

Carl Nielsen

29 SMÅ PRÆLUDIER FOR ORGEL 29 SHORT PRELUDES FOR ORGAN op. 51

Carl Nielsen: 29 små præludier for orgel, op. 51

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Forord

Skønt Carl Nielsen flere gange i løbet af sit liv viste interesse for orglet, gav han sig først for alvor i kast med at komponere for instrumentet i sine sidste leveår. Det resulterede i samlingen “29 små præludier for orgel eller harmonium” op. 51 samt det monumentale værk “Commotio” op. 58.

Carl Nielsen blev i 1929 opfordret til at skrive en række præludier til gudstjenestebrug, og det resulterede i samlingen **29 små præludier for orgel eller harmonium op. 51**. Til inspiration havde han studeret en række værker af bl.a. Frescobaldi, Scheidt og Pachelbel, og det har sat sig tydelige spor i musikken. Præludierne kan ses som Carl Nielsens bidrag til tidens reformbestræbelser inden for orgelmusikken. En reform der gjorde op med romantikkens følelæssværmeri og søgte tilbage til en ren kirkestil med renæssancens og barokkens musik som ideal. Helt som idealet er store dele af fortolkningen overladt til den udøvende musiker, og Carl Nielsen noterer at “Metronomangivelserne må betragtes som kun tilnærmelsesvis og rette sig efter rum og instrument”. Med Carl Nielsens samtykke bragte *Dansk Kirkemusiker-Tidende* en lille opsats vedrørende dynamik og registrering i præludierne. Her fremgår det, at “et 'mixtur-orgel', som råder over mange - og milde - blandede stemmer” er at foretrække og “Indenfor de enkelte stykker bør ingen registreringsændring finde sted”. Der foreslås desuden en række vejledende styrkegrader:

Preface

Despite the fact that during the course of his life Carl Nielsen often showed an interest in the organ, he did not seriously set about composing for the instrument until a year or two before he died. This gave rise to the collection “29 Short Preludes for Organ or Harmonium” op. 51 as well as the monumental work “Commotio” op. 58.

In 1929 Carl Nielsen was invited to write a number of preludes for service use, and this resulted in the collection **29 Short Preludes for Organ or Harmonium op. 51**. For the sake of inspiration he had studied a number of works by composers including Frescobaldi, Scheidt and Pachelbel, and this can be clearly discerned in the music. The preludes may be seen as Carl Nielsen's contribution to the efforts of the time to reform organ music. This reform put an end to the sentimentality of the romantic era and returned to a pure, ecclesiastical style founded on the ideals of renaissance and baroque music. As is the case with these ideals a large part of the interpretation is left to the performer, and Carl Nielsen notes that “Metronome indications should only be considered to be approximate and be determined by the acoustics of the church and the instrument”. With the approval of Carl Nielsen the periodical *Dansk Kirkemusiker-Tidende* published a short article about the dynamics and registration of the preludes. Here it emerges that “a 'mixture organ' which offers many - and mild - mutations” is preferable, and “within the individual pieces there should be no changes of registration”. In addition a number of dynamics are suggested as guidelines:

I	1 <i>p</i>	XI	11 <i>mp</i>	XXI	21 <i>f</i>
II	2 <i>p(mp)</i>	XII	12 <i>f</i>	XXII	22 <i>mf</i>
III	3 <i>ff</i>	XIII	13 <i>p</i>	XXIII	23 <i>mf f</i>
IV	4 <i>p</i>	XIV	14 <i>mp (mf)</i>	XXIV	24 <i>mp</i>
V	5 <i>ff</i>	XV	15 <i>mf</i>	XXV	25 <i>mf</i>
VI	6 <i>p</i>	XVI	16 <i>p(pp)</i>	XXVI	26 <i>p(pp)</i>
VII	7 <i>mp</i>	XVII	17 <i>p</i>	XXVII	27 <i>mf</i>
VIII	8 <i>mp</i>	XVIII	18 <i>mf f</i>	XXVIII	28 <i>ff</i>
IX	9 <i>mp</i>	XIX	19 <i>mp (mf)</i>	XXIX	29 <i>pp</i>
X	10 <i>f</i>	XX	20 <i>f</i>		

Efter udgivelsen af præludierne i 1930 kom der en debat om deres egnethed til brug ved gudstjenesten. Poul Hamburger skrev i *Dansk Musiktidsskrift* at det kun var nr. 14 og 29, der levede op til de krav, man måtte stille til en moderne kirkestil. En anden anmelder, Knud Hjortø, var mere venlig i sin anmeldelse i *Vor Ungdom*: "Præludierne bør kendes af danske organister, og de bør forelægges for menigheden. At mange til at begynde med vil finde dem lidt aparte og måske lidt for glade, kan jo gerne være, men på den anden side er folk efterhånden blevet noget vant til musik, der er i den gamle stil, og den stive højtidelighed er sikkert mindre regnet, end den engang var."

