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Claude Debussy: Piano Music (1888-1905)

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This volume contains the complete music for solo piano written by Claude Debussy between 1888 and 1905. Beginning with Deux Arabesques (1888), it offers the Suite bergamasque (1890-1905), Rêverie (1890), Danse (1890), Ballade (1890), Pour le piano (1896-1901), D'un cahier d'esquisses (1903), Extampes (1903), Mazurka (1891), Valse romantique (1890), Masques (1904), L'Isle joyeuse (1904), and the first series of Images (1905): Reflets dans l'eau, Hommage à Rameau, and Mouvement. In each case the music has been reproduced photographically from original or early editions. This book has been designed to be used at the piano. Noteheads are large and clearly printed: margins and spaces are adequate for written notes, fingerings, and turnovers. It is also most useful, of course, for analysis or simply for listening along with the music.

I've had this edition for about 15 years, and physically it's held up very well. No tearing, binding is still strong, pages are as white as the day I got it. This is a generous sampling of Debussy’s piano music. Some pieces, like L’isle Joyeuse, are not easy listening, though none are as experimental as Debussy became later in life. That said, many pieces, notably the Arabesques and Suite Bergamasque, are pretty and accessible. Difficulty ranges from moderate (Reverie, Claire De Lune) to virtuosic (Reflets dans l’eau, Mouvement). The major downside for the pianist is that there are no fingerings at all.
I found Dover’s edition of Debussy’s piano works to suit my needs very well. I am a student pianist and carry my books around with me all over campus. Some have managed to live the stress of college, such as this edition....while others had to visit the "glue and tape" hospital. Not only is it sturdy, but the print is neither too small or too big and of good quality. My only complaint, is the lack of a commentary on Debussy and his works presented within the text.

I actually opted to buy this book as I had borrowed one owned by my piano teacher. As my sight reading is weak, what really appealed to me was that the notes and bars are very well spaced out and to me this makes the piece less intimidating to read. However I must point out that I find it a little disappointing that the quality of print is not consistent. A few pages, noticeably the first, suffer from slightly poor print quality. The treble clef in bar 5 is poorly printed and some of the quaver stems also suffer. The rest of the book is well printed. A small quibble other than which this is a really good book.

I remember this was the first volume of Dover piano music I ever bought, back when I was in high school in 1970 when it was first published. Then it cost exactly four dollars. I have played from it in all the years since then. The front cover long ago disappeared, but true to Dover’s standards of sewing the pages in with thread like the best books, the volume is still intact. This is a generous collection of Debussy’s earlier piano music, all from the original editions. A warning however, the original editions come with the original misprints, but most of these are obvious to the eye and ear.

I bought this book for a student of mine who enjoyed her first introduction to Debussy so much that I knew she would appreciate an entire volume of him, and I would enjoy going beyond Clair de Lune and the Arabesques. While I’ve only had the book for a bit over a year, it seems to be fine quality as the binding goes. The pages are plenty thick as well and the book has no problem staying open if you gently crease the pages. My student and her brother are both enjoying the decently challenging pieces in this book. Since I don’t know Debussy’s works well, my student and I have found a great companion to this music book to be the following little book which gives information on each of Debussy’s piano pieces and stylistic advice, written by someone who knew Debussy well: The Piano Works of Claude Debussy (Dover Books on Music).

I am a newbie learner, and have a great piano teacher that have supported my learning through working with original pieces. The fun that I am having is spurring me to collect from the of ‘Greats’
and their music. This is a great collection of Debussy, and the production is top-notch, and quality is great and also the print is easy to read and well spaced. The binding is good, but I tend to convert most of these books into spiral-bound for ease of placing it on the piano. For the price, I highly recommend this edition as a collection of Debussy’s music.

As a concert pianist and recording artist, I am always looking for economical, yet critical editions of composer’s works that stand the test of time. Dover’s edition of Claude Debussy: Piano Music, contains an excellent collection of Debussy’s most important works such as the Deux Arabesques, Reverie, Suite Bergamasque, Pour Le Piano, Images I, Estampes and more. The album is attractive, print large and easy to read, and no misleading editors markings. For those who love Debussy, also check out my new album: Piano Classics For Reflection available in digital download from . The album contains several of Debussy’s most beloved standards: Clair de Lune, Reverie, Pagodas from Estampes, La plus que lente, and the Epigraphes Antiques. Piano Classics for Reflection

Good price, good print, well bound, easy to turn pages, super selections including Clare de Lune and Arabesque in E Major, as well as a number of others of Debussy’s best compositions for piano. I find several of these pieces to be very much appreciated as communion music.

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