

CLAUDE  
**DEBUSSY**

(1862-1918)

**RAPSODIE**

*(Second Edition)*

Arranged for Alto Saxophone and Piano by  
**Eugene Rousseau**

Étoile Music

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## **Debussy *Rapsodie***

Claude Debussy (1862-1918) is probably the most famous composer to date to have written for the saxophone, yet his *Rapsodie* is little-appreciated by saxophonists and the broader musical world. The *Rapsodie Mauresque for Orchestra and Principal Saxophone* was written by the French master for an American amateur saxophone enthusiast, Elise Boyer Hall (1853-1924). Ms. Hall, who was born in Paris, married a prominent Boston surgeon and became a leading member of society. Typhoid fever damaged her hearing and it was recommended that she learn a wind instrument to improve the condition. She chose the saxophone and after study with Georges Longy, principal oboist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, immediately undertook to commission orchestral pieces featuring her instrument. Composers including Philippe Gaubert, Florent Schmitt, and Vincent d'Indy wrote more than twenty works for Ms. Hall.

Debussy in 1901 was among the first to respond to Ms. Hall and, according to the manuscript, completed a reduced orchestral score in 1908. Composed at the height of Debussy's career, other works of the period include his opera *Pelléas et Mélisande*, *La Mer*, and *Images*. Roger-Ducasse followed Debussy's instructions to create a copy of a complete score. The premiere occurred in Paris in 1919 at the *Société Nationale*, André Caplet conducting; the saxophonist's name is uncertain. Since that time the *Rapsodie* has also been performed with orchestra by English horn and by saxophone in a revised arrangement by Ernst Ansermet and in several versions with piano. Eugene Rousseau has created a second edition of his arrangement with piano, in which the saxophone is given additional melodic material originally for other members of the orchestra. Drawing upon his decades of experience as an internationally renowned soloist and master teacher, Rousseau brings to the *Rapsodie* an artistic sensibility that makes it a fitting addition to the concert recital stage. He has added several optional passages exploring the extended range of the saxophone which add greatly to the effectiveness of the edition. For those who have not yet had the occasion to perform with orchestra this unique work by one of the greatest composers, the present edition provides a most welcome opportunity to experience a significant cornerstone of the saxophone repertoire.

Thomas Liley

# RAPSODIE

pour Orchestre et Saxophone

CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862–1918)

Arranged by Eugene Rousseau

**Très modéré** (♩ = ca. 80)

Saxophone

Piano *pp*

6

12 *(ad lib.)* *p* *mp*

17 *un peu ralenti* *cresc.*

2

21 a tempo

Musical score for measures 21-25. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment begins with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic and includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand.

Musical score for measures 26-31. The vocal line shows a crescendo (*cresc.*) leading to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment also features a crescendo and ends with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. A triplet of eighth notes is present in the vocal line.

Musical score for measures 32-36. The vocal line includes a crescendo (*cresc.*) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment is marked forte (*f*) and features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand.

37 poco rit.

39 Allegretto scherzando (♩ = ca. 84)

Musical score for measures 37-41. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is marked piano (*p*) and features a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment is marked pianissimo (*pp*) and includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand.

Musical score for measures 42-45. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

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Très modéré (♩ = ca. 80)

13 (ad lib.) *p* *mp*

18 un peu ralenti

21 *p*

27 *cresc.* *mf* *p*

34 *poco rit.* *f* *p*

39 Allegretto scherzando (♩