

Carl Orff

Carl Orff was born in 1895 in Munich (Germany). After he finished his music studies, when he was still very young, he became the conductor of several German opera theatres.

He was very interested in music education. He and his friend, the dancer Dorothee Günther, founded the Güntherschule in 1924 (Günther School), an academy of music and dance.

The Orff method was created from this experience. This method is used to teach young students, who have no musical knowledge, to play in small groups using simple instruments, the Orff instruments.

Carmina Burana was written in 1937 and was his first success as a composer. Other similar music works that followed were *Catulli Carmina* (1942-43) and *Trionfo di Afrodita* (1949-1951).

Orff and music from the 20th century

Orff composed all of his works in the first half of the 20th century. In this period, music changed drastically. New music styles appeared in a short period of time.

The new styles had one thing in common, they were very different from music that had been made previously. Some of the new styles that emerged are: impressionism, expressionism, twelve-tone serialism, neoclassicism, and concrete music.