The Curious REPort

An inside look at A Paris Love Story

LIVE FROM FLORENCE
NOVEMBER 22 AT 5 PM PACIFIC

HERSHEY FELDER

A PARIS LOVE STORY

FEATURING THE MUSIC OF CLAUDE DEBUSSY

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY HERSHEY FELDER
DIRECTED BY TREVOR HAY

Why We're Excited, Interesting Tidbits, Thought-Provoking Articles and More!

For Tickets

619.544.1000
sdrep.org
Discounts available for students, seniors & military

TABLE OF CONTENTS

This In-Depth Guide was prepared by Maya Greenfield-Thong and Literary Manager Danielle Ward.

*Show art by Studio Conover. Layout and design by Sherisa Oie.*

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT...

We are excited about...being able to bring virtuoso Hershey Felder, live, directly into your living room!

This unprecedented world-wide health crisis has shifted or delayed many live theater events. But, we are grateful that Hershey Felder has a skilled production team to help film various live performances with a post-show conversation answering your questions from his home in Italy. On November 22, Felder will take you on his own personal journey while exploring the life and music of Impressionist composer Claude Debussy.
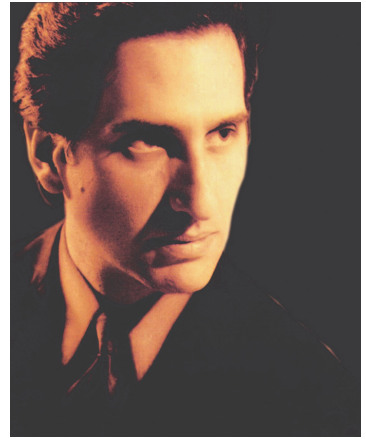
For decades Felder's "Great Composer Series" has celebrated the brilliance of Beethoven, Berlin, Tchaikovsky, Chopin, and more. In this latest performance, he brings to life a visionary who proclaimed nature his religion and romance his milieu, creating music of ravishing beauty, color, and compassion. From the sweeping La mer to the evocative L'après-midi d'un faune and the mystical Clair de lune, this soaring tribute will never be forgotten.

This piece also offers a unique perspective into Hershey's own family. It is a rare and beautiful thing to see the maestro shed the skin of the classical masters to share about his own personal connections to Paris and to the music he is able to get inside of. You are in for a treat. From established Hershey fans and those who have yet to experience his mastery, prepare for an emotional journey.

We are also thrilled to let you know that you can look forward to other live online offerings such as Before Fiddler and Anna and Sergei in 2021 as well. Stay tuned!

Danielle Ward
San Diego REP Associate Artistic Director and Literary Manager

San Diego Repertory Theatre produces intimate, provocative, inclusive theatre. We promote an interconnected community through vivid works that nourish progressive political and social values and celebrates the multiple voices of our region. San Diego Repertory Theatre feeds the curious soul.

INTERESTING TIDBITS
Did you know...

What's in a name?

Debussy
Phonetic pronunciation:
Klode Duh-bew-SEE (debyo͞o'sē)

Originally born Achille Claude Debussy, in 1890 Debussy dropped his first name "Achille," which is the French/Italian form of "Achilles."

Claire De Lune

"Clair De Lune" or "Moonlight" in English was originally titled "Promenade Sentimentale." The third movement of "Suite Bergamasque," it is inspired by a poem, written by French poet Paul Verlaine.

Cellmates

Debussy's career was kick-started by his father's imprisonment. While Manuel-Achille Debussy was in prison for his role in the 1871 uprising in Paris, he met Charles de Sivry. Sivry's mother —Madame Mauté de Fleurville—was a talented pianist who eventually became Debussy's mentor.

Excerpt from "Clair de lune", the third movement of the Suite bergamasque. Public Domain

Monsieur Croche

Debussy wasn't just a composer, he was also a music critic for La Revue Blanche, a French art and literary magazine. Under the name Monsieur Croche—a croche being an eighth note in French, but also meaning "old crotchety one"—he left scathing reviews for composers, conductors, and even audience members!

The City of Love

The name "Paris" is derived from its early inhabitants, the Celtic Parisii tribe.

Photo by Alina Grubnyak on Unsplash

#1 Who Was Debussy?

By Maya Greenfield-Thong

JDebussy was born on August 22, 1862 to Manuel-Achille Debussy and his wife Victorine in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Seine-et-Oise, on the north-west fringes of Paris, France. His parents were poor, working-class people. His mother was a seamstress and his father was the owner of a failing china shop. In 1864, when Manuel was forced to sell his shop, the family relocated to Paris where they eventually settled into an apartment in the Rue Saint-Honoré in 1868.

In 1870, Debussy and part of his family escaped to Cannes in order to escape the Siege of Paris during the Franco-Prussian War. It was during his time in Cannes that Debussy's aunt paid for his first piano lessons with an Italian musician, Jean Cerutti. About a year later, he began taking lessons from Antoinette Mauté de Fleurville, a woman who claimed to have studied under Chopin (though that was never verified.)

Debussy's talents were quickly evident. In 1872, at age 10, he was admitted to the Conservatoire de Paris. For the next 11 years he worked under many musicians including Antoine François Marmontel, Albert Lavignac, Ernest Guiraud, Émile Durand, César Franck, and Louis-Albert Bourgault-Ducoudray. Though perhaps not the most attentive student—Debussy received an award for his performance as a soloist performing the first movement of Chopin's Second Piano Concerto at the Conservatoire's annual competition in 1874.

