

Claude DEBUSSY

CENTENARY EDITION 2018

Children's Corner

Petite Suite pour Piano seul

- I. Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum
- II. Jimbo's Lullaby
- III. Serenade for the doll
- IV. The snow is dancing
- V. The little shepherd
- VI. A Cake-Walk for Tristan



Musical Health Warning : please be aware that these editions are definitely not urtext and should be consulted together with a traditional version. They have been devised purely to help solve musical and technical problems at the piano.

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Claude DEBUSSY 1862 - 1918

CHILDREN'S CORNER

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"À ma chère petite Chouchou, avec les tendres excuses de son Père pour ce qui va suivre." C. D.

"To my beloved little Chouchou, with tender apologies from her father for what follows,"

It is rare to encounter a dedicatee aged just three years and this *Petite Suite* was created for his daughter Emma-Claude or rather 'Chouchou'*, Debussy's only child suitably doted upon by her 43 year-old father. Although it was probably too soon to appreciate its cherished dedication for some time, "in Children's Corner we find elegant and supervised games, discreet archness, the charming gestures of a very young girl, a Parisian child already a coquette and a woman-to-be, and whose high spirits and imagination are discouraged by a strict nanny" — Cortot.

Debussy was an ardent anglophile, although apparently with a limited command of English.

Unlike a mere tourist he extended his passion to reading English novels (he loved Dickens) taking strong tea for breakfast and enjoying a glass of whisky. He also hired an English governess — Miss Gibbs — as nanny for his daughter, which might explain why most of these pieces were given titles in English.

The Franco-American pianist, E. Robert Schmitz enthusiastically wrote : *When Chouchou was still very young, her father would bring some delightful little toys. But then he would ponder over their real significance to the child; it was not merely toys he wanted to give Chouchou, but an incentive to Joy! And so he conceived that she could really derive joy from the toys when induced to make the little elephant walk and go to sleep, when she would have a serenade to play to her doll, when she would hear the little shepherd play*



1915 — picnic in a pine forest near Arcachon
with his daughter Chouchou aged 10

some tunes on his reed and dance, and when she would make the little black puppet dance a cake-walk, during which he would take those sublime and grotesque postures that only the greatest dancers, or articulated toys can perform. So came the inspiration to write the finest music to complete the make-believe universe of his beloved Chouchou; a music that would inspire her to play, to imbue her playthings with joy and life; it was a real labour of love, binding his consummate skill to the miniature music for his adored child... a gift of love and humility.

Composed between 1906 and 1908, the suite started life with *Serenade for the Doll*, originally promised to a former colleague, Octavie Carrier-Belleuse who was preparing a teaching method. The entire suite was first published by Durand in July 1908. As Cortot stated : *"There is no need to point out how well the pianistic artistry of*

"Children's Corner" corresponds to its subject. With minimum virtuosity and an exquisite attention to nuance and colour, we discover fragile perfection equal to the finesse of its conception."

Somewhat similar in conception to Schumann's *Kinderszenen* and Tchaikovsky's *Album for the Young*, it is easier to appreciate these pieces in retrospect from adulthood, reflecting the wonder of childhood and Chouchou's early years. As

Hsing-Yin Ko perceptively observes : "Debussy's colourful writing is of a sparse texture and an innocent, spontaneous quality which stylistically embraces the genre to perfection."

The work was very successful and about 20,000 copies were printed in Debussy's lifetime. The first performance was given on 18th December 1908 at *le Cercle Musical de Paris* by Harold Bauer, a pianist appropriately from England.

* *Chou* — *une expression de tendresse* — a familiar name for a favourite child. Her mother Emma Bardac was an accomplished soprano and it is reported that her daughter sang with depth and maturity. She died tragically aged just 14 while recovering from diphtheria, only a year after her father succumbed to a debilitating cancer.

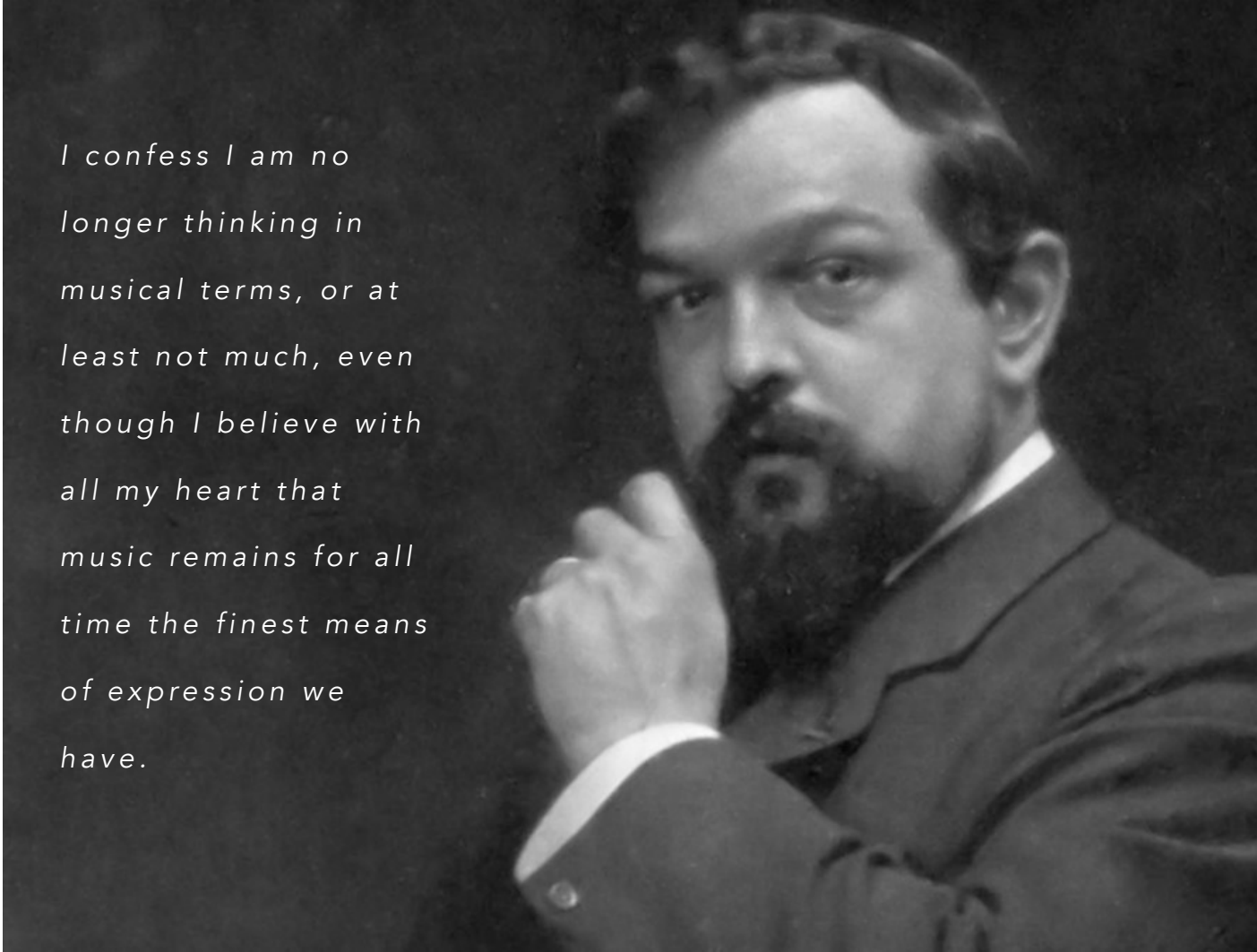
"I believe more and more that music in its essence is not a thing that can be poured into a rigorous and traditional mould. It is made of colours and rhythmical beats. Music is a mysterious mathematical process whose elements partake of infinity, capturing mysterious relations between nature and the imagination".

