

## A Musical Pick from Amy

May 14th – [Huldigung der Konigin Victoria von Grossbritannien, Waltzer, Op 103 \(Tribute to Queen Victoria of Great Britain by Johann Strauss\)](#)

The last Monday prior to the 25th of May is an annual holiday and Canada has observed this day since 1845 in honour of Queen Victoria's birthday. Taking an excerpt from *Friends of Chamber Music*, I provide the following trivia:

Queen Victoria's reign over Britain was a prolific era of cultural, industrial, and political change. As the second longest reigning monarch, her nearly-64 years as Queen saw great expansion of the British Empire.

The Queen herself was a musician. One of the many endearing traits that she and Prince Albert shared was a love of music. Both were pianists and singers, and it is said that the day after Victoria proposed to Albert, he serenaded her with his own compositions, and she sang back.

Sheet music accompanied them on their travels, and they attended nearly fifty concerts a year. Among Victoria's personal favourites were Felix Mendelssohn, Frédéric Chopin, and Johann Strauss.

Strauss became a household name in his time, after he was commissioned to write the music for the state ball celebrating Princess Victoria's accession to the throne. His sequence of waltzes for the occasion, *Huldigung der Konigin Victoria von Grossbritannien, Waltzer, Op 103* included the iconic phrases: "Cheer to the Queen – Victoria!", "Rule Britannia", and "God Save the Queen".

As we celebrate this long weekend, enjoy a spot o' tea and cucumber sandwiches. And may our prayers include "that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness: (I Timothy 2:1-2).