

Biggs did much to bring the classical pipe organ back to prominence, and was in the forefront of the mid-20th-century resurgence of interest in the organ music of pre-Romantic composers. On his first concert tour of Europe, in 1954, Biggs performed and recorded works of Johann Sebastian Bach, Sweelinck, Dieterich Buxtehude, and Pachelbel on historic organs associated with those composers. Thereafter, he believed that such music should ideally be performed on instruments representative of that period and that organ music of that epoch should be played by using (as closely as possible) the styles and registrations of that era. Thus, he sparked the American revival of organ building in the style of European Baroque instruments, seen especially in the increasing popularity of tracker organs — analogous to Europe's Orgelbewegung.

E. Power Biggs is remembered as one of the most influential organists of the 20th century. His advocacy for the organ's importance in classical music, his virtuosic playing, and his extensive discography have left a lasting legacy. Many modern organists and musicians continue to be inspired by his work and contributions.



***SAINT-SAËNS ORGAN SYMPHONY***  
*(No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 78)*  
**THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA**  
**EUGENE ORMANDY**  
***E. POWER BIGGS, Organist***



The "Organ Symphony" is a nickname commonly used to refer to Camille Saint-Saëns' Symphony No. 3 in C minor, Op. 78. It earned this nickname because it features a prominent and spectacular pipe organ part in its final movement, which is quite unusual for a symphony. Here's an overview of this famous composition:

**Composer:** Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921) was a French composer known for his diverse body of work, which includes operas, chamber music, piano concertos, and symphonic compositions. He is often considered one of the leading French composers of the 19th century.

**Composition Date:** Saint-Saëns composed his Symphony No. 3 between 1886 and 1887. It was premiered in London in 1886, with the composer himself conducting.

**Notable Features:** The Symphony No. 3 is known for its rich orchestration, lyrical melodies, and thematic development. The final movement, in particular, is grand and exuberant,

with the massive sound of the pipe organ joining the orchestra, creating a majestic and powerful conclusion to the symphony.

**Legacy:** Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony is one of his most famous works and remains a staple of the symphonic repertoire. Its blend of romantic melodies and the dramatic use of the organ has made it a favorite among audiences and performers alike.

**Organ Performance:** The organ part in this symphony demands a skilled organist and a substantial pipe organ with a commanding presence. It is often performed in concert halls with suitable organs to fully capture the grandeur of the music.

Overall, the "Organ Symphony" by Camille Saint-Saëns is a beloved and frequently performed work that showcases the composer's talent for orchestration and his willingness to experiment with symphonic form by incorporating the pipe organ in such a prominent way.

# SAINT-SAËNS ORGAN SYMPHONY

The Philadelphia Orchestra, Eugene Ormandy  
Organ, E. Power Biggs

**1 Adagio - Allegro Moderato 10:19**

**2 Poco Adagio 8:48**

**3 Allegro Moderato - Presto - Allegro Moderato 7:19**

**4 Maestoso - Più Allegro - Molto Allegro 7:19**

Producer - John McClure

Recorded October 7th, 1962 in The Academy of Music, Philadelphia, PA.



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[info@highdeftapetransfers.ca](mailto:info@highdeftapetransfers.ca)  
or visit our website:  
[www.highdeftapetransfers.ca](http://www.highdeftapetransfers.ca)