



Smithsonian Associates

A CELEBRATION OF FRENCH MUSIC

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

WK 4. SYLLABUS & WORKS

April 11: Modernism Smashes Old Idols

We begin by spotlighting the work of 19th century composer Louise Farrenc who is only now receiving the attention she deserves. We also explore the extraordinary gifts of Lili Boulanger, taken from us far too early. Then onwards to mover, shaker, and trouble-maker Jean Cocteau: "Enough of clouds, waves, aquariums, water sprites, and nocturnal scents; what we need is a music of the earth, everyday music." With those inflammatory words, he relegated Debussy to the musical history books and ushered in the reign of eccentric genius Erik Satie and his group of rambunctious protégés *Les Six*, who included Darius Milhaud, Germaine Tailleferre and Francis Poulenc. Delicious satire and irreverence will be also provided by Jacques Ibert. We cannot leave French music without a brief discussion of the great Olivier Messiaen, whose *Quartet for the End of Time* is a deeply moving 20th-century landmark. We finish by celebrating the mighty French organ tradition with Maurice Duruflé's *Veni Creator* and the fabulous *Toccata* by Charles-Marie Widor.

Works explored, media used:

Louise Farrenc (1804-1875)

Symphonie no. 3, Op. 36, Adagio – Allegro, 1847

- Insula Orchestra, Laurence Equilbey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EFQ5MRgJo>

Lili Boulanger (1893-1918): *Faust et Hélène*, 1913

- Lynn Dawson, soprano, Ann Murray, mezzo-soprano, Bonaventura Bottone, tenor, Jason Howard, baritone, BBC Philharmonic, Yan Pascal Tortelier.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BQgfSfMG4E>

Boulanger: *Pie Jesu*, 1918

- Alain Fauqueur – boy soprano, Lamoureux Concert Association Orchestra, Igor Markevitch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTp5sFaG1FM>

Jean Cocteau, Claude Samuel on Satie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WATQDqjAOUc>

Erik Satie (1866-1925): *Parade*, 1917

- Europa Danse, recreating Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, sets and costumes - Pablo Picasso, scenario - Jean Cocteau, choreography - Leonide Massine

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Chq1Ty0nyE&t=1s

Satie: *Entr'acte*, directed by René Clair, 1924

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufSZglhMbJE>

Darius Milhaud (1892-1974): *La Création du monde*, 1923

- The Presidents Own US Marine Band
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dpjs5wFx4-w>

Jacques Ibert (1890-1962): *Divertissement*, 1930

- WDR Symphony Orchestra, Cristian Măcelaru
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npZc5B3IPQ8>

Germaine Tailleferre (1892-1983): Sonata for Harp, 1953

- Anne-Sophie Bertrand
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jkeg3fSGaHk>

Francis Poulenc, 1899-1963: Sonata for Flute and Piano, 1957

- Jean- Pierre Rampal & Robert Veyron Lacroix
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OG0DafrYNdM>

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992): *Quatuor pour la fin du temps*, 1941

- Antje Weithaas – Violine, Sol Gabetta – Cello, Sabine Meyer – Clarinet,
Bertrand Chamayou - Piano
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAQmZvxVffY>

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986): *Veni Creator*, Op. 4, 1930

- Olivier Latry
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0Xc0OP_R3M

Charles-Marie Widor, (1844-1937): *Toccata*, from Symphony for Organ, no. 5, Op. 42, No. 1, 1879

- Kalevi Kiviniemi
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZDp8hw7xUE>