IThen, in 1879, with the help of one of his professors, Debussy was given a job as resident pianist at the Château de Chenonceau. His first
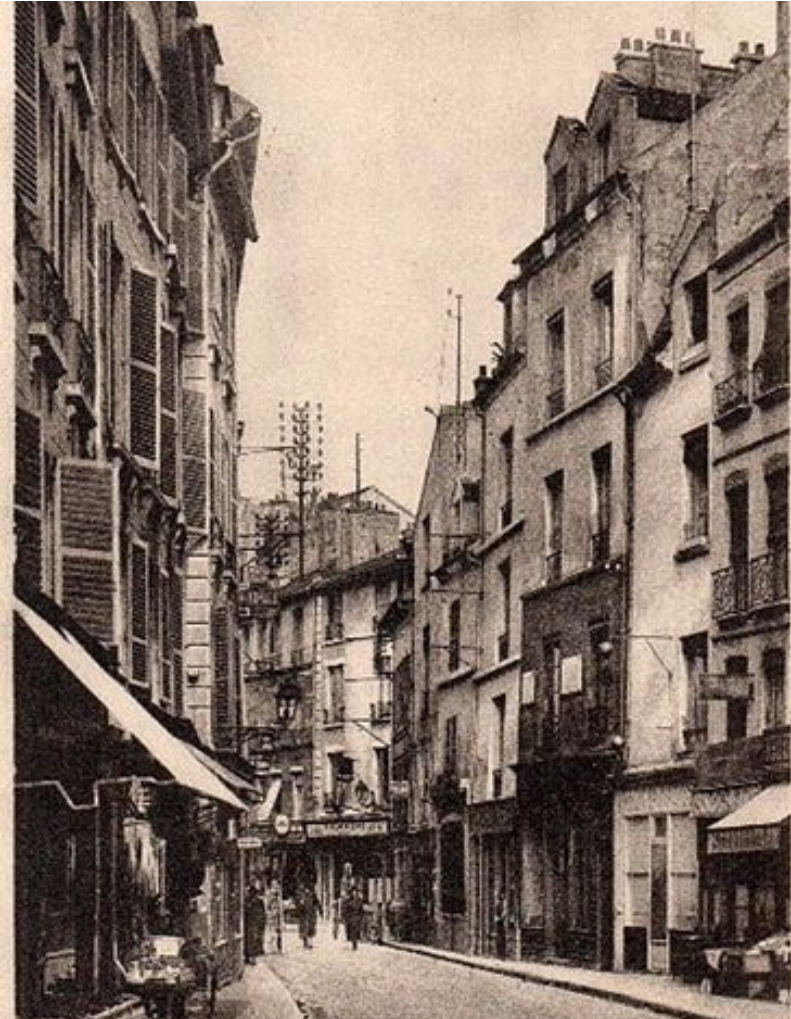
Postcard from c. 1920 showing the street and house in Saint-Gemain-en-Laye where Claude Debussy was born (in house on the right, topped with skylights and chimneys.) Public Domain.

compositions—"Ballade à la lune" and "Madrid, princesse des Espagnes"—were composed around this time, both inspired by poems by Alfred de Musset. The following year, he secured a job as pianist in the household of Nadezhda von Meck, the patroness of Tchaikovsky. Over the next two years, he traveled all over Europe with her, composing music and even transcribing a piano duet of three dances from Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake."

Article Adapted from
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claude_Debussy.

#2 Debussy's Other Creative Works

By Maya Greenfield-Thong

Opera

Pelléas et Mélisande was Debussy's only opera. Written in 5 acts, the libretto was adapted from Maurice Maeterlinck's play Pelléas et Mélisande. The show is about a love triangle between Price Golaud, prince of Allemonde; Mélisand, a mysterious woman that Golaud immediately marries; and Pelléas, Golaud's younger half-brother. In this story, after returning to the castle after the wedding, Mélisand and Pelléa grow very close to each other. Golaud becomes jealous and love, betrayal, loss, and death soon follow.

Originally, Debussy was not writing the opera for Pelléas et Mélisande, he had been writing Rodrigue et Chimène. But he had a hard time writing it and, according to correspondences he had with his friends, "[His] life is hardship and misery thanks to this opera. Everything about it is wrong for [him]." He eventually found the works of Maurice Maeterlinck, which led him to ask permission to work on Pelléas et Mélisand.

Mélodies

Debussy wrote many mélodies—otherwise known as a setting of a serious lyric poem for solo voice and piano that recognizably combined and unified the poetic and musical forms—alongside his opera and other compositions. Debussy was especially known for his gift for marrying text and music, his intimate knowledge of French poetry, diction, and language, all resulting in beautiful works such as his mélodie "Chansons de Bilitis" (1897.) "Clair de lune"—based on a poem of the same name—is one of Debussy's most famous mélodies, in the third movement of Suite bergamasque.

Poster for the prèmiere of Claude Debussy and Maurice Maeterlinck's Pelléas et Mélisande at the Théâtre de l'Opéra-Comique on 30 April 1902. This image comes from Gallica Digital Library and is available under the digital ID btv1b53187316m/f1

5

#3 The History and Layout of Paris

By Maya Greenfield-Thong

Paris is a very old city with a long history. What you see today: the tree lined Champs-Élysées, the sparkling buildings in La Défense (the business district), or even the iconic Eiffel Tower wasn't always there. In fact, the creation of today's layout of Paris can be broken down into five major expansions.

From Humble Beginnings

Paris began on an island in the middle of the Seine. Easily defendable and a source of fresh water, what is now known as Île de la Cité, was the perfect place for Celtic settlers to build a fortified settlement around 4200 BC. It remained an important stronghold and the only fortified stop along the Seine River for travelers until the Roman invasion in 52 BC. During this time, the city was built for defense, likely against enemies such as the Vikings and the Franks, the latter of which overthrew captured Paris in 486 AD.

Expansion I: The Early Days

Around 1200 AD, the Wall of Philip II Augustus was built. His wall defined the streets of "Old Paris," creating the original twelve arrondissements, which acted like districts or municipalities. In the following centuries—regardless of war, peace, or revolt—much of how Paris is laid out today was based off of the Wall of Philip II.

Expansion II: Royalty and Redefinition

In 1356, Paris was a bustling city. With technology advancing and many peasants living outside the protection of the original walls, King Charles V redefined Parisian boundaries and created new outposts, extending over the Right Bank. During this time, Charles V established the royal library at the Louvre—the fortress on top of which the Louvre Museum was built in the 18th century—which eventually becomes the National Library of France.