Carl Nielsens egen kommentar hertil var bl.a.: "Hvad nu min Mening om Præludiernes Anvendelse angaar, saa er det naturligvis for mig, som er Part i Sagen, vanskeligt at staa helt objektivt overfor mine egne smaa, kære Skabninger, men jeg skal forsøge, og jeg vil saa først nævne de Numre, som afgjort ikke egner sig til kirkelig Brug i vor Tid, nemlig Nr. 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 26 og 28. Derimod mener jeg, at 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 19, 21, 25 og 29 kan lade sig høre i Kirken; Nr. 14, og 19 maaske bedst som Indgangspil, Resten til Udgang. Om de Numre i Heftet, jeg ikke har nævnt, tør jeg i denne Sammenhæng ikke have nogen Mening."

Sidst i dette hæfte bringes stykkerne **Melodi**, og **to præludier**. Stykket "Melodi" findes i Carl Nielsens kladde til de "29 små præludier", men kom ikke med i den endelige samling. De "to præludier" blev komponeret i begyndelsen af 1931 til organisten Peter Thomsen, som havde været Carl Nielsen en stor hjælp under arbejdet med de "29 små præludier", og som også havde uropført dette værk.

After the publication of the Preludes in 1930, a debate arose about their suitability for use in church services. Poul Hamburger wrote in *Dansk Musiktidsskrift* that only Nos. 14 and 29 met the requirements of a modern church style. Another reviewer, Knud Hjortø, was more favorable in his review in *Vor Ungdom*: "The preludes should be known by Danish organists, and they should be presented to the congregation. That many at first will find them a bit unusual and perhaps a bit too cheerful may well be the case, but on the other hand, people have by now become rather accustomed to music in the old style, and stiff solemnity is probably less appreciated than it once was."

Carl Nielsen's own comment on this was, among other things: "As for my opinion about the use of the Preludes, it is of course difficult for me, given my interest in the matter, to remain entirely objective towards my own small, dear creations, but I shall try, and will first mention the numbers that are definitely not suitable for liturgical use in our age, that is Nos. 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 26, and 28. On the other hand, I think that 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 19, 21, 25, and 29 can well be performed in church; Nos. 14 and 19 perhaps best as preludes, the rest as postludes. As for the numbers in the volume that I have not mentioned, I prefer not to express any opinion in this context."

At the end of this volume appear the pieces **Melody** and **Two Preludes**. The piece "Melody" is found in Carl Nielsen's draft for the "29 Short Preludes" but was not included in the final collection. The "Two Preludes" were composed in early 1931 for the organist Peter Thomsen, who had been of great assistance to Carl Nielsen during the work on the "29 Short Preludes" and who also gave the premiere performance of the work.

29 små præludier

for orgel eller harmonium, op. 51

29 Short Preludes

for Organ or Harmonium, op. 51

1 | I

Carl Nielsen

(♩ = ca. 69)

First system of musical notation, measures 1-4. Treble and bass staves in C major, common time. The melody in the treble staff features eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass staff provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes.

Second system of musical notation, measures 5-8. Measure 5 is marked with a '5'. The key signature changes to B-flat major in measure 6. The tempo marking 'rall.' appears in measure 8. The melody continues with various note values, and the bass staff maintains a consistent rhythmic pattern.

Third system of musical notation, measures 9-12. Measure 9 is marked with a '9'. The tempo marking 'a tempo' appears in measure 10. The melody features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with the bass staff providing a steady accompaniment.

Fourth system of musical notation, measures 13-16. Measure 13 is marked with a '13'. The tempo marking 'poco rall.' appears in measure 16. The melody continues with various note values, and the bass staff maintains a consistent rhythmic pattern.