— **Claude Debussy**

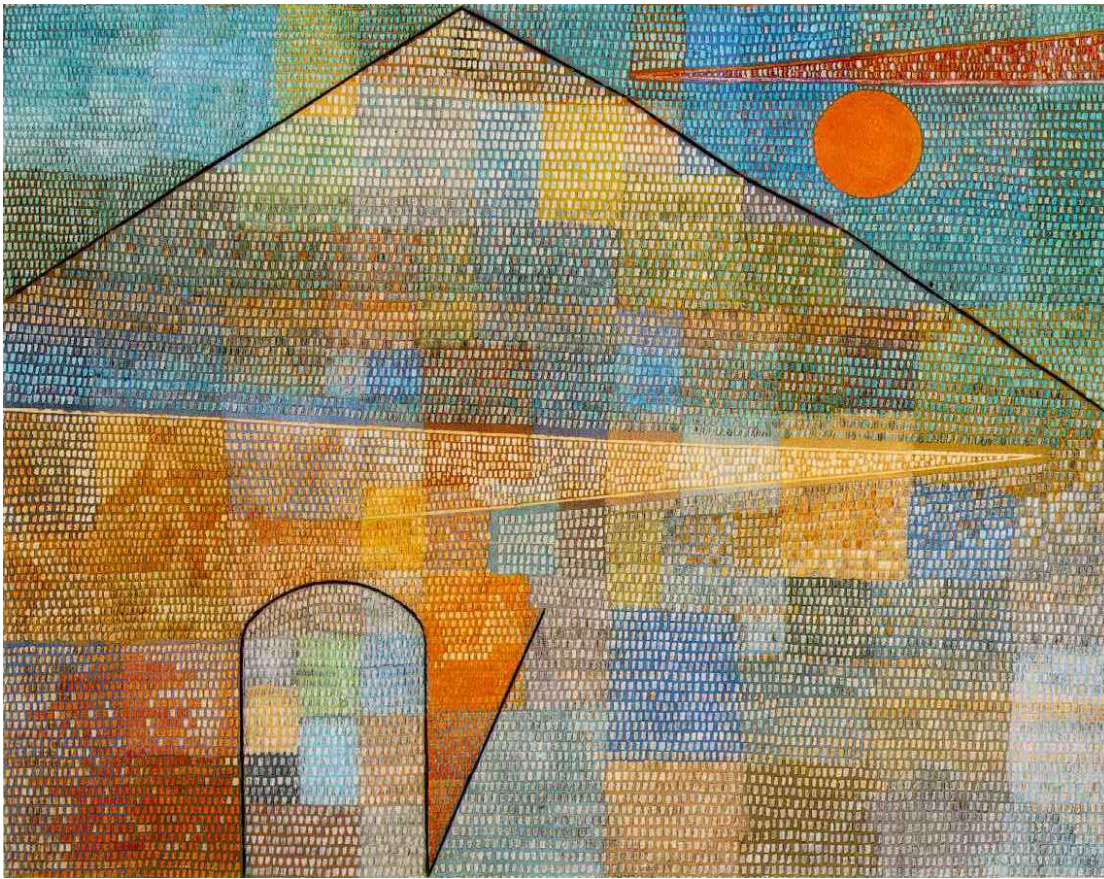
The strong influence of French piano music is surely identified with Chopin and Debussy who share a unique position as masters of an exceptional instrument; through an extensive affinity with the sustaining pedal they each created a personal language conceived to communicate their work with the greatest authenticity.

In addition to some suggested fingering, the introductions contain comments and a vocabulary. The composer has made a few rather charming mistakes in English which have been retained for sentimental reasons. Redistribution between the hands comes under close scrutiny to make certain passages easier or more persuasive. Debussy rarely uses the pedal sign preferring extended ties or long bass notes, impossible to hold otherwise.

Ray Alston March 2023



*I confess I am no
longer thinking in
musical terms, or at
least not much, even
though I believe with
all my heart that
music remains for all
time the finest means
of expression we
have.*



Paul Klee Ad Parnassum 1932

I. Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum

Oh how we have all suffered the youthful torment of practising Pischna, Hanon, Czerny or Clementi exercises! This particular version of the dreaded Doctor refers neither to Clementi nor Czerny, but proves to be a very charming and inventive opening piece for this exquisite suite, paving the way for a delightful world of fantasy, centred around Chouchou's toy collection.

