

Claude Debussy

(klawd deb-yoo-SEE)

1862 – 1918



- Debussy was born in the suburbs of Paris, France.
- He grew up in a poor family but he showed enough musical talent to be admitted at the age of ten to the Paris Conservatory. There, he studied piano, organ, harmony, and composition for the next 11 years.
- He is one of the composers responsible for the start of Impressionism in music. It was influenced by Impressionist painters like Monet.
- Debussy's music was greatly influenced by Russian and far-east music. He had his own style of harmony and orchestral coloring, which was very different from other composers at the time.
- His works have strongly influenced a wide range of composers including Béla Bartók, Olivier Messiaen, George Benjamin, and the jazz pianist and composer Bill Evans.
- Debussy composed 4 concertos, 9 orchestral works, 6 pieces for voice and orchestra, 19 stage works, 16 pieces for chamber ensemble, 34 solo piano works, 13 piano duets, 18 choral pieces and 67 pieces for voice and piano.



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