



クロード・ドビュッシー

Claude Achille Debussy (1862~1918)  
"Talented Bad Boys"

He was born in a poor family in the suburbs of Paris, France. He showed musical talent since childhood and entered the famous Paris Conservatoire at the age of 10. While at the conservatory, he often talked back to professors and was called a "brilliant bad boy" who seemed to be a problem child. When Debussy was 27 years old, he encountered Indonesian gamelan music at the Paris World's Fair and was attracted by its free form and sonic differences from classical music. Furthermore, you can hear "Japanism" in his songs, as he is a lover of Japanese art. It is said that the symphony "Sea" was influenced by Katsushika Hokusai's "Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji: The Great Wave off Kanagawa". Inspired by Asia and utilizing new technologies unfettered by tradition, he has released impressive songs to the world. He is known as the "Father of Modern Music" and has influenced many musicians such as Stravinsky, Gershwin, and Ryuichi Sakamoto. His songs such as "Children's Territory" give people the impression of a warm, gentle man who dotes on his daughters, but in fact, he is very careless with women and is called the "enemy of women." Behind the gentle and beautiful singing, there may be many women's tears hidden, just like a landscape painting.

Representative Works

- The Girl with the flaxen hair
- Clair de lune etc.



モーリス・ラヴェル

Joseph Maurice Ravel (1875~1937)  
"A magician of orchestration with a meticulous attention to detail"

Maurice Ravel was born to a Swiss inventor and entrepreneur father and a Basque mother, and he grew up under the influence of Spanish culture. Inspired by his music-loving father, he began learning the piano at the age of six and started studying composition at twelve. At the Paris Conservatoire, he studied composition under Gabriel Fauré, spending 14 years immersed in its environment, where he was influenced by young, revolutionary artists. In 1917, he was devastated by the death of his beloved mother, which sapped his creative energy. Though he moved between the homes of friends, at 46, he purchased a house in the countryside near Paris and began living alone. During this period, Ravel, inspired by Japonisme, created a Japanese-style garden with plants he had personally planted and adorned his home with numerous ukiyo-e prints, including works by Katsushika Hokusai. In 1928, he embarked on a highly successful four-month concert tour in the United States. Deeply impressed by jazz and African American spirituals, he resumed composing upon his return, producing his masterpiece Boléro. However, during this time, he began to suffer from memory and speech impairments. Toward the end of his life, a friend played his famous piece Pavane for a Dead Princess for him as he lay in his sickbed. Ravel reportedly remarked, "What a beautiful piece... I wonder who composed it?" He passed away at the age of 62.

Basque People: An ethnic group native to the border region of Spain and France.

Representative Work

- Jeux d'eau
- The Child and the Spells etc.

河口湖

音楽と森の美術館

Kawaguchiko Music Forest Museum

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ガブリエル・フォーレ

Gabriel Urbain Fauré (1845~1924)  
“Late Blooming Genius”

Fauré served as the director of the Paris Conservatory of Music, which produced many famous musicians, and reformed the conservatory's classicism. As a musician and educator, he contributed to the development of the French music world.

Born in the south of France in the department of Allier, the youngest of six children, Faure began playing the harmonium (reed organ) in the school's chapel at the age of four when his father was appointed head of the teacher's school. His talent was eventually recognized, and at the age of 9, he was admitted to the School of Classical and Religious Music in Paris. From 1861, he studied under Saint-Saëns and was exposed to the music of his time. Later, he and Saint-Saëns became lifelong friends, and their friendship transcended the boundaries of teacher and student. Ravel, a student of Fauré's, described Fauré as “modest and mild-mannered,” and some admirers spoke highly of his gentle nature and abundant talent. On the other hand, his delicate, elusive, and beautiful music was not easily understood by the public, let alone by specialists, and he had a low profile. It is said that even Liszt, who was proclaimed the wizard of the piano, found Fauré's piano sonatas “too difficult.” As he matured, his fame gradually spread, and he was awarded many honors and positions, and in 1910 he was decorated with France's highest order.

Representative Works

- After a Dream
- Requiem etc.



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