues to travel and perform throughout the United States, mainly California. *Panama Hymn*, op. 74 (1915)
- February 1918 Amy Beach relocates to Hillsborough, New Hampshire, along with her aunt and cousin.
- Summer 1921 Beach begins her visits to the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire. She would stay at the Colony periodically over the next twenty years. Beach divides her time between the Colony, her New York apartment, and her two homes. *Hermit Thrush Pieces*, op. 92 (1921)  
*From Grandmother's Garden*, op. 97 (1922)

- 1925 The Society of American Women Composers is founded. Beach serves the organization as president until 1928 and honorary president until 1932.
- June 18, 1928 Amy Beach receives an honorary master's degree from the University of New Hampshire. The university president later expresses regret that the university did not award her an honorary doctorate instead. *The Canticle of the Sun*, op. 123 (1928)  
*Christ in the Universe*, op. 132 (1931)
- June 18, 1932 Beach completes her one-act opera, *Cabildo*, op. 149. *Cabildo*, op. 149 (1932)
- April 23, 1934 Beach is summoned to the White House by Eleanor Roosevelt to accompany soprano Ruth Shaffner.
- April 17, 1936 Beach is invited to perform at the White House again with Shaffner.
- March 19, 1940 Amy Beach's last performance takes place in Brooklyn with violinist Carl Tollefsen and cellist Willem Durieux. Shortly after, doctors forbid her to play piano due to deteriorating health. Trio, op. 150 (1939)

November 27–28,  
1942

A festival is held in honor of Beach's 75th birthday at the Phillips Gallery in Washington, DC. Bashka Paeff's plaster bust of Beach is displayed, and several concerts entirely comprised of Beach's compositions are performed.

December 27,  
1944

Amy Marcy Cheney Beach passes away of heart disease in her New York apartment, attended by Ruth Shaffner.

*Pax nobiscum* (1944)