Fifth system of musical notation, measures 17-20. The tempo marking 'a tempo' appears in measure 17. The melody features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with the bass staff providing a steady accompaniment.

Sixth system of musical notation, measures 21-24. Measure 21 is marked with a '21'. The melody continues with various note values, and the bass staff maintains a consistent rhythmic pattern.

24

2 | II

(♩ = ca. 76)

4

poco rit.

7

a tempo

10

13

rall.

3 | III

(♩ = ca. 100)

The musical score is written for piano in 3/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). It consists of 25 measures, divided into five systems of five measures each. The tempo is marked as approximately 100 beats per minute (♩ = ca. 100). The score features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody is characterized by a series of chords and single notes, while the bass line provides a steady accompaniment. The score is marked with measure numbers 7, 13, 19, and 25. A large orange 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

4 | IV

(♩ = ca. 58)

5

9

a tempo

V

(♩ = ca. 52)

5

9

6 | VI

(♩ = ca. 56)

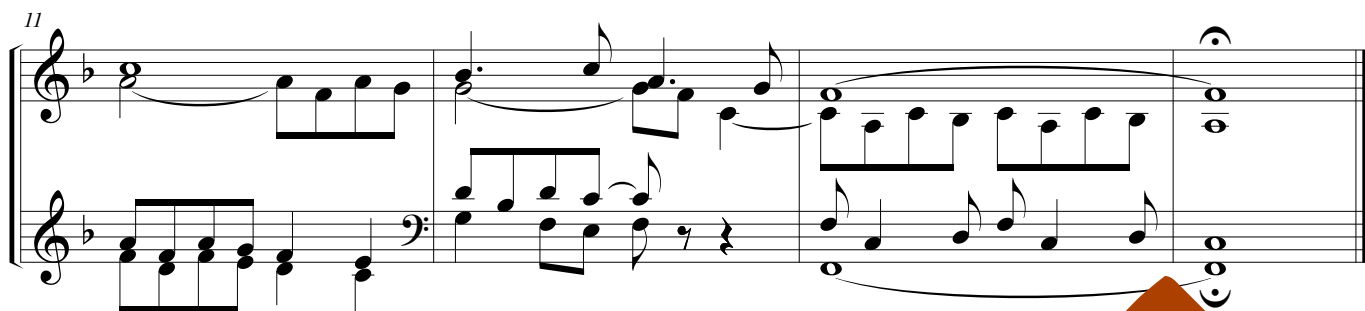
4

7 | VI

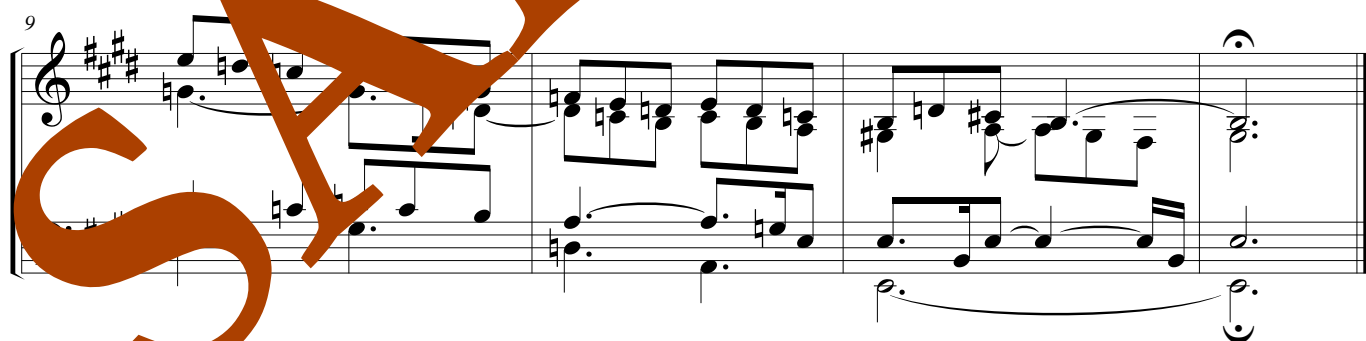
(♩ = ca. 76)

5

8



8 | VIII



9 | IX

(♩ = 108)

4

7

10

13

17

rall.

piano

10 | X

(♩ = 48)

5

9

13

17

20

11 | XI

(♩ = ca. 152)

5

9

poco rall.

