

A Level Music Notes



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Anton Bruckner (1824 – 1896)

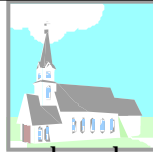
- ♣ Born in Austria
- ♣ Like Brahms he was a Classic-Romantic
- ♣ Like Beethoven he wrote 9 symphonies

Bruckner was influenced by Wagner. He has a considerable reputation in Germany and Austria but not much anywhere else.

His life was at first devoted to the church and he was a skilled organist. In his forties he went to Vienna and devoted himself more and more to composition.

Bruckner's works are not always fully admired and some say that there is a certain naivety to his works.

What is a Mass



The main service of the Roman Catholic Church and roughly corresponds to the celebration of the Eucharist or Holy Communion in the Church of England. "High Mass" is a sung mass and composers have written settings to it from the earliest times.

Certain parts of the mass vary according to the time of the church year and are usually sung to plainsong (single line of melody for the words of a mass or another part of the church service).

The "Ordinary" usually does not vary. Its musical sections contain:

Kyrie Gloria Credo Sanctus Agnus Dei.

Kyrie Eleison is Greek. The rest are Latin.

At first these sections too, were in plainsong. But gradually a more elaborate contrapuntal style began to be used for special occasions. This style of unaccompanied vocal music is best shown in the magnificent masses of Palestrina.