Over the next few centuries, Paris did not physically expand, though it did go through many changes. Notre-Dame Cathedral began its construction, Paris became a center of learning as the University of Paris was established, and the bubonic plague ravaged the city. In the 15th century, the renaissance began to take hold and renaissance architecture popped up all over the city. The clash between the Protestant and Catholic churches resulted in a bloody war within Paris' walls.
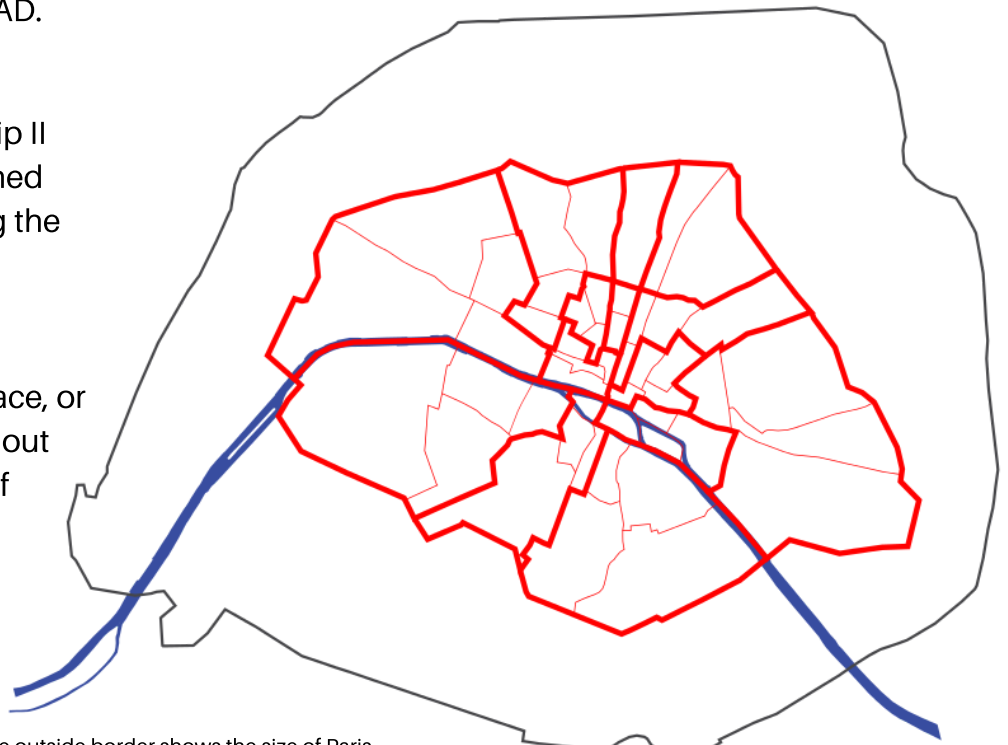
Map showing the arrondissements. The outside border shows the size of Paris after the expansion in 1860. Public Domain.

## Expansion III: Knocking it Down, Building Back Up

The next time Paris expanded was in 1636 with the Louis XIII Wall. It covered the western part of the right bank, though the city wall did not mark the real edge of the city (and stayed undefined until 1638). However, the wall didn't stand long. During the reign of King Louis XIV, the ruling power and royal residency was moved out of Paris and relocated to the Palace of Versailles. Before the turn of the century, Louis XIV replaced the Louis XIII Wall with boulevards lined with trees, declaring that walls were unnecessary as France was safe from attack.

About 100 years later, the Farmers-General Wall was built, expanding Paris so far out that it engulfed the village of Austerlitz (which was later incorporated into Paris in 1818). However, unlike walls built before, it was not built to defend Paris, but rather to enforce a tax on goods entering Paris. It was later largely destroyed during the building of the larger Thiers Wall in the mid1800s, which took in surrounding villages and farmland.

Expansion VI: War and Immigration

During the early 19th century, following the French Revolution and the destruction of the French Monarchy, Napoléon Bonaparte helped expand France's reach all over the world. This created the beginning of the Second French Colonial Empire. As the French empire continued to grow, immigrants began trickling into France. According to an article by Focus Migration on France:

"Immigrants were brought in as early as the 18th and 19th century because the process of industrialization, in conjunction with the fall in the birth rate, had resulted in a labor shortage. In this sense, France was an exception in Western Europe during this period. Most other industrialized states, including Germany, had higher birth rates and were primarily countries of emigration."
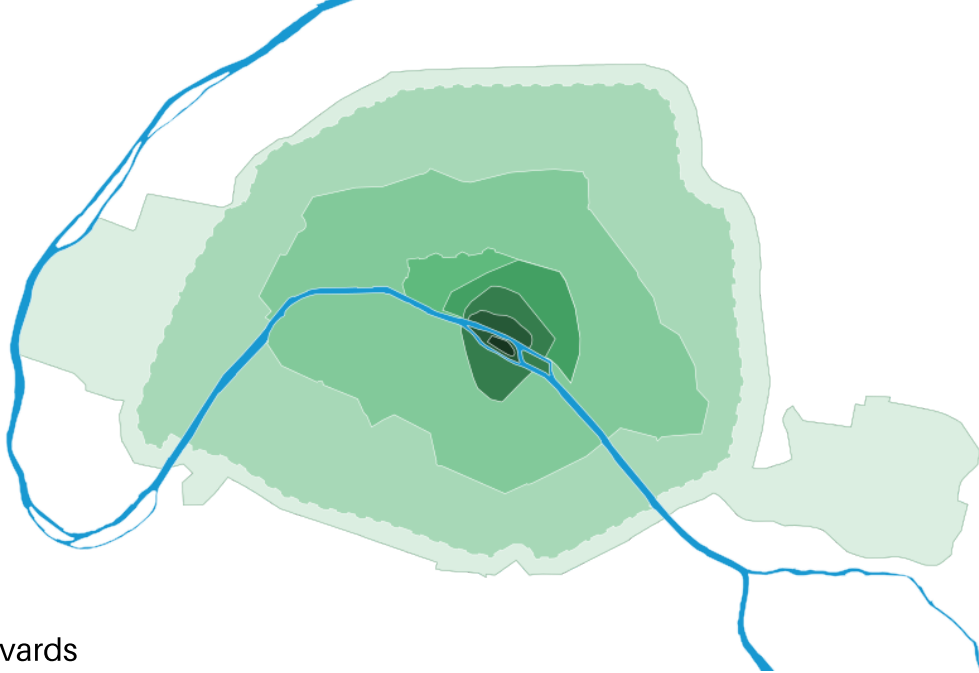
The city limits of Paris from the 4th century to 2015. Creative Commons License from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_city_limits_of_Paris_from_the_4th_century_to_2015.svg.