13

17

poco rall.

a tempo

21

26

12 | XII

(♩ = ca. 50)

4

7

10

13 | XIII

(♩ = ca. 59)

4

7

10

13

all.

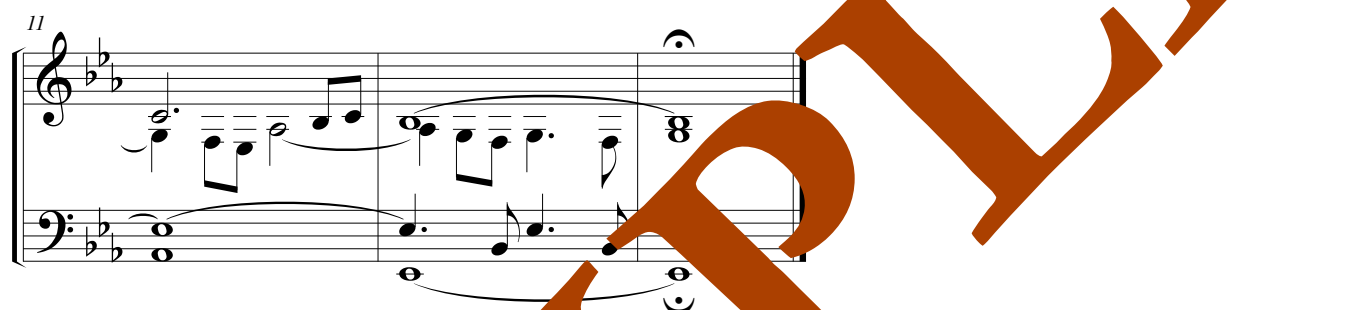
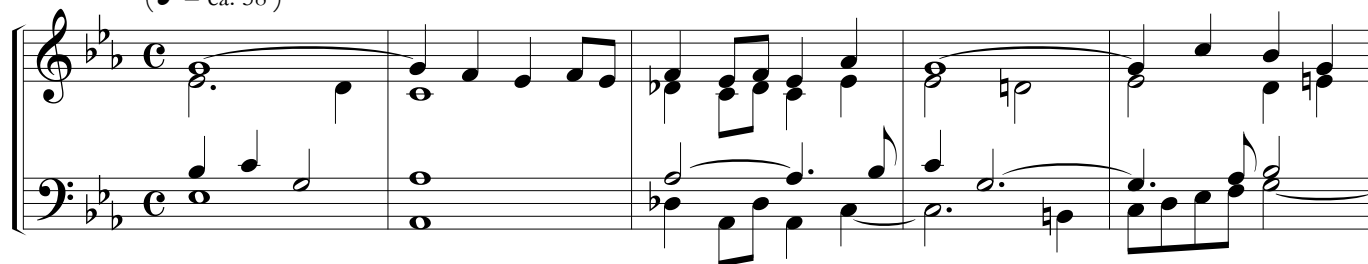
a tempo

16

poco rall.

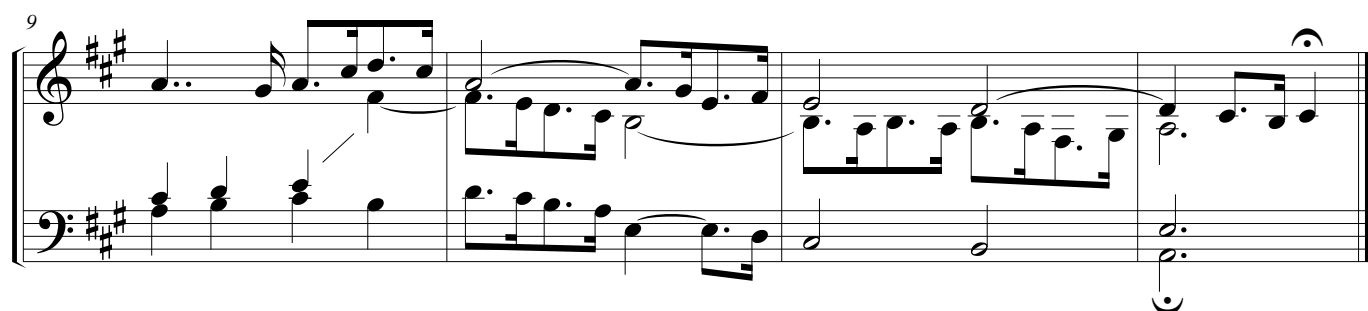
14 | XIV

(♩ = ca. 58)