The tempo indication was missing from the first proof, and Debussy wrote with tongue in cheek to his publisher: "*Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum* is a sort of hygienic and progressive gymnastic exercise; it should therefore be played every morning, before breakfast, beginning at *modéré* and working up to *animé*." The dedicatee was once heard to say, "Daddy wants me to play the piano, but he forbids me to make any noise".

Cortot writes : "From the very first bars, there is the charming vision of the child at the piano, and the slightly humorous tale of her frank, unequal and resigned struggle against the monotonous complications of the perfidious Muzio Clementi. What boredom, what unfathomable discouragement or what invincible need of distraction by a ray of sunlight, by a passing

fly, by a rose shedding its petals, is revealed by those brusque stops, those sulky slowings down. And towards the end, what an irresistible bound to movement, to games, to liberty at last recovered !"

Notes

- phrasing, dynamics and accentuation are not a strict copy of any edition
- **13** most pianists, including the composer, tie the E. However there is a curious *portamento* dot and I believe it is more convincing untied (as **15**)
- **33** & **37** the *sostenuto* pedal suggestion is entirely editorial
- **57** editorial time-signature modification

modérément animé	<i>fairly animated</i>
égal	<i>uniform</i>
sans sécheresse	<i>without monotony</i>
un peu retenu	<i>a little slower</i>
animez un peu	<i>a little more animated</i>
en animant peu à peu	<i>gradually more animated</i>
très animé	<i>very lively</i>

Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum

modérément animé

I

4 *p* égal et sans sécheresse

The first system of the piece is marked 'modérément animé'. It begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern, starting with a quarter rest followed by a series of eighth notes. The left hand plays a single eighth note followed by a half note. The tempo marking 'modérément animé' is written above the staff. The dynamic marking 'p' (piano) is written below the staff. The instruction 'égal et sans sécheresse' is written below the staff.

The second system continues the eighth-note pattern in the right hand. The left hand plays a single eighth note followed by a half note. The tempo marking 'modérément animé' is written above the staff. The dynamic marking 'p' (piano) is written below the staff. The instruction 'égal et sans sécheresse' is written below the staff.

The third system continues the eighth-note pattern in the right hand. The left hand plays a single eighth note followed by a half note. The tempo marking 'modérément animé' is written above the staff. The dynamic marking 'p' (piano) is written below the staff. The instruction 'égal et sans sécheresse' is written below the staff.

7 *pp*

The fourth system continues the eighth-note pattern in the right hand. The left hand plays a single eighth note followed by a half note. The tempo marking 'modérément animé' is written above the staff. The dynamic marking 'pp' (pianissimo) is written below the staff. The instruction 'égal et sans sécheresse' is written below the staff.

9

The fifth system continues the eighth-note pattern in the right hand. The left hand plays a single eighth note followed by a half note. The tempo marking 'modérément animé' is written above the staff. The dynamic marking 'pp' (pianissimo) is written below the staff. The instruction 'égal et sans sécheresse' is written below the staff.

11 *m.d.* *sf* *p* *sotto m.d.*

14

16 *p* *p*

18 *p* *p*

20 *più p* *un peu retenu* //

a tempo *p*

22

24 *m.s.* *m.s.*

26 *m.s. espressif*

28 *m.s.*

30 *m.s.* *m.d.*

[illegible]

animez un peu

pp

expressif

Sost. Ped

41

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system, starting at measure 41, features a treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a fermata over the final note of the first phrase. The bass line consists of whole notes, with a fermata over the final note of the first phrase. The second system continues the melody and bass line, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The score is written in a standard musical notation style, with a clear and legible layout.

[illegible]

47 *pp*

Measures 47 and 48. Treble clef: A series of eighth notes with dotted stems, grouped by a slur. Bass clef: A half note with a '2' above it, followed by a half note, and then a half note with a '1' above it. A slur connects the half note with '2' to the half note with '1'.

49

Measures 49 and 50. Treble clef: A series of eighth notes with dotted stems, grouped by a slur. Bass clef: A half note, followed by a half note, and then a half note. A slur connects the first two half notes.

51 *pp*

Measures 51 and 52. Bass clef: A series of eighth notes with dotted stems, grouped by a slur. A crescendo hairpin is placed above the first measure.

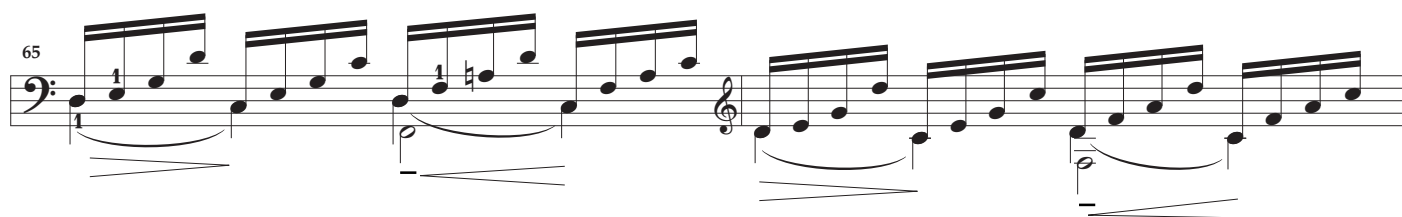
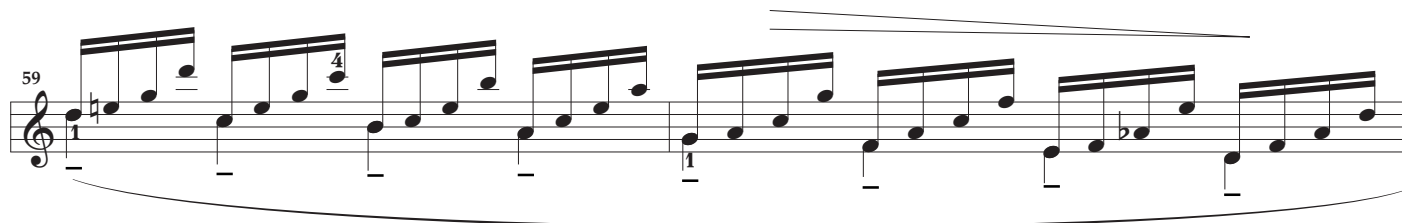
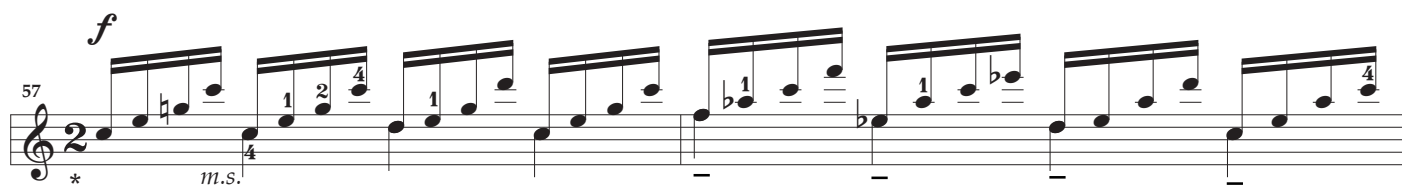
53