After WWII, immigration to France significantly increased. Not only was there a lack of labor for reconstruction after the war, but the French-colonial reign had begun to collapse all over the world. Many of the displaced ex-colonist refugees fled to France. Most settled into the South of France but those who came in later waves found that there were not many jobs left and started traveling North towards Paris. This massive flow of refugees helped create banlieues, or suburbs, just outside of Paris.

Expansion V: A Modern Era

Expansion didn't stop after the reconstruction of Paris was complete. With technology developing year by year, things still continued to change. In 1889, the iconic Eiffel Tower was built. (At the time many Parisians thought it was ugly.) Less than 10 years later, the first metro station began its construction. It was revealed in 1900. Over the next 100 years, Paris saw the creation of a commuter rail system (RER), a motorway, the building of La Défense (the business district), the opening of Disneyland: Paris, and a massive expansion of the metro. Though Paris has gone through much modernization, you can still see elements of its past everywhere you look.

The writer wishes to thank Jeremy Croman for providing historical background for this article.

#4 Other Love Stories Set in Paris

By Maya Greenfield-Thong

Movie poster for Paris, Je'Taime. Fair Use. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:ParisJetaimePoster_eng.jpg

Movie poster for Moulin Rouge. Fair Use. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Moulin_rouge_poster.jpg

Book Cover for P.S. From Paris. Fair Use. https://www.amazon.com/P-S-Paris-US-Marc-Levy/dp/1477820280
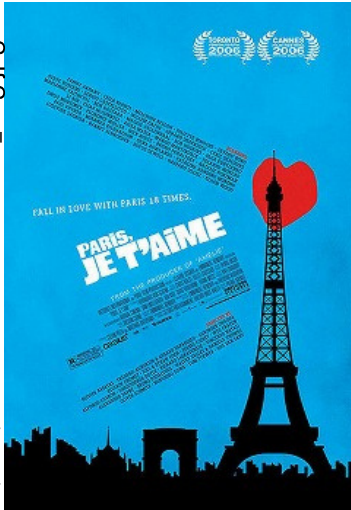
Paris, Je T'Aime

Paris, Je T'Aime is an anthology of 18 short films that are set in different arrondissements around Paris. While originally there were meant to be 20, (one for each arrondissePent of Paris,) two of the films couldn't be properly integrated and were thus left out.

While not every short film revolves around different types of love or romance, at least 3/4ths of the film discusses these topics. One such short is called, "Tour Eiffel." It focuses on a young boy telling the story of how his parents—both mime artists—fell in love while in prison. Another story—called "Quartier Latin"—Is about a couple who met at a bar for one last drink before they divorced.

Moulin Rouge

Directed by Baz Luhrmann, Moulin Rouge is a jukebox musical film about an English writer, Christian who moves to Paris after suffering from depression. This Oscar Winner for Best Art Direction and Best Costume Design, follows Christan's journey of trying to find his art while falling in love with Satine, a courtesan and star of the Moulin Rouge. Occasionally mashing them up with other songs, Moulin Rouge takes songs such as "Your Song" by Elton John, "Like A Virgin" by Madonna, or "Roxanne" by The Police. It was later adapted for the stage.

P.S. From Paris by Marc Levy

Written by Marc Levy, the most-read living French author in the world, P.S. From Paris is a love story about a famous actress and a best-selling writer. With her mega-star husband constantly sleeping around, Mia cuts her hair and runs to France to work at her best friend's restaurant. There she meets Paul, an American author, through a dating site. Though they try to stay "just friends," it seems that fate has something else in store for them.

The Hunchback of Notre-Dame by Victor Hugo
The Hunchback of Notre-Dame is a French Gothic novel by Victor Hugo published in 1831. Though it has had many adaptations, the most well-known of them all is the 1996 Disney animated film. It tells the tale of Quasimodo, the deformed bell-ringer of the Notre-Dame Cathedral, who becomes obsessed with a gypsy named Esmeralda. Unlike the animation, the original novel is much darker and sinister. It contains subjects pertaining to corporal punishment, humiliation, death and murder, jealousy, and suicide.

Les Misérables
The musical version of Les Misérables was adapted from Victor Hugo's 1862 novel of the same name by Claude-Michel Schönberg (music), Alain Boublil and Jean-Marc Natel (original French lyrics), and Herbert Kretzmer (English lyrics). It is the longest running musical in the West End, having run for 45 years since 1985. Taking place over a period of 17 years, it tells the story of Jean Valjean—a French peasant who spent 19 years in jail—and the many people that come into his life, including his adopted daughter Cosette and her love Marius.

#5 The Belle Époque

By Maya Greenfield-Thong

The Belle Époque, otherwise known as "The Beautiful Era" in English, was an important timeframe in France. Perfectly book-ended between the end of the Franco-Prussian War and the beginning of World War I, it lasted 43 years, between 1871 and 1914. During this time fashion, art, architecture, science, and technologically all advanced, resulting in rising standards of living for the upper and middle classes.

Economy:
France had been in a period of recovery after the war. The economy was not doing well and many company closures meant many had been laid off their jobs. However, during Belle Époque, Paris flourished and its economy rapidly expanded. By the start of WWI, Paris' population had risen from 1.85 million to almost 2.9 million residents, making it the most cosmopolitan city in Europe. This exponential rise in population gave way into a strange phenomenon: Paris became both the richest and poorest city in France. While 24% of the collective wealth in France lied in Paris, many of its citizens were living in poverty. According to the book Paris, Histoire D'une Ville by Bernard Marchland, 27% of Parisians were upper or middle class, while 73% were poor or living below the poverty line. Depending on what arrondissement you lived in, there could be up to 8 poor people for every single well-off resident.

Art and Entertainment:
During this beautiful era, theatre was on the rise. With the opening of the infamous Moulin Rouge, home of the Can-Can, cabarets gained popularity. Vaudeville, a type of comedy with music, and expressionism, a type of dark theatre focused on urban and feelings of the self, both became commonplace.

9

"Luxe, Calme et Volupté" ("Luxury, Calm and Pleasure") by [[Henri Matisse], 1904. Retrieved from [http://www.mcs.csuhayward.edu/~malek/Matisse/matisse26.jpg www.mcs.csuhayward.edu], 1 January 2008. Public Domain.

During this same era, the first cinématographe was patented by Léon Guillaume, used to make the first films. Soon after, the Lumière brothers patented their own version of the cinématographe to use in their filmmaking endeavors. They gave their first projected showing of a motion picture in 1895. The first cinema was open and, over the next years, more would follow.

Music such as operettas and salons—which were shorter, more accessible pieces of music—became popular right alongside solos for the violin, viola, and piano. During this time in Paris, many famous composers found their start, including: Stravinsky, Debussy, Boulanger, and Massenet.

During this time, Paris also became the hub of the world for painting. Some called it an artistic revolution. Many of the most famous artists to date—including Monet, Renoir, Degas, Picasso, Matisse, and Cezanne—came to Paris during this time to work or study. These high profile artists would birth and pave the way for both impressionism and cubism.

Science and Technology:
In terms of the transportation industry, the first Parisian cars were introduced during the Belle

Époque by Louis Renault. By the beginning of World War I, he owned the biggest car factory in all of France, creating everything from trucks to taxicabs. During this same time, Louis Blériot—who would eventually become the first man to fly across the English Channel—also established Blériot Aéronautique, the first French aviation company. The metro, tramway, and omnibus (otherwise known as a horse drawn bus) were all established in Paris during this time as well.

In the sciences, Louis Pasteur helped develop vaccines against anthrax (1881) and rabies (1885). He also created the method for pasteurization. These discoveries in the field were a helping factor to Paris' population growth. Paris was also home to the talented Marie and Pierre Curie. The two discovered radium and polonium, later Marie Curie would earn the Nobel Prize with her husband and scientist Henri Becquerel. She became the first woman to teach at the University of Paris.

Institut Lumière - CINEMATOGRAPHE Camera Creative Commons LIcense. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Institut_Lumi%C3%A8re_-_CINEMATOGRAPHE_Camera.jpg

The End Of Belle Époque
While many in the upper and middle class looked at The Belle Époque with fondness, just under the surface loomed many different systemic problems. There was unrest among the poor and working classes, imperialism reigned, brutally oppressing and whitewashing entire nations and political tensions skyrocketed between surrounding countries. Some of the advances in science and technology fed into a merciless arms race. Finally, in 1914, war broke out and ended The Belle Époque era in its tracks.

#6 Visual Art Impressionists

By Maya Greenfield-Thong

Debussy loved paintings and befriended painters. Yet, he wasn't a fan of his music being described as 'impressionist.'

When impressionism arrived in 19th century France, it marked a huge break from traditional European art. In painting this meant applying paint in small strokes, painting outdoors (to achieve certain lighting), and including research into the science behind color. Artists were then able to achieve a better representation of color, shade, and tone. Most impressionist work can be identified by vibrant, bold, and bright colors without much detail. Many impressionists focused on capturing fleeting moments. Some famous impressionist painters include: James Abbott McNeill Whistler, Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, and Édouard Manet.

James Abbott McNeill Whistler

An important artist of the Post-Impressionist movement, James Abbott McNeill Whistler was known for his innovative painting style. One of the first artists to shift from traditional to abstract art, he went by the motto: to create "art for art's sake." Whistler was also known for taking legal action against anyone who insulted his paintings or gave him a bad review.

In his later years, he began to re-title many of his earlier works using terms associated with music, such as a "nocturne," "symphony," "harmony," "study," or "arrangement." This helped emphasize the "tonal qualities" of his work, an important concept of his. Whistler's nocturnes—or paintings of night scenes—were among his most famous works.

La Classe de danse. The Ballet Class by Edgar Degas. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edgar_Degas_-_The_Ballet_Class_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg

Edgar Degas

"A picture is something that requires as much knavery, trickery and deceit as the perpetration of a crime." ~Edgar Degas

Edgar Degas was a French painter, sculptor, and printmaker who was celebrated for his impressionist images of Parisian life. Degas mainly painted people, especially women. Much of his work is filled with cabaret singers, prostitutes, ballet dancers, laundresses, and other female-dominant professions. Degas used a wide variety of media including oil, pastel, etching, monotype, wax mdeling, photography, and more
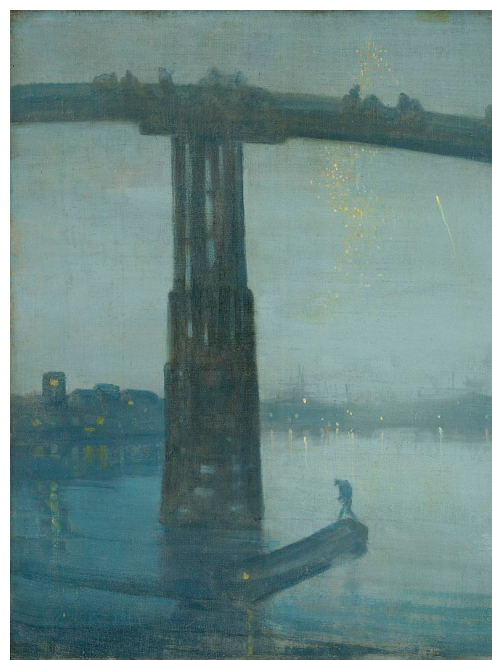
Nocturne: Blue and Gold - Old Battersea Bridge (1872) Whistler, James McNeill - The Yorck Project (2002) 10.000 Meisterwerke der Malerei (DVD-ROM), distributed by DIRECTMEDIA Publishing https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Abbott_McNeill_Whistler#/media/File:James_Abbot_McNeill_Whistler_006.jpg.

Claude Monet

French painter Claude Monet was one of the leading Impressionist artists of his time. Monet was interested in subtle changes in the atmosphere and often spent his time repeating studies of the same motif in series, changing canvases in different lighting. One such series was based around a water-lily pond at his home in Germany. He gained popularity in the mid to late 20th century after multiple museum exhibitions that attracted big crowds.

Édouard Manet

Édouard Manet was a French painter who influenced the development of impressionism. He painted everyday objects as well as subjects from current events. His paintings were filled with cafe scenes and social activities, such as parties and people going to the opera. His painting Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe (Luncheon on the Grass), launched him into fame, gaining him notoriety among other young impressionist artists.

Woman with a Parasol - Madame Monet and Her Son by Claude Monet. Public Domain. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Claude_Monet_-_Woman_with_a_Parasol_-_Madame_Monet_and_Her_Son_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg.

Edouard Manet, A Bar at the Folies-Bergère. Public Domain. https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:Search&limit=20&offset=80&profile=default&search=%C3%89douard+Manet&advancedSearch-current={}&ns0=1&ns6=1&ns12=1&ns14=1&ns100=1&ns106=1#/media/File:Edouard_Manet,_A_Bar_at_the_Folies-Berg%C3%A8re.jpg

#7 Debussy's Golden Tone

By Maya Greenfield-Thong

"I would like to convey my compliments for your very favorable concert grand. The touch is extraordinary and the tone is so beautiful that I must express my utter admiration for this instrument."
~Claude Debussy

Known for its rich sound and quality craftsmanship, Blüthner Pianos have been a part of many composer's careers. From Debussy to The Beatles to Andrew Lloyd Webber, Blüthner was able to shape the future of music history.

According to the Blüthner website, Julius Blüthner (pictured here) opened his piano factory in 1853 after gaining his citizenship. He was influenced by the musical traditions of the German city Leipzig. Over the next few years, the company grew and Blüthner's pianos quickly gained notoriety for outstanding technical and musical qualities, eventually earning the title as the piano with the "golden tone." By 1900, Blüthner had become the largest piano maker in Germany.

The german piano maker Julius Blüthner (1824-1910). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bl%C3%BCthner#/media/File:Julius_Bl%C3%BCthner_-_Klavierbauer.jpg

Blüthner grand piano. By Melvin Besbrode - Mevin Besbrode. Creative Commons License. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bl%C3%BCthner#/media/File:Bl%C3%BCthner8G.jpg

As for Debussy, he fell in love with his first Blüthner when he heard the resonance of the 4th string Aliquot—a special fourth string that creates the unique "voice" for Blüthner pianos—during a concert. It was said that Debussy adored his Blüthner so much that, in 1904, during his time on the island of Jersey—an island in the English Channel near the French Coast—he bought and shipped one back to Paris at the end of his stay. Though he owned two other pianos in his residence—an upright Pleyel piano (a gift from the manufacturer) and an upright Bechstein piano—it is rumored that his Blüthner concert grand piano became Debussy's piano of choice when it came to composing many of his later works.

#8 Music Terminology 101

By Maya Greenfield-Thong

Preludes

Today, preludes can be thought of as the introduction, preface, or overture. Generally, preludes feature a small number of rhythmic and/or melodic motifs that recur through the composition. Early preludes were often written for organs and were quite improvisatory, often used as introductory pieces for church music that more complex. Johann Sebastian Bach wrote the first collections of preludes organized by key, eventually evolving preludes into standalone concert pieces.

Oratorios

Typically, an oratorio is a large musical composition for orchestra, choir, and soloists meant for religious services. Unlike musicals or operas, the story is told through the music. It is very rare to see elaborate costumes, interactions between characters, or props and scenery. In addition, while opera often deals with history or mythology, oratorios often cover the lives of saints or biblical stories. One of the most well-known oratorios is George Frideric Handel's Messiah. You are probably familiar with the part that goes "Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"

Oratorios were developed in Italy the 1600s when Emilio de' Cavalieri published his first oratorio Rappresentatione di anima et di corpo (Portrayal of the Soul and the Body). Later, in early seventeenth-century Italy, they became very popular because of the Catholic Church's prohibition of any "spectacles" or other forms of entertainment during Lent.

George Frideric Handel's autograph manuscript of the title page of Messiah, 1741. Public Domain. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messiah_(Handel)#/media/File:Messiah-titlepage.jpg

Cantatas

The term "cantata" was invented in Italy in the 17th century. Though the meaning of the term has changed over time, it often refers to a work for voice or voices and instruments. It can be a single movement work or consist of multiple movements, and can be based on either sacred or secular texts. When cantatas first emerged in the early 17th century, they were generally made for solo voices with minimal instrumental accompaniment. Soon after, cantatas developed solo singing that imitates the rhythms and tones of speech, known as recitative and aria.

Some of the most celebrated cantatas were written by Johann Sebastian Bach. His most famous is Cantata No. 140 (Wachet Auf), Part IV: "Zion Hears the Watchmen Calling." Written for a church service, it features a tune written by a Lutheran pastor called Philipp Nicolai.

Symphonies

Often made for an orchestra of 30 or more instruments, a symphony is a large composition for an orchestra that typically has three or four movements separated by a brief pause. According to an article by Parker Symphony Orchestra, the basic format for symphonies are typically, "..a brisk and lively first movement followed by a slow and lyrical second movement, a dancing third movement, and a virtuosic finale." It is also noted that not all symphonies adhere to this as there are many variations of this format.

There have been many well-known symphonies and symphonic composers over time. Pieces such as Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, Mozart's Symphony No. 25, and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 ('Italian,') have become an important part of our music history and are sometimes still used and sampled in popular media today.

Sonatas

Like so many musical terms, the term sonata has

Thomaskirche in 1885, one of the two Leipzig churches where Bach composed and performed church cantatas almost weekly from 1723 to 1726.

evolved over time. Originally appearing in the 16th century as a transcription of canzonas (songs) in Italy, sonatas first took the stage as purely instrumental pieces. The standard classical sonata form comes in 4 movements. The 1st movement, Allegro in sonata form (fast); the 2nd movement, andante, adagio, or largo (slow); the 3rd movement, minuet and trio or scherzo (a minuet and trio is a dance movement with three beats in a bar); and lastly the 4th movement: allegro, in rondo form.

Though there are many composers who are famous for their sonatas, German composer Ludwig van Beethoven is highly regarded with his work on sonatas, composing 35 piano sonatas over his lifetime. He also changed where they were to be performed, shifting sonatas meant for an intimate salon to the concert stage. Beethoven's famous Piano Sonata No. 14 in C minor, more popularly known as Moonlight Piano Sonata, is one of the most recognizable pieces of classical music today.

Etudes

An etude—literally translated from French as "study"—is typically an instrumental musical composition that emphasizes a certain technique. A single etude typically will only focus on one type of

technical problem. Thus, many etudes with different focuses are often compiled and published. In a sense, many compilations of etudes act as a way to help musicians become better with the technical challenges they might face. While some etudes can act as a formal composition (concert etude,) others only serve as a way for musicians to practice (exercise etude.)

Frédéric Chopin was well known for composing etudes for the piano. His 27 etudes—published in the complations Op. 10, Op. 25, and Trois nouvelles études—are known for being some of the most challenging pieces in piano etude history and created a revolutionary playing style in the music world.

#9 Paris: A Beloved City

By Danielle Ward

With over 20 million people visiting the city annually, Paris has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. Why do we love this particular city so much? Oh, let us count the ways. Paris has a long, rich history that invites us to discover the multitude of stories that make up the city. Our masterful storyteller Hershey Felder will take you with him as he journeys through Paris. But first, we wanted to explore a little more about the city itself.

Paris is ten times older than many countries. The city was named after its earliest inhabitants, the Celtic Parisii tribe who settled there around 250 BC. They built bridges and a fort, minted coins, and began to trade with other river settlements in Europe until they were defeated by a Roman army in 52 BC. The Gallo-Roman town called Lutetia was established until after the collapse of the Roman Empire, when it was occupied by Clovis I, the King of the Franks, in 508. Then, in 987 AD, Paris

became the capital of France.
In the mid-1800s, Napoleon III hired civic planner Georges-Eugene Hausmann to modernize Paris. Hausmann's design divided the city into 12 arrondissements that gave the city wide, tree-lined boulevards, large public parks, a new sewer system and other public works projects that have developed into the city we see today. In the 1860s, the boulevards and streets of Paris were some of the first ever illuminated by 56,000 gas lamps, which—along with the progressive ideas that sprung up during the enlightenment period—is why it often referred to as "The City of Lights."

Since the French Renaissance period in the late 15th century, Paris has become synonymous with art, architecture and science. Degas, Van Gogh, Monet, Chagall, Seurat, Rousseau, Nouvel, and Laplace are just a few examples of the brilliance born from Paris. The city also served as a hotbed of experimentation in art and literature in the 1920s and 30s. Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso, Matisse and the "Lost Generation" of English-speaking writers including Ernest Hemingway, James Joyce, James Baldwin, Gertrude Stein, and Ezra Pound all created masterpieces from their homes in Paris. Photography also burgeoned in Paris. In fact, the first photo of a person was taken on a street in Paris by Louis Daguerre in 1838.

Nicknamed the "city of love," Paris has played a starting role in many books like The Hunchback of Notre Dame, The Ladies' Delight, and The Da Vinci Code as well as romantic films like An American in Paris, Funny Face, and Moulin Rouge. The city offers a perfect setting with small walkable/bike-able streets, beautiful architecture and preserved landmarks, 450 parks/gardens with over 470,000 trees, inviting arts and cultural spaces, plus top-notch restaurants and bakeries around every corner. It only takes about 2 hours to walk from the North to South side of Paris and oh, what you could see! Listening to people all around speaking French, one of the romance languages, doesn't hurt either (Did you know it's actually the second most studied language in the world after English?).

To celebrate the diversity of this city of love through art, entrepreneur and musician Fédéric Baron worked with calligraphy artist Claire Kito to assemble a collection of the phrase "I love you" in over 300 languages and dialects. The Wall of Love (le mur des je t'aime) has more than 300

ViA Parisian Cafe by Jean Beaufort - https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/en/view-image.php?image=285663&picture=paris-cafe

declarations of love written on it in 250 languages. He wanted to display this on a wall outside because, while a wall is a symbol of division and separation, he wished to showcase that a wall could also be a support for the most beautiful of human feelings. The red splashes on the wall also symbolize parts of a broken heart that can be gathered to form a full heart.

This is a city that is not only loved, but loves you back! And all this packed into 41 square miles. You might want to make your plans to visit soon. But in the meantime, travel with us as you sit back your theatre seat and let us transport you to this enchanting city of light and love.

The "I Love you Wall" in Montmatre by Caston Sprotte
https://www.flickr.com/photos/parisharing/5821096227
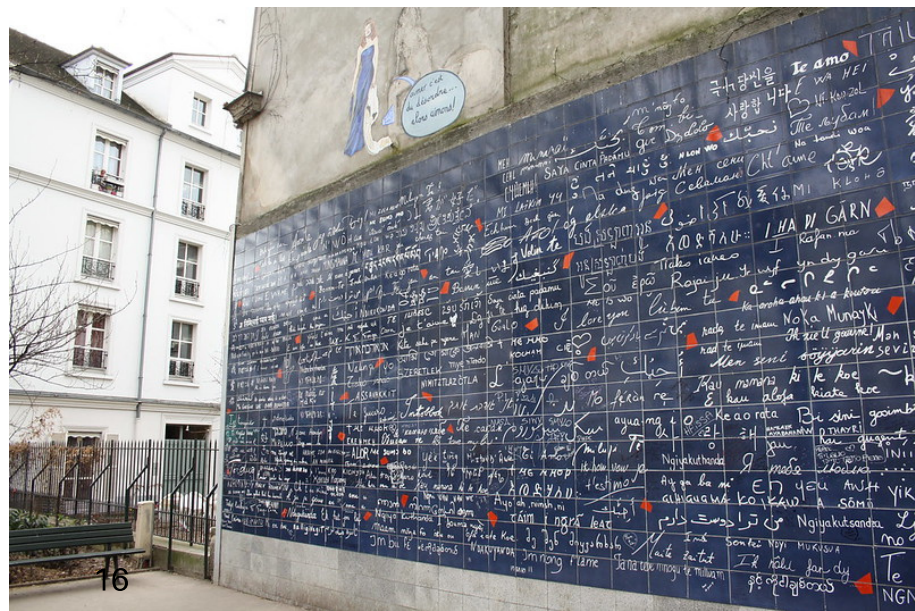
#10 Paris: Fun French Facts

By Danielle Ward

- Camouflage clothing was first used by the French military. The word "camouflage" roughly translates to "make up for the stage."

- There's an unwritten law that states that every city in France must have a road named after Victor Hugo, author of Les Misérables. Paris' Avenue Victor-Hugo can be found in the 16th arrondissement, and is also where the novelist lived.

- Legend says famed novelist Ernest Hemingway originated the "Bloody Mary" cocktail because he wanted a drink that didn't smell like alcohol. He was given vodka mixed with tomato juice at the Ritz Hotel in Paris.

- Believe it or not, the French Army still use carrier pigeons. In case of an emergency, these pigeons are trained to carry important information.

- New York's iconic Statue of Liberty was a gift from the French. But they also made a few for themselves. There are currently ten Statues of Liberty in France, with five in Paris alone.

- At over 1000 feet tall, the Eiffel Tower (Tour Eiffel in French) stands proudly on the Champs de Mars in the heart of Paris. It is constructed entirely from metal, so during the summer heat, has been known to sway up to 7 inches.

- The Eiffel Tower is repainted every few years. The paint alone weighs that of 10 elephants.

- 25,000 people a day head up the tower for the best views in Paris. You can walk up the 1665 steps or choose to take an elevator. You can even stop to enjoy the views at one of two restaurants or a champagne bar.

- Gustav Eiffel was the head engineer tasked with making the tower for the entrance to the Paris World's Fair in 1889. The original plan was to take the tower down 20 years later, but it still delights today. It is currently the most valuable landmark in Europe, estimated to be worth around 435 billion Euros.

Paris Cityscape at Night by Jean Beaufort - https://publicdomainpictures.net/en/view-image.php?image=222566&picture=eiffel-tower

TIMELINE

Debussy and Composers of the Romantic Period

Wilhelm Richard Wagner

Wagner was best known for his operas such as Lohengrin (1850), The Ring of the Nibelung (1869–76) —which includes his notable piece Ride of the Valkyries— and The Flying Dutchman (1843).

1813 – 1883

1840 – 1893

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Tchaikovsky's most famous works were for his three ballets which included Swan Lake (1877), The Sleeping Beauty (1889), and The Nutcracker (1892). He is also known for his famous 1812 Overture (1880) among other songs.

Giacomo Puccini

Puccini's was an Italian opera composer whose renowned works included La bohème (1896), Tosca (1900), Madama Butterfly (1904), and Turandot (1924).

1858 – 1924

1860 – 1911

Gustav Mahler

Mahler was an Austrian Jewish composer and conductor best known for his 10 symphonies, the most famous arguably being Symphony No. 2 in C minor "Resurrection." All written between 1888 and 1910, he never finished his final symphony—Symphony No. 10 in F♯ major— before he died.

Achille-Claude Debussy

Debussy was a French composer and father of impressionist music who was best known for Clair de lune (1905), Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun (1894), the opera Pelléas et Mélisande (1902), and La Mer (1905).

1862 – 1918

Food for Thought Questions

1. Do you have memories related to Paris? If so, what is your Paris Love Story?

2. Think of a song that you strongly associate with certain memories. What does it evoke and why?

3. Debussy was actively living through a period of cultural and artistic revolution. Do you think we are living through some sort of revolution now?

4. If you were to pair a song with a painting, what two would you put together?

5. If you could sit down and talk with one person from music history who is no longer living, who would you choose and why?

LIVE FROM FLORENCE
NOVEMBER 22 AT 5 PM PACIFIC

HERSHEY FELDER

A Paris Love Story

FEATURING THE MUSIC OF CLAUDE DEBUSSY

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY HERSHEY FELDER
DIRECTED BY TREVOR HAY

PARTNERS

DIAMOND ($100,000+)

SD Commission for Arts and Culture

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Patricia & Christopher Weil Family Foundation

PLATINUM ($50,000 — $99,999)

Bernard & Dorris Lipinsky Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation

THE SHUBERT FOUNDATION INC.

GOLD ($25,000 — $49,999)

CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL
A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

kpbs

Mandell Weiss Charitable Trust

Peggy and Robert Matthews Foundation

NNPN National New Play Network

SILVER ($10,000 — $24,999)

County of San Diego

LEICHTAG FOUNDATION

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

usbank

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ($5,000 — $9,999)

STUDIO CONOVER

PRODUCER ($2,500 — $4,999)

JIMBO'S ...Naturally!

DIRECTOR ($1,000 — $2,499)

QUALITY Since 1983
Aztec Flower Market

Samuel I. and John Henry Fox Foundation

Kerr Foundation Endowment Fund

Pratt Memorial Fund

LEADING ROLE ($500 — $999)

The Soledad Club

PRINCIPAL CHARACTER ($250 — $499)

Gaslamp Quarter Theatre Company Endowment

Sam Woodhouse, Artistic Director
Larry Alldredge, Managing Director

79 Horton Plaza,
San Diego, CA 92101-6144

Box Office
619.544.1000
boxoffice@sdrep.org