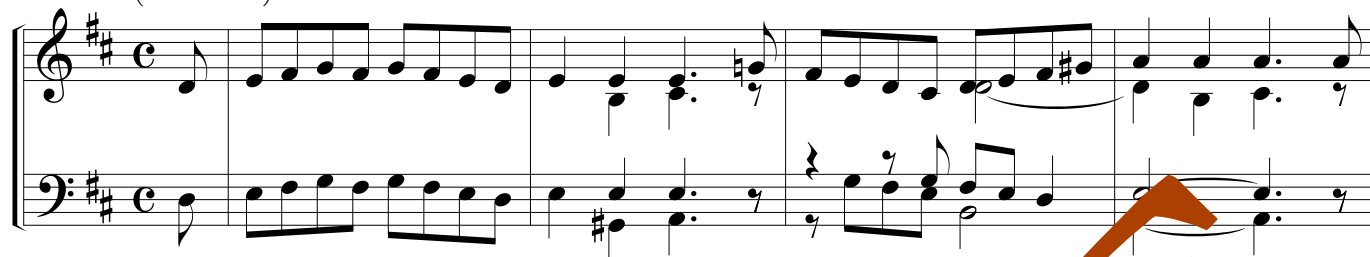
XV

(♩ = ca. 72)



16 | XVI

(♩ = ca. 56)



17 | XVII



18 | XVIII

(♩. = 60)

6

11

15

poco rall. *a tempo*

20

19 | XIX

(♩ = ca. 56)

4

6

8

10

20 | XX

(♩ = ca. 58)

4

7

21 | XXI

(♩ = ca. 72)

4

7

10

22 | XXII

(♩ = ca. 60)

The musical score is written for piano and consists of five systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major), and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo marking indicates a quarter note is approximately 60 beats per minute. The score begins with a treble staff melody and a bass staff accompaniment. The first system shows a treble staff with eighth and sixteenth notes, and a bass staff with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system introduces a triplet in the treble staff. The third system continues the melodic development in the treble staff. The fourth system features a change in the bass staff accompaniment. The fifth system concludes the piece with a final chord in the treble staff and a melodic line in the bass staff.

23 | XXIII

(♩ = 69)

5

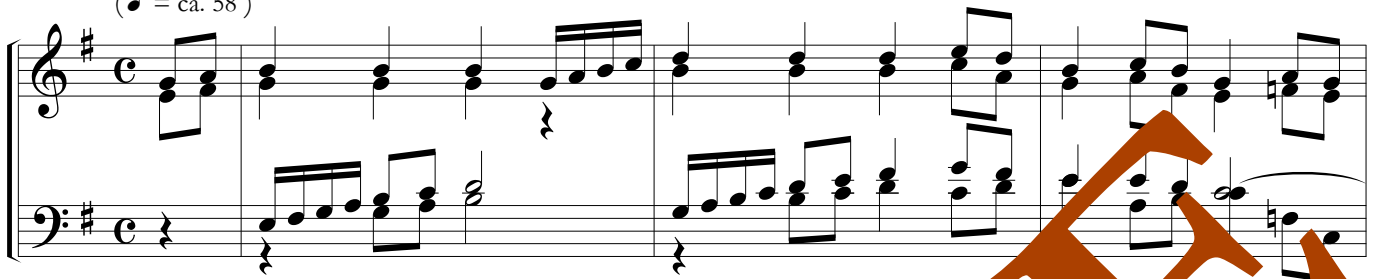
9

13

17

24 | XXIV

(♩ = ca. 58)



25 | XXV

(♩ = 50)

4

7

10

13

3

26 | XXVI

(♩ = ca. 54)

5

9

13

17

21

poco rall.

a tempo

25

27 | XXVII

(♩ = ca. 66)

5

9

poco rall. *a tempo*

13

21

28 | XXVIII

(♩ = ca. 48)

5

8

ped. -----

This image displays a page of musical notation, likely for a piano piece, featuring measures 11 through 19. The notation is presented in a standard format with treble and bass staves. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The music is characterized by frequent use of triplets, indicated by the number '3' above the notes. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'SAMPLE' is overlaid across the center of the page. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and triplets. The page is divided into systems, with measures 11-13, 14-15, 16-18, and 19. The final measure (19) ends with a double bar line.

