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Claude Debussy

(St. Germain-en-Laye, 1862–Paris, 1918)

Debussy's family called him Chilo, derived from his full name, Achille-Claude. He received free piano lessons from Mme. Mauté, the mother-in-law of Verlaine, until he was ready to enter the *Conservatoire*. He was poor and lived with his parents for many years. He was able to travel in summers as a chamber musician employed by Mme. von Meck, Tchaikovsky's patroness. Other episodes of Debussy's life are described in connection with individual songs in this volume.

Most of Debussy's *mélodies* appear in an admirable critical edition edited by James R. Briscoe (Milwaukee: Hal Leonard, 1993, two volumes). Many *mélodies* remain unpublished.

Erik Satie

(Hontfleur, 1866–Paris, 1925)

Satie's mother was Scottish, and his identity with the North led him to change his name from "Eric" to "Erik." He disliked the discipline of the *Conservatoire* and he tried military life, which he disliked even more. He earned his living playing the piano for cabaret singers, and he wrote many songs for them. His only known love affair was with painter Suzanne Valadon; the affair was stormy and lasted for six months.

From 1898 to his death Satie lived in a single room, which no one else ever entered. He lived in a working class suburb and regularly walked six miles (10 km.) to and from the cafés where he worked. He admired Chabrier and Debussy, and he influenced Poulenc, Milhaud and others of the next generation.

André Caplet

(Le Havre, 1878–Neuilly-sur-Seine, 1925)

Caplet was born on shipboard between Le Havre and Hontfleur. Coming from a poor family, he earned his way as a musician from age 11. He won the *Prix de Rome* in 1901. Debussy entrusted some of his works to Caplet to orchestrate and conduct. Caplet conducted the Boston Opera from 1910–1914. He volunteered to fight against Germany in World War I and continued to compose at the battle front. Poison gas damaged his health so that he could not conduct after the war, but he married and had one son.

Poldowski

(Brussels, 1880–London, 1932)

The single name Poldowski was the pen name of Irène Wieniawska /vjenjavska/, who was a daughter of the Polish violinist Henryk Wieniawsky. She studied in Brussels with F. A. Gevaert and in Paris with Vincent d'Indy. She married an English gentleman in 1902 and lived in London as Lady Irène Dean Paul, returning to Paris for periods of study. Poldowski's compositions are few but polished, using the techniques of her French contemporaries.

Below: "*Plaisir d'amour*," mm1–10, as it appeared in the first edition. In m7, notice the signs that show where to begin the repetition.

Romance du Chevrier dans Célestine, nouvelle de M^{lle} le Ch^{te} de Florian.

Première Romance

Delirioso

Plaisir d'amour ne dure qu'un mo-

La Jalousie

/la ʒaluziə/
Jealousy

Pauline Duchambge (1778–1858)
/pɔlinə dyʒãʒə/

õ ma di gar də twa de me
1. **On m'a dit: "Garde-toi d'aimer.**
One to-me-has said: "Guard-yourself from-loving,

sə lɥi ki sɔ ra tə ʃar me
2. **Celui qui saura te charmer**
the-one who will-know-how you to-charm

sə ra lə tur mɑ də ta vi
3. **Sera le tourment de ta vie.**
will-be the torment of your life.

i le mɛ mo sɛ dy bɔ nœr
4. **Il est même au sein du bonheur**
There is even in-the bosom of happiness

œ mal ki de vɔ rə lə kœr
5. **Un mal qui dévore le cœur,**
a bad-thing which devours the heart,

e sɔ mal sɛ la ʒa lu zi ə
6. **Et ce mal c'est la jalousie."**
and this bad-thing is – jealousy."

ɑ pø tɔ̃ le vi te ʒa mɛ
7. **Ah! peut-on l'éviter jamais?**
Ah! can-one it-avoid never?

il sy pli a mwa ʒə le mɛ
8. **Il supplia, moi je l'aimais...**
He begged, myself, I him-loved...

il sɛ tɑ̃ pa re də ma vi
9. **Il s'est emparé de ma vie,**
He took possession of my life,

mɛ lɛ ki ɛ tə mal gre mwa
10. **Mais inquiète malgré moi,**
but uneasy in-spite-of myself,

ʒə sɑ̃ dy tru blə də le frwa
11. **Je sens du trouble, de l'effroi.**
I feel some distress, some dread.

sə rɛ sɔ də la ʒa lu zi ə
12. **Serait-ce de la jalousie?**
Might-it-be – – jealousy?

ʒə vø kə sɔ ki nɛ pɑ mwa
13. **Je veux que ce qui n'est pas moi,**
I wish that this one-who is not me,

a mi nɛ gzi stə pɑ pur twa
14. **Ami, n'existe pas pour toi.**
friend, existed not for you.

sœ lə ʒə vø tu tə ta vi
15. **Seule je veux toute ta vie**
Only I wish [that] all your life

nad met pɑ zy no tra mɔ̃ sɔr
16. **N'admette pas une autre à mon sort—**
were-subject not an other-woman to my fate—

y no trə sɔ mo lɛ la mɔr
17. **Une autre... Ce mot est la mort!**
an other... this word is – death!

ɛ sɔ la də la ʒa lu zi ə
18. **Est-ce là de la jalousie?**
Is-it there – – jealousy?

mɛ zjø nə rə gar də kə twa
19. **Mes yeux ne regardent que toi,**
My eyes – look-at only you,

ma bu ʃə nə su ri ka twa
20. **Ma bouche ne sourit qu'à toi.**
my mouth – smiles only-at you.

də twa sœl mɔ̃ na mɛ rɑ̃ pli
21. **De toi seul mon âme est remplie,**
With you only my soul is filled-up,

ʒə dɔ nə rɛ mɛ ʒur pur twa
22. **Je donnerais mes jours pour toi...**
I would-give my days for you...

si ʒə sɥi ʒa lu zə də twa
23. **Si, je suis jalouse de toi;**
Yes, I am jealous for you;

la mu rɛ dɔ̃ la ʒa lu zi ə
24. **L'amour est donc la jalousie.**
Love is indeed – jealousy.