Measures 53 and 54. Bass clef: A series of eighth notes with dotted stems, grouped by a slur. A crescendo hairpin is placed above the first measure.

55 *m.d.*

Measures 55 and 56. Bass clef: A series of eighth notes with dotted stems, grouped by a slur. A crescendo hairpin is placed above the first measure. Treble clef: A series of eighth notes with dotted stems, grouped by a slur.

en animant peu à peu



très animé

System 1, measures 67-70. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. The left hand has a melodic line in measures 67-68 and then rests. Measure 67 is marked with a forte *f* dynamic. Measure 70 features a crescendo hairpin.

System 2, measures 69-72. The right hand continues the eighth-note pattern. The left hand has a melodic line in measures 69-70 and then rests. Measure 69 is marked with a forte *f* dynamic. Measure 72 features a crescendo hairpin.

System 3, measures 71-74. The right hand continues the eighth-note pattern. The left hand has a melodic line in measures 71-72 and then rests. Measure 71 is marked with a forte *f* dynamic. Measure 73 is marked with a *più f* dynamic. Measure 74 features a decrescendo hairpin.

System 4, measures 73-76. The right hand has a melodic line in measures 73-74 and then rests. The left hand has a melodic line in measures 75-76. Measure 73 is marked with a fortissimo *ff* dynamic. Measure 76 features a decrescendo hairpin.

2. Jimbo's Lullaby

A baby African elephant, born just about a year before the composer, indirectly became the inspiration for this “clumsy” lullaby. ‘*Jambo*’ in Swahili means ‘hello’, and so he was named, this jumbo-sized beast imported from the Abyssinian savannah to the *Jardin des Plantes* in Paris, the first to set foot in Europe. Thus for more than a hundred years its nickname has become synonymous with huge. There must have been thousands of velvet jumbos at that time, and one in particular was loved and nursed by Chouchou.

Debussy’s piece for this ‘*gauche*’ animal with gorgeous large ears, features some surprisingly delicate counterpoint, a French lullaby “*dodo l’enfant do*” and jungle dreams, stories around which the composer must have often weaved for his beloved daughter. As Cortot observed : “A very young *Scheherazade*

who pursues in waking moments that inner prodigious dream of childhood, more intense than reality, more captivating than fairy stories. Then is it the child or the puppet that falls asleep? Perhaps both.”

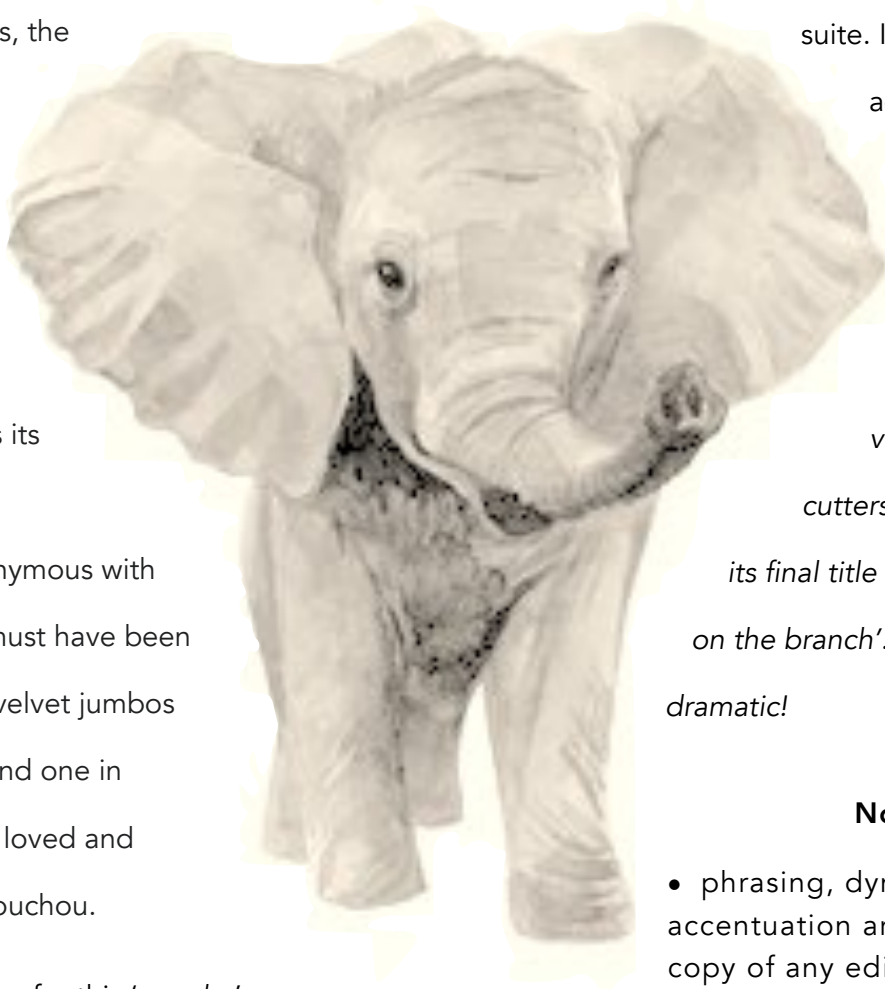
The lullaby shows much affection and humour — attributes that can be found throughout the

suite. In 1911 Debussy added: “*Chouchou* has just terminated her first symphonic poem for voice, two paper cutters, piano *ad libitum*; its final title is: ‘*The Elephant on the branch*’. It’s extremely dramatic!

