

The Popes During Bruckner's Lifetime

- Gregory XVI.** (September 18, 1765—June 1, 1846) Pope 1831 – 1846. Born Bartolomeo Alberto Cappellari in Belluno, Italy, he was Vicar-general of the Camaldolese Order and prefect of the Propaganda prior to being elected Pope. He needed help from Austria to put down an insurgency in the Papal States. However, he recognized the independence of the United States of America and established ten dioceses there. [ChrPope p.s 216 – 217]
- Leo XII.** (August 22, 1760—February 10, 1829) Pope 1823 – 1829. Born Annibale Sermattei della Genga near Spoleto, Italy, to an aristocratic family, he was a papal nuncio in Bavaria prior to being elected Pope. [ChrPope p. 215] He was Pope during Bruckner's early infancy.
- Leo XIII.** (March 2, 1810—July 20, 1903) Pope 1878 – 1903. Born Gioacchino Vincenzo Pecci in Carpentino, Italy, he was papal nuncio to Belgium prior to being elected Pope. Known as “the workers' Pope,” he endorsed “democracy, workers' rights and trades' unions” but condemned “Socialism, Communism and Freemasonry.” [ChrPope p.s 220 – 221] He was Pope during most of Bruckner's time in Vienna.
- Pius VIII.** (November 20, 1761—November 30, 1830) Pope 1829 – 1830. Born Francesco Saverio Castiglione in Cingoli, Italy, he was bishop of Frascati prior to being elected pope. He decreed that the Church would bless marriages of mixed religion (e.g., a Catholic man and a Lutheran woman) “with reluctance and then only if their children were brought up as Catholics.” [ChrPope p.s 215 – 216] Of the Popes during Bruckner's lifetime, his papacy was the shortest.
- Pius IX.** (May 13, 1792—February 7, 1878) Pope 1846 – 1878. Born Giovanni Maria Mastai-Ferretti in Semigallia, Italy, he was Archbishop of Spoleto prior to being elected Pope. During his papacy, his power over Rome was greatly reduced and he was even exiled for a few months. In 1870 he issued the Decree of Papal Infallibility. [ChrPope p.s 218 – 219] Earlier, on December 8, 1854, Pius IX “proclaimed the doctrine of Mary's Immaculate Conception” [BrGA XVII/1 Nowak Rickett 1977] which prompted the Bishop of Linz to order the construction of a new cathedral in Linz and commission the composition of a festive cantata by Bruckner to dedicate the cornerstone. [K1999 p. 43]

Sources

P. G. Maxwell-Stuart, *Chronicle of the Popes: The Reign-by-Reign Record of the Papacy from St. Peter to the Present*, Thames and Hudson (1997).

Keith William Kinder, *The Wind and Wind-Chorus Music of Anton Bruckner*, Greenwood Press (1999).