

Giacomo Meyerbeer composed the Coronation March as part of his grand opera "Le prophète" (The Prophet). "Le prophète" premiered in Paris in 1849. The Coronation March is a ceremonial and regal piece often performed separately from the opera. It has been popular in various settings, especially in connection with festive and celebratory occasions.

Emmanuel Chabrier, a French composer of the late 19th century, wrote a lively and celebratory orchestral piece titled "Joyeuse Marche" (Joyful March). Chabrier composed this work in 1888, and it reflects his penchant for vibrant rhythms and colorful orchestration.

The "Joyeuse Marche" is a joyful and exuberant piece, characterized by its energetic melodies and lively tempo. It's a popular composition that showcases Chabrier's mastery of orchestration and his ability to create music with a sense of humor and vivacity.

The "Wedding March" by Felix Mendelssohn is one of the most famous pieces of wedding music. It comes from Mendelssohn's incidental music for Shakespeare's play "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The Wedding March is the processional music traditionally played as the bride and groom exit the ceremony.

Mendelssohn composed the incidental music in 1842, and the Wedding March specifically was written for the royal wedding of Princess Victoria, the daughter of Queen Victoria, to Prince William of Prussia in 1858. Since then, it has become a popular and iconic choice for wedding ceremonies around the world.



8 SYMPHONIC MARCHES
VIVE LA MARCHÉ!
PAUL PARAY
DETROIT SYMPHONY

"La Marseillaise" gained popularity and significance during the French Revolution, and it was later adopted as the national anthem in 1795. The anthem is celebrated for its patriotic and revolutionary spirit, and it has played a prominent role in French history and culture.

Hector Berlioz composed the "Rákóczi March" as part of his larger work, "La Damnation de Faust" (The Damnation of Faust). The complete title of the movement is "Rákóczi Marche hongroise," referring to Francis II Rákóczi, a Hungarian nobleman and leader of the Hungarian uprising against the Habsburgs in the early 18th century.

"La Damnation de Faust" is a dramatic legend in four parts, and Berlioz included the "Rákóczi March" in the fourth part of the composition. The march is a lively and patriotic piece that reflects the Hungarian spirit, and it has become well-known in its own right as a concert piece. The full title of this movement is often translated as "Rákóczi March – Hungarian March."

The "Rákóczi March" is characterized by its energetic and rhythmic melodies, capturing the essence of Hungarian folk music. It's a popular orchestral work and is sometimes performed as a standalone piece in concerts.

Camille Saint-Saëns composed the "Marche Héroïque" in 1871. The full title is "Marche militaire française in D major, Op. 60," and it is often referred to simply as "Marche Héroïque." This piece was written to celebrate the French victory in the Franco-Prussian War.

The "Marche Héroïque" is a patriotic and triumphant composition, reflecting the spirit of the time. It is scored for orchestra, and its grand and majestic character makes it suitable for ceremonial occasions. The

piece is known for its bold brass fanfares, stirring melodies, and overall heroic atmosphere.

Saint-Saëns' "Marche Héroïque" is a notable example of his contributions to French Romantic music. The composer was not only a prolific writer but also a versatile musician, contributing to various genres, including symphonies, operas, chamber music, and works for solo instruments.

The "Funeral March of a Marionette" is a short but well-known piece composed by Charles Gounod in 1872. It is a lively and whimsical composition that is often associated with the macabre or darkly humorous due to its title. The piece was originally written as a piano solo, but it gained more widespread popularity in its orchestrated version.

The "Funeral March of a Marionette" is structured like a march and has a distinctive and catchy melody. Despite its title, it's not a somber or mournful piece but rather a musical portrayal of a comical funeral procession for a marionette (a puppet). The piece's popularity increased when it was used as the theme music for the television series "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" from 1955 to 1965.

Gounod, a French composer known for his operas and choral works, created this light-hearted and somewhat ironic composition that has since become one of his most recognized pieces.

Saint-Saëns composed the "Marche Militaire Française" in 1874, and it's part of a larger suite that he wrote after a visit to Algeria. The suite is inspired by the sights and sounds of North Africa. The "Marche Militaire Française" is a lively and patriotic piece with a military character, reflecting the French military influence in Algeria during that time.

Eight Symphonic Marches

Paul Paray / Detroit Symphony Orchestra

- 1 de Lisle - La Marseillaise 1:09
- 2 Berlioz - Marche Hongroise 4:44
- 3 Saint-Saëns - Marche Héroïque 6:39
- 4 Gounod - Funeral March Of A Marrionette 3:33
- 5 Saint-Saëns - Marche Militaire Française 3:45
- 6 Meyerbeer - Coronation March 4:19
- 7 Chabrier - Marche Joyeuse 3:35
- 8 Mendelssohn - Wedding March 4:45

Tracks 1-7 - Recorded April 1959

Track 8 - Recorded March 21, 1958 at Orchestra Hall, Detroit by Mercury



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