
Sweet Power of Song

*Sweet power of song! That canst impart,
To lowland swain or mountaineers,
A gladness thrilling through the heart,
A joy so tender and so dear:
Sweet power!*

—Irish folksong,
elevated to musical poetry
by Ludwig van Beethoven

Dec 26—If one is preparing to fight a war, or even a major battle, it would be a fatal mistake to underestimate either the strength of one's adversary or the actual nature of the battlefield. Such is the challenge we face today. In truth, American culture, as well as that of the nations of the European Union, is careening further and further into a Dark Age, an age no less perverse, degraded, and irrational than that of the 6th or 7th centuries, or the years following the Black Death of the Fourteenth Century. It is not pessimistic to recognize the reality and the enormity of the problem confronting us. The truly fatal mistake would be to ignore this current state of affairs, to go about one's business with misguided blind optimism, or to assume that the population will respond rationally to proposed solutions for dealing with the current global breakdown crisis.

Given the existing state of the American population, particularly those between the ages of twenty and forty, it must be understood that reasoned dialogue and rational proposals to solve the urgent problems confronting society will fall on deaf ears, the deaf ears of a people which has been degraded, day-in and day-out, to the depths of what is portrayed in the *Satyricon* of Gaius Petronius.

To win the battle ahead, in this year of 2016, something greater, something far more profound, something which gets to the essence of the human identity is required to ignite a spark within the hearts and minds of the people.

Following on the heels of the two historic perfor-

mances of Handel's *Messiah*, presented by the Schiller Institute's New York City Community Chorus on Dec. 19th and 20th, 2015, *Executive Intelligence Review* is pleased to present the following package of articles by Theodore Andromidas, Marcia Baker, and Susan Bowen. These articles, taken as a whole, demonstrate that, at an earlier time, it was the power of Classical culture, and the recruitment and participation of ordinary Americans in that culture, especially in Classical musical composition and performance, which played a vital role in transforming growing numbers of people into better citizens, better human beings. In his article, Ted Andromidas makes the point that, in a certain, specific way, it was the participation of millions of Americans in the Federal Music Project which prepared them for the fight to defeat fascism.

The purpose of this package is not to evoke useless nostalgia for the past. Nor is it to present a formula on how to win our present fight. Rather, think of it this way. Most Americans today will not fight for anything truly important. They will argue, they will bitch and complain, but they won't stand up to authority and fight for the future of humanity. They are afraid. They lack courage. If you want people to fight, maybe, first, you should get them to stand up . . . and sing. Stand up and participate in a choral process. Perhaps hearing their own voices, raised in song as part of a Classical chorus celebrating that which is best in human nature, will give them the confidence and moral courage to stand up and fight for a better future.