Notes

- phrasing, dynamics and accentuation are not a strict copy of any edition
- **60** for greater clarity silently replay the thumb and 2nd finger

doux	<i>dolce</i>
un peu gauche	<i>a little awkward</i>
un peu en dehors	<i>a little in relief</i>
un peu plus mouvementé	<i>slightly faster tempo</i>
marqué	<i>marked</i>
retenu	<i>slower</i>
sans retarder	<i>without slowing down</i>



pp

p doux et un peu gauche

II

2 1 3 3 3

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The vocal line begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The melody starts on a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. It begins with a whole note G3, followed by a half note A3, and then a quarter note B3. The second system continues the vocal line with a half note C5, a quarter note D5, and a quarter note E5. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note C4, a quarter note D4, and a quarter note E4. The score is written on a five-line staff for each part, with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature.

[illegible]

un peu en dehors

19 *pp* *crescendo* *pp* *crescendo*

4 5 3 3 3

24

5 4 -5

This system contains measures 24 through 28. The right hand features a melodic line with a trill in measure 24, a descending eighth-note scale in measure 25, and a descending eighth-note scale with a trill in measure 26. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. Dynamics include *pp* and *ppp* markings.

29

pp

pp

pp

This system contains measures 29 through 32. The right hand has a melodic line with a trill in measure 29, a descending eighth-note scale in measure 30, and a descending eighth-note scale with a trill in measure 31. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. Dynamics include *pp* and *ppp* markings.

33

pp

marqué

pp

This system contains measures 33 through 35. The right hand has a melodic line with a trill in measure 33, a descending eighth-note scale in measure 34, and a descending eighth-note scale with a trill in measure 35. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. Dynamics include *pp* and *ppp* markings.

36

4

This system contains measures 36 through 39. The right hand has a melodic line with a trill in measure 36, a descending eighth-note scale in measure 37, and a descending eighth-note scale with a trill in measure 38. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. Dynamics include *pp* and *ppp* markings.

un peu plus mouvementé

Measures 39-42 of a musical score. Measure 39 starts with a bass clef and a key signature of two flats. The right hand has a five-measure rest (marked '5') and then plays a half note G4. The left hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. Measure 40 continues the eighth-note pattern in the left hand. Measure 41 has a half note G4 in the right hand and continues the eighth-note pattern in the left hand. Measure 42 has a half note G4 in the right hand and continues the eighth-note pattern in the left hand. The system ends with a double bar line.

Measures 43-46 of a musical score. Measure 43 starts with a bass clef and a key signature of two flats. The right hand has a five-measure rest (marked '5') and then plays a half note G4. The left hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. Measure 44 continues the eighth-note pattern in the left hand. Measure 45 has a half note G4 in the right hand and continues the eighth-note pattern in the left hand. Measure 46 has a half note G4 in the right hand and continues the eighth-note pattern in the left hand. The system ends with a double bar line.

Measures 47-50 of a musical score. Measure 47 starts with a bass clef and a key signature of two flats. The right hand has a five-measure rest (marked '5') and then plays a half note G4. The left hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. Measure 48 continues the eighth-note pattern in the left hand. Measure 49 has a half note G4 in the right hand and continues the eighth-note pattern in the left hand. Measure 50 has a half note G4 in the right hand and continues the eighth-note pattern in the left hand. The system ends with a double bar line.

Measures 51-54 of a musical score. Measure 51 starts with a bass clef and a key signature of two flats. The right hand has a four-measure rest (marked '4') and then plays a half note G4. The left hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. Measure 52 continues the eighth-note pattern in the left hand. Measure 53 has a half note G4 in the right hand and continues the eighth-note pattern in the left hand. Measure 54 has a half note G4 in the right hand and continues the eighth-note pattern in the left hand. The system ends with a double bar line.

53 *mf* *p* *Red.*

56 *p* *p*

retenu

59 *p m.d.* *più p*

tempo primo

63 *pp*

67

70 *pp*

- 5

74 sans retarder *sempre pp*

mor - en - do

78

8vb

3. Serenade of the Doll *

My second favourite from the suite and another of Chouchou's toys, a porcelain doll, possibly oriental, inspired this quaint composition. But who is her suitor? Serenades should be accompanied with plucked instruments and in this eastern scenario perhaps a *liuquin*** will excite the imagination of our young dedicatee.

Rather than a true vocal flirtation we have a descriptive scene in which chouchou's doll takes centre stage, listening to a quirky pentatonic theme in fourths combining simplicity and sophistication. The doll dances and at **65** the suitor, a soldier, joins in with a military snare drum episode in D flat. In truth much of this delightful music is neither oriental nor pentatonic.

The syncopated accompaniment and whimsical metre (noted with dotted barlines in this edition) reflect sublime and grotesque postures typical of articulated toys.

It has been suggested that this light and graceful miniature was possibly a trial run for *la Sérénade Interrompue*, from the first book of preludes

composed in the following year.

*"Il faudra mettre la pédale sourde pendant toute la durée de ce morceau, même aux endroits marqués d'un *f*"* — Debussy instructs that the entire piece should be played with the soft pedal, although I suggest ignoring this when practising as it will likely ruin a grand piano.

* Intended to form part of a colleague's piano method, *Serenade of the Doll*, was the first piece of the suite to be composed, when Chouchou was a mere baby of 4 months in 1906.

