



Worth Abbey

ORGAN MUSIC 2022

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6 August Parish Mass – 5pm & Sunday 7 August Abbey Mass – 9.30am

Communion **Adagio from Symphonie No.2 in D Major, Op.13 No.2** **Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)**

Postlude **Finale from Symphonie No.2 in D Major, Op.13 No.2** **Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)**

The first four of Widor's ten organ symphonies were published as a set in 1872. Just 28, Widor been in the prestigious post of organiste-titulaire in Saint-Sulpice, Paris, for two years. (Although this appointment was, for various reasons of political intrigue, 'temporary', he was to stay in it for another 63 years until succeeded by his pupil Marcel Dupré.) Perfectionist that he was, Widor would revise and polish numerous of his works, including all his ten organ symphonies, several times during his long life.

Many of the movements of the early symphonies were, in fact, things he had written during preceding youthful years; among them, this piece had been written in his formative years in his native Lyon. The piece involves a charming story of Rossini, who, visiting the Widor family during his travels, asked the young musician if they might try his 'new organ piece' – what would become this Finale – on the piano: Widor played the manual parts and Rossini played the pedal line. So impressed was Rossini (who died in 1868, which gives us some context of dates for this event) with the young Widor that he urged him to go to Paris and seek his fortune. This Widor did – after a year study with the Belgian master Nicolas Lemmens (1823-1881); Widor became one of France's great musical figures and one of the organ's titans.

The Finale is a joyful, exuberant sortie which recalls the spirit of the Fanfare by his teacher, Lemmens, that Lemmens had played in his Paris début back in 1863. It contrasts strongly with the very personal, devotional Adagio which precedes it in the symphonie heard today during Communion: this eloquent meditation displays admirably Widor's gift for melodic contour and expression.



D'Arcy Trinkwon
Abbey Organist