

Leopold Stokowski, in full Leopold Antoni Stanislaw Boleslawawicz Stokowski, (born April 18, 1882, London, Eng.—died Sept. 13, 1977, Nether Wallop, Hampshire), virtuoso British-born U.S. conductor known for his flamboyant showmanship and the rich sonorities of his orchestras and for his influence as a popularizer of classical music.

Stokowski was trained at the Royal College of Music, London, and Queen's College, Oxford, and held positions as an organist before becoming conductor of the Cincinnati (Ohio) Symphony from 1909 to 1912. He gained an international reputation as musical director of the Philadelphia Orchestra from 1912 to 1936, and he frequently conducted concerts with them until 1941. He introduced youth concerts and performed contemporary works by Gustav Mahler, Edgard Varèse, and Igor Stravinsky and conducted the world premiere of Charles Ives's Symphony No. 4 (1909-16). He also experimented with the placement of various sections of the orchestra and occasionally changed the written orchestration of the music he performed.

Organizer of the All-American Youth Orchestra, he conducted the NBC Symphony from 1941 to 1944 with Arturo Toscanini and inaugurated low-priced concerts at the New York City Center (1944-45). He directed the New York Philharmonic from 1946 to 1950 and the Houston (Texas) Symphony from 1955 to 1962; in 1962 he formed the American Symphony Orchestra in New York City.

Stokowski made three films with the Philadelphia Orchestra, including Walt Disney's *Fantasia* (1940), and wrote a book, *Music for All of Us* (1943). He also made symphonic transcriptions of Johann Sebastian Bach's works.



Carl Orff
Carmina Burana
Leopold Stokowski



Carmina Burana, Latin for "Songs from Benediktbeuern" (Buria in Latin) is a manuscript of 254 poems and dramatic texts mostly from the 11th or 12th century, although some are from the 13th century. The pieces are mostly bawdy, irreverent, and satirical. They were written principally in Medieval Latin, a few in Middle High German, and some with traces of Old French. Some are macaronic, a mixture of Latin and German or French vernacular.

They were written by students and clergy when the Latin idiom was the lingua franca throughout Italy and western Europe for travelling scholars, universities, and theologians. Most of the poems and songs appear to be the work of Goliards, clergy (mostly students) who satirized the Catholic Church. The collection preserves the works of a number of poets, including Peter of Blois, Walter of Châtillon, and an anonymous poet referred to as the Archpoet.

The collection was found in 1803 in the Benedictine monastery of Benediktbeuern, Bavaria, and is now housed in the Bavarian State Library in Munich. It is considered to be the most important collection of Goliard and vagabond songs, along with the Carmina Cantabrigiensia.

The manuscripts reflect an international European movement, with songs originating from Occitania, France, England, Scotland, Aragon, Castile, and the Holy Roman Empire.

Twenty-four poems in Carmina Burana were set to music by Carl Orff in 1936. His composition quickly became popular and a staple piece of the

classical music repertoire. The opening and closing movement "O Fortuna" has been used in numerous films.

books. He also was able to revise illegible portions of the text by comparing them to similar works.

About one-quarter of the poems in the Carmina Burana are accompanied in the manuscript by music using unheighted, staffless neumes, an archaic system of musical notation that by the time of the manuscript had largely been superseded by staffed neumes. Unheighted neumes only indicate whether a given note is pitched higher or lower than the preceding note, without giving any indication of how much change in pitch there is between two notes, so they are useful only as mnemonic devices for singers who are already familiar with the melody. However, it is possible to identify many of those melodies by comparing them with melodies notated in staffed neumes in other contemporary manuscripts from the schools of Notre Dame and Saint Martial.

Between 1935 and 1936, German composer Carl Orff composed music, also called Carmina Burana, for 24 of the poems. The single song "O Fortuna" (the Roman goddess of luck and fate), from the movement "Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi", is often heard in many popular settings such as films. Orff's composition has been performed by many ensembles.

Orff - Carmina Burana

The Houston Symphony Orchestra Conducted By Leopold Stokowski

The Houston Chorale / The Houston Youth Symphony Boys Choir

Fortuna, Imperatrix Mundi (Fortune, Empress Of The World)

- 1 O Fortuna: 2:12
- 2 Fortuna Plango Vulnera 1:45
- 1. Primo Vere (In Springtime)
- 3 Veris Leta Facies: 2:43
- 4 Omnia Sol Temperat 1:51
- 5 Ecce Gratum 1:45
- Uf Dem Anger (On The Lawn)
- 6 Dance: 1:40
- 7 Floret Silva; 3:14
- 8 Chramer, Gip Die Varwe Mir: 2:33
- 9 Reie: (Round Dance) 1:46
- Swaz Hie Gat Umbe:
- Chume, Chum, Geselle Min:
- 10 Were Diu Werlt Alle Min 0:29
- 2. In Taberna (In The Tavern)
- 11 Estuans Interius: 0:52
- 12 Olim Lacus Colueram: 1:56
- 13 Ego Sum Abbas: 2:28
- 14 In Taberna Quando Sumus 1:17

3. Cours D'Amours (The Court Of Loves)

- 15 Amor Volat Undique: 4:10
- 16 Dies, Nox Et Omnia: 1:47
- 17 Stetit Puella: 1:59
- 18 Circa Mea Pectora: 1:22
- 19 Si Puer Cum Puellula: 1:11
- 20 Veni, Veni, Venias: 0:57
- 21 In Trutina: 2:41
- 22 Tempus Est locundum: 1:56
- 23 Dulcissime: 0:59
- Blanziflor Et Helena (Blanziflor And Helena)
- 24 Ave Formosissima: 1:39
- Fortuna, Imperatrix Mundi
- 25 O Fortuna: 2:13

Chorus Master – Alfred Urbach, Howard Webb / Baritone Vocals – Guy Gardner
Soprano Vocals – Virginia Babikian / Tenor Vocals – Clyde Hager
Recorded by Capital Records 1959

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