** Chinese mandolin



Notes

- *allegretto ma non troppo* is somewhat difficult to define, and as there are so many different tempo interpretations of this work I would suggest ♩ = 120-128
- editorial dashed barlines to show phrase length
- this edition features much hand swapping, keeping the theme always in the right hand
- **18** editorial tied G#

léger et gracieux	<i>light and graceful</i>
un peu en dehors	<i>a little in relief</i>
un peu retenu	<i>a little slower</i>
cédez	<i>slow down a little</i>
en animant un peu	<i>a little more animated</i>

Serenade of the Doll

* allegretto ma non troppo

un peu en dehors

III

sopra *léger et gracieux*

3 *pp* *m.s.*

*

3

un peu en dehors

7 *f* *pp* *simile*

sopra

11 *f* *p*

4

15

*

poco a poco crescendo

19

sotto

23

f

f

un peu retenu

27

p

a tempo

p

sotto

31

4

34

p

2

cédez

38 *più p*

a tempo

42 *pp*

44 *pp*
p *expressif*

48

en animant un peu

52 *p*

56 *p*

60 *pp* *a tempo*

64 *p*

68 *pp* *sf*

72 *pp* *sf*

76 *p* *sf* *diminuendo molto*

80 *p* *pp*

85

89 *f* *p [subito]* *più p*

93 *p espressif*

97 *p*

101 *p* *pp* *sf*

105 *p* *mf*

sempre legato

110 *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

114 *più p* *sempre legato* *pp*

m.s.

118 *più pp*

m.s.

Red.



Claude Monet
neige à Argenteuil 1874

undoubtedly creates the most challenging piece of the suite. Debussy suggested that we should imagine the piano as an instrument without hammers, striking the key in such a way so that the vibrations of the other notes would be heard 'quivering distantly in the air'. At **34** the seamless join from two to one-hand accompaniment is particularly difficult. To train the ear, try playing the LH part with two hands.

Roger Nichols : semiquavers passing between the hands is an idea borrowed from the '*danse silencieuse des gouttes de rosée*' (silent dance of the dewdrops) from Massenet's opera *Cendrillon* of 1899.

4. The snow is dancing

The garden beckons as we gaze upon a silent *tableau* harking back to the two books of *images* from 1903 and *le tombeau des naïades* (*Chansons de Bilitis*) 1899. This wistful but sombre scene of gently falling snow is my personal favourite from the suite.

Cortot : "a melancholy pleasure to follow with one's eyes, one's face pressed against the window of a warm room, the indolent fall of the flakes. But what has happened to the birds and the flowers? And when will the sun shine again?"

This chilly companion to the earlier *jardins sous la pluie* (*Estampes* 1903) is not easy to control as we must achieve the desired blend of *non-legato* and pedals for a 'blanketed' or 'muffled' sound (*estompé*). As the snowflakes swirl around in the wind, constant variation in the configuration

Notes

- although I dislike fixing tempos with the metronome I would suggest ♩ = 96
- smaller size notation is entirely editorial
- **22** a Gallic version of the English nursery song 'Ding Dong Bell' materialises unexpectedly out of the mist
- **35/36/46/49** modification of time-signature
- **25** E bass semibreve suggested from 29
- **37** editorial reverse arpeggiation

modérément animé	<i>fairly animated</i>
doux et estompé	<i>gentle and muted</i>
triste	<i>sad</i>
cédez un peu	<i>a little slower</i>
un peu en dehors	<i>a little in relief</i>
au mouvement	<i>a tempo</i>
léger mais marqué	<i>light but marked</i>
sans retenir	<i>without slowing down</i>

At **51** — an imaginative transitional section similar to *poissons d'or* and *la danse de Puck*. I always found the anticipated tonic a little unfortunate and musingly searched for an alternative progression :



The snow is dancing

modérément animé

IV

pp doux et estompé

p simile

4

7

10

13

mp

16

più p

mp

più p

The musical score is written for a piano and features a single melodic line in the right hand. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece is marked 'modérément animé'. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 4, 7, 10, 13, and 16 indicated at the start of their respective staves. Dynamics include 'pp' (pianissimo) with the instruction 'doux et estompé', 'p' (piano) with the instruction 'simile', and 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and fingerings. A repeat sign is present at the end of the piece. The left hand part begins at measure 16, featuring a simple accompaniment pattern.

19 *mp*

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef, and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The music begins with a measure of whole rests, followed by a series of eighth-note chords. The lower staff features a melodic line with eighth notes and a bass line with whole notes. The second system continues the piece, with the upper staff playing a series of eighth-note chords and the lower staff playing a melodic line with eighth notes and a bass line with whole notes. The piece concludes with a final measure of whole rests.

doux et triste

22 *p*

The musical score for measures 22-24 is in 3/4 time. The melody in the treble clef consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a long slur over measures 22-24. The bass line features a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

28

pp

31

pp

1 2 3

cédez un peu
p un peu en dehors

au mouvement

34 *pp* 6*

36 4 *sf* *legato* *pp*

39 *p* léger mais marqué 5 1 3 1

cédez un peu

42 *p* *sempre legato* 5 1 4 1

au mouvement

44 4 1 4 1

Measures 46-47. Measure 46 is marked with a 6/8 time signature and a 6-measure rest. Measure 47 begins with a 4-measure rest, followed by a series of eighth notes. The piece is in a key with three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor).

Measures 48-49. Measure 48 starts with a 4-measure rest, followed by a series of eighth notes. Measure 49 continues with eighth notes. Dynamics include *sf* (sforzando), *m.s.* (mezzo-soprano), and *f* (forte). The key signature remains three flats.

Measures 50-51. Measure 50 is marked with a 6-measure rest. Measure 51 begins with a 4-measure rest, followed by eighth notes. Dynamics include *f* (forte). The key signature remains three flats.

Measures 52-53. Measure 52 is marked with a 4-measure rest, followed by eighth notes. Measure 53 continues with eighth notes. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *più p* (more piano). The key signature changes to two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor).

Measures 54-55. Measure 54 is marked with a 4-measure rest, followed by eighth notes. Measure 55 continues with eighth notes. The key signature remains two flats.

più pp

55

58

61

sempre pp

sotto 3 sopra 3 sotto 3

sempre legato

64

molto *pp* e perdendo

67

ppp

pp

pp

(8va)-----

70

sans retenir



Henryk Hektor Siemiradzki

5. The little shepherd

The art of achieving much with so little !
Marguerite Long, a close friend of the family who first performed many of Debussy's piano works, heard *Chouchou* play this piece and stated that it was "a very moving experience, for she was so much like her father". This evocative fluted music is surely an appropriately simplified version of his highly successful *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*, composed some 12 years earlier.

