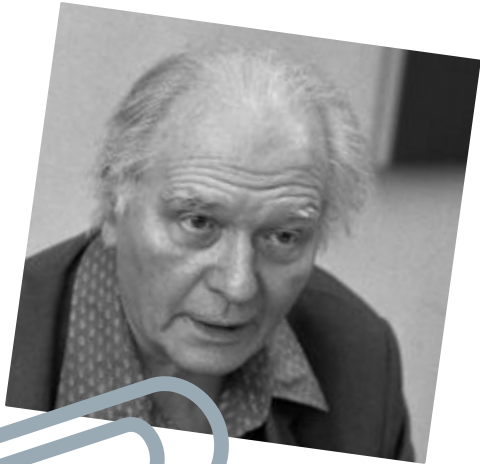


Olivier Messiaen

(aw-lee-VYEH mes-YAHN)

1908 – 1992



- Born near Avignon, France. His mother was a poet mother and his father was an English teacher.
- He taught himself the piano and began composing by age 7.
- He went to the Paris Conservatory at 11 where he studied piano, organ and composition. Later in his studies, he began an extensive study of Eastern rhythm, birdsong, and microtonal music.
- In 1931 he was appointed organist at the Church of the Sainte-Trinité, Paris, a position he kept for 60+ years.
- In 1936, he helped found the group “Young France” to promote new French music with other French composers.
- Messiaen was a devout Catholic and religion greatly influenced his music.
- In 1940, as a French soldier he was taken prisoner and kept at Görlitz, where he wrote Quartet for the End of Time.
- After his rescue, he was appointed professor of harmony at the Paris Conservatory, where He taught until retiring in 1978.
- Messiaen composed 21 orchestral works, 15 organ pieces, 30 piano pieces, 6 chamber pieces, 1 opera, 7 choral works, 7 vocal solos and 4 pieces for electronic instruments.



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