29 | XXIX

(♩ = ca. 50)

5

9

Meloui | Melody

Adagio

4

To præludier

Two Preludes

1 | I

5

9

13

17

2 | II

The musical score is written for piano in B-flat major (two flats) and 2/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system starts with a treble staff containing a whole rest followed by a half note G4, and a bass staff with a whole rest followed by a half note F4. The second system begins at measure 5, marked with a '5' above the treble staff. The third system begins at measure 8, marked with an '8' above the treble staff. The fourth system begins at measure 11, marked with an '11' above the treble staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of the fourth system.

En kort biografi

Den danske komponist Carl August Nielsen blev født den 9. juni 1865 i et fattigt landarbejderhjem i Sortelung nær Nørre Lyndelse, syd for Odense. Faderen var maler og tjente ekstra som landsbymusikant og Carl Nielsen blev tidligt sendt ud for at tjene. Som dreng fik han violinundervisning og i en lokal musikforening stiftede han bekendtskab med den klassiske orkestermusik. I 1879 konkurrerede han sig ind i regimentsmusikkorpset i Odense, hvor han lærte at spille signalhorn og altbasun. I 1884 blev han optaget på *Musik-konservatoriet* i København med violin som hovedfag. Efter aflagt eksamen konkurrerede han sig i 1889 ind på en plads som 2. violin i *Det Kongelige Kapel*. Carl Nielsen havde da allerede markeret sig som komponist, bl.a. med sit op. 1, "Lille Suite for Strygere". I 1890 modtog han *Det Anckerske Legat*, der gav ham mulighed for at tage ud på en længere studierejse til Tyskland, Frankrig og Italien. Her mødte han den to år ældre billedhugger Anne Marie Brodersen, som han blev viet til under opholdet. I 1905 fratrådte han stillingen i *Det Kongelige Kapel*, og tre år senere udnævntes han til 2. kapelmester ved *Det Kongelige Teater*, en stilling, han beholdt til 1914. Året efter overtog han dirigentposten i *Musikforeningen* i København. I årene 1916-19 var han tilknyttet Konservatoriet som teorilærer og fra 1916 til sin død havde han sæde i dets direktion.

Blandt Carl Nielsens hovedværker skal nævnes de 6 symfonier, operaerne "Saul og David" og "Maskarade", koncerter for henholdsvis violin, fløjte og klarinet, kammer- og klavermusik og en lang række sange og salmer. Carl Nielsen udgav desuden erindringsbogen "Min fynske barndom" (1927) samt essaysamlingen "Levende Musik" (1925).

A short biography

The Danish composer Carl August Nielsen was born 9th June 1865 in a poor farm worker family in Sortelung outside Nørre Lyndelse, situated south of Odense. His father was a painter and made an extra income from playing as a fiddler, and at an early stage Carl Nielsen was sent out to work. As a boy he had violin lessons, and in a local music society he became familiar with classical orchestral music. In 1879 he became a member of the regimental band in Odense, where he learned to play the bugle and alto trombone. In 1884 he entered the *Conservatoire* in Copenhagen, where the violin was his main instrument. He obtained his diploma in 1886 and three years later secured a position as 2nd violinist in *The Royal Danish Orchestra*. Carl Nielsen had already made his mark as a composer with works including his op. 1, "Little Suite for Strings". In 1890 he was awarded a scholarship, *Det Anckerske Legat*, giving him the opportunity to study in Germany, France, and Italy. In Paris he met the two years older sculptor Anne Marie Brodersen whom he married during his stay there. In 1905 he resigned from his post in *The Royal Danish Orchestra*, and three years later he was appointed assistant conductor at *The Royal Theatre*, a position he retained until 1914. The following year he took over the position of conductor in the *Philharmonic Society* in Copenhagen. From 1916 to 1919 he was a teacher of theory at the Conservatoire, and from 1916 until his death he was on its board of directors.

Among the principal works of Carl Nielsen are the 6 symphonies, the operas "Saul og David", and "Maskarade", concerts for violin, flute, and clarinet respectively, chamber and piano music and many songs and hymns. In addition Carl Nielsen published the book of memories "Min fynske barndom"(1927), and the essays "Levende Musik" (1925).