

DANTE ALIGHIERI -

Italian poet. *1265 May 15/June 15? Firenze (I:)-†1321 Sep 13/14 Ravenna (I:).

In an illuminating passage *D* gives us a picture of what was probably contemporary [alternatim](#) practice involving the organ:

E quando fuor ne' cardini distorti
li spigoli di quella regge sacra,
che di metallo son sonanti e forti,
non ruggiò sì né si mostrò sì acra
Tarpëa, come tolto le fu il buono
Metello, per che poi rimase macra.
Io mi rivolsi attento al primo tuono,
e 'Te Deum laudamus' mi pareal40
udire in voce mista al dolce suono.
Tale imagine a punto mi rendea
ciò ch'io udiva, qual prender si suole
quando a cantar con organi si stea;
ch'or sì or no s'intendon le parole.

When in their sockets began to gride
The turning pivots of the sacred door,
Which are of strong and ringing bronze, they cried
Aloud - so loud Tarpeia did not roar,
Nor with such dreadful discord, when she found
The good Metellus gone, her wealth made poor.
Then, as I leaned, hearkening to that first sound,
Methought a voice sang, like some chorister's,
Te Deum Laudamus, sweetly interwound
With music; and its image in my ears
Left such an impression as one often catches
From songs sung to an organ, when one hears
The words sometimes and sometimes not, by snatches.

Ich horcht' aufmerksam hin, denn Stimmen sangen,
Und ein Tedeum schien mir, was man sang,
Zu welchem volle süße Tön' erklangen.
Denn das, was jetzt zu meinen Ohren drang
War, wie wenn zu Gesängen Orgeln gehen
Und wir vor ihrem vollen hellen Klang
Die Worte halb verstehn, bald nicht verstehen.

(Canto IX, Divina Commedia, Purgatorium)