The snow has vanished for an idyllic country scene, the backdrop for a shepherd's delicately improvised flute solo and charming dance motif.

Stephen Walsh : This simplest and sweetest of the six pieces, seems to derive some of its ideas,

especially the *plus mouvementé* dotted rhythm, from Rimsky Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, which Debussy had liked in the 1890s, then turned against after hearing it in 1906 ("more bazaar than oriental" he told his stepson, Raoul Bardac). The dotted rhythm had been recycled a few years earlier for *l'isle joyeuse*.

A gentle and bucolic contrast to the vibrant and urban Cake-Walk to follow.

très doux	<i>molto dolce</i>
délicatement expressif	<i>delicately expressive</i>
plus mouvementé	<i>quicker tempo</i>
au mouvement	<i>a tempo</i>
cédez	<i>slower</i>
un peu retenu	<i>poco ritenuto</i>
en conservant le rythme	<i>preserving the rhythm</i>

The little shepherd

très modéré

V

p très doux et délicatement expressif *mf* *p*

plus mouvementé

p

au mouvement

p *poco* *p*

cédez - - //

più p *pp* *ppp*

au mouvement

12 *p*

3

5

3

5

4

cédez

15

3

5

3

5

3

5

4

pp

ppp

au mouvement
un poco più forte

19

3

5

3

5

3

plus mouvementé

poco animato

21

3

5

3

5

3

5

4

p

3

23

mf

p

25

p

più p

un peu retenu
(en conservant le rythme)

27

pp

pp

p

cédez - - - - //

29

pp

ppp

6. A Cake-Walk for Tristan*

During the Paris Exposition of 1900 the Sousa Band caused a cake-walk** craze — celebrating the 4th of July, they played at the dedication of the American Pavilion and paraded triumphant through *les boulevards de Paris*. Debussy was smitten, calling Sousa 'the king of American music' and praising the cake-walk as their best invention. By 1912 he had composed four works inspired by music of the New World***.

Over the years Debussy had a love-hate relationship with Wagner and the cake-walk offered him an outrageous opportunity to simultaneously ridicule *Tristan und Isolde* and round off this wonderful suite with its most dazzling number.

Among her motley collection of dolls, Chouchou was the proud owner of a black minstrel****, capable of much humour and a variety of creative dance steps, grotesque postures and acrobatics, wittily mimicked by her adoring father with novel harmony and syncopation, abrupt stops, accents and dynamic contrast. In the central section Tristan's love-death *leitmotif* is satirically marked *avec une grande émotion* (with great feeling) and often interrupted by the derisive strumming of a banjo. You might also spot quotations from a Grenadier Guard's march with bass drum and cymbals, which the composer had heard in London.

Quoting Stephen Walsh "... pure fun and, in the middle section, at Tristan and Isolde's expense. Darius Milhaud in his younger, more strait-laced days was, he later admitted, shocked at such an introduction of 'vulgar' music into the 'serious' repertoire; indeed during the first performance by Harold Bauer in December 1908, Debussy was found pacing nervously outside the hall, anxiously chain smoking, in case Wagnerophiles in the audience might take offence. After it was over, Bauer reassured him that the audience had indeed laughed in the right places, and saw a look of relief

flood through a composer often described by his friends as '*un grand enfant*'.

Here is Debussy writing as *Monsieur Croche* after a particularly scathing attack on *Parsifal*: "All of the above concerns only Wagner the poet and not the musical beauty of the opera, which is supreme. It is incomparable and bewildering, noble and strong. *Parsifal* is one of the loveliest monuments to sound

ever raised to the serene glory of music."

* renamed reflecting current anti-racist opinion and prejudice

** a pre-ragtime dance or strut, and for the performer with the most elaborate steps, a small prize "taking the cake". This new music had much influence on Western artistic expression, particularly in the *Fauvist* and *Cubist* movements, signalling the transition from traditional to modern art.

*** *Golliwogg's Cake-Walk, le petit nigar, Minstrels* and "*General Lavine*" — *Eccentric*

**** a golliwog, a stuffed black doll with red pants, red bow ties and wild hair, reminiscent of the blackface minstrel shows. Now a

justifiably reviled racist caricature, they were all the rage partly due to the popular novels of Florence Kate Upton.



Jean COCTEAU
les concours de cake-walk 1935

Notes

- as with ragtime it should not be played too fast — I suggest ♩ = 94 and for the middle section ♩ = 88
- **63** (and similar) originally minims
- **113** RH crotchet originally a minim — RH final quaver added octave as **33**

très net et très sec	<i>very clean and very dry</i>
un peu moins vite	<i>a little slower</i>
cédez	<i>slow down</i>
avec une grande émotion	<i>with great emotion</i>
retenez	<i>slow down</i>
toujours retenu	<i>continue slowing down</i>

A Cake-Walk for Tristan

* allegro giusto

VI

f *3* *4* *f* *5* *più f*

f *p* *f* *p* *pp*

très net et très sec *mf* *p* *sffz*

p *f* *molto* *sffz*

5 10 14 18

22 *p* *f* *ff* *m.s.*

This system contains measures 22 through 25. Measure 22 begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass and a quarter note in the treble. Measure 23 continues the piano texture. Measure 24 introduces a forte (*f*) dynamic with a triplet of eighth notes in the bass and a quarter note in the treble. Measure 25 features a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic with a triplet of eighth notes in the bass and a quarter note in the treble. A melisma (*m.s.*) is indicated above the final measure.

26 *p* *p* *m.s.*

This system contains measures 26 through 29. Measure 26 begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass and a quarter note in the treble. Measure 27 continues the piano texture. Measure 28 features a piano (*p*) dynamic with a triplet of eighth notes in the bass and a quarter note in the treble. Measure 29 features a melisma (*m.s.*) indicated above the final measure.

30 *p* *più p* *f* *ff* *m.s.*

This system contains measures 30 through 33. Measure 30 begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass and a quarter note in the treble. Measure 31 continues the piano texture. Measure 32 features a piano (*p*) dynamic with a triplet of eighth notes in the bass and a quarter note in the treble. Measure 33 features a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic with a triplet of eighth notes in the bass and a quarter note in the treble. A melisma (*m.s.*) is indicated above the final measure.

34 *p* *p* *m.s.*

This system contains measures 34 through 37. Measure 34 begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass and a quarter note in the treble. Measure 35 continues the piano texture. Measure 36 features a piano (*p*) dynamic with a triplet of eighth notes in the bass and a quarter note in the treble. Measure 37 features a melisma (*m.s.*) indicated above the final measure.

38 *f* *f* *m.s.*

This system contains measures 38 through 41. Measure 38 begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass and a quarter note in the treble. Measure 39 continues the forte texture. Measure 40 features a forte (*f*) dynamic with a triplet of eighth notes in the bass and a quarter note in the treble. Measure 41 features a melisma (*m.s.*) indicated above the final measure.

41 *p* *più p*

un peu moins vite

47 *pp*

51 *p*

55 *pp*

cédez
avec une grande émotion

59

a tempo

cédez

Musical score for measures 63-66. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). Measure 63 starts with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The bass clef has a 4/4 time signature. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo) and *p* (piano). A fermata is present over measure 64. Measure 66 ends with a 2/4 time signature. A small asterisk is located below the bass clef staff.

a tempo

cédez

Musical score for measures 67-70. The key signature has three flats. Measure 67 starts with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The bass clef has a 4/4 time signature. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo), *m.s.* (mezzo-soprano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *f* (forte). A fermata is present over measure 69.

a tempo

cédez

Musical score for measures 71-74. The key signature has three flats. Measure 71 starts with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The bass clef has a 4/4 time signature. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo). A fermata is present over measure 73.

a tempo

cédez

a tempo

Musical score for measures 75-78. The key signature has three flats. Measure 75 starts with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The bass clef has a 4/4 time signature. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo) and *p* (piano). A fermata is present over measure 77.

79

m.s. *f* *ff* *f* *m.s.*

83

p

87

retenez *pp* *più p* toujours retenu - - - - //

92

tempo primo *sfz* *p*

96 *f* *molto* *f*

Measures 96-99. Treble clef: measures 96-97 have a half note G4, a half note A4, and a half note B4. Measures 98-99 have a half note C5, a half note B4, and a half note A4. Bass clef: measures 96-97 have a half note F3, a half note E3, and a half note D3. Measures 98-99 have a half note C3, a half note B2, and a half note A2. Fingering: 4, 1, 3, 2, 1 in measure 96; 1, 3, 1 in measure 97; 3, 1 in measure 98; 1 in measure 99. Dynamics: *f* at measure 96, *molto* at measure 97, *f* at measure 98. Accents: > on G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2.

100 *sfz* *p*

Measures 100-103. Treble clef: measures 100-101 have a half note G4, a half note A4, and a half note B4. Measures 102-103 have a half note C5, a half note B4, and a half note A4. Bass clef: measures 100-101 have a half note F3, a half note E3, and a half note D3. Measures 102-103 have a half note C3, a half note B2, and a half note A2. Fingering: 1, 2 in measure 100; 3, 4 in measure 101; 1, 2, 3, 4 in measure 102; 1, 2, 3, 4 in measure 103. Dynamics: *sfz* at measure 100, *p* at measure 101. Accents: > on G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2.

104 *f* *ff* *p*

Measures 104-107. Treble clef: measures 104-105 have a half note G4, a half note A4, and a half note B4. Measures 106-107 have a half note C5, a half note B4, and a half note A4. Bass clef: measures 104-105 have a half note F3, a half note E3, and a half note D3. Measures 106-107 have a half note C3, a half note B2, and a half note A2. Fingering: 1, 2 in measure 104; 2, 3 in measure 105; 1, 2, 3, 4 in measure 106; 1, 2, 3, 4 in measure 107. Dynamics: *f* at measure 104, *ff* at measure 105, *p* at measure 106. Accents: ^ on G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2.

108 *p* *m.s.* *p*

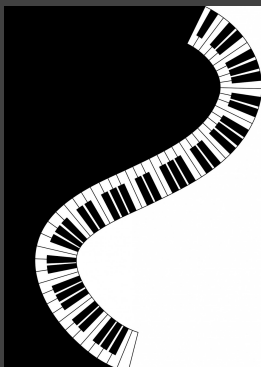
Measures 108-111. Treble clef: measures 108-109 have a half note G4, a half note A4, and a half note B4. Measures 110-111 have a half note C5, a half note B4, and a half note A4. Bass clef: measures 108-109 have a half note F3, a half note E3, and a half note D3. Measures 110-111 have a half note C3, a half note B2, and a half note A2. Fingering: 4 in measure 108; 3 in measure 109; 4 in measure 110; 3 in measure 111. Dynamics: *p* at measure 108, *m.s.* at measure 109, *p* at measure 110. Accents: > on G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2.

System 1, measures 112-115. The piece is in B-flat major (two flats). Measure 112 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic in the bass clef, featuring a long, sustained chord in the right hand and a moving line in the left. Measure 113 introduces a forte (*f*) dynamic in the right hand with a melodic line marked *m.d.* (moderato). Measure 114 continues with piano (*p*) in the right hand. Measure 115 shows a final chord in the right hand. A first ending bracket is present in the left hand of measure 113.

System 2, measures 116-119. Measures 116-117 are in the treble clef with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measures 118-119 are in the bass clef with a forte (*f*) dynamic, featuring a melodic line with accents and a crescendo leading to a final note marked with a lambda symbol (Λ).

System 3, measures 120-124. Measures 120-121 are in the treble clef, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a crescendo. Measures 122-124 are in the bass clef with a piano (*p*) dynamic, featuring a melodic line with accents and a crescendo leading to a final note marked with a lambda symbol (Λ).

System 4, measures 125-128. Measures 125-126 are in the bass clef with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measures 127-128 are in the treble clef, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a crescendo, followed by a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The system concludes with a first ending bracket in the left hand.



D E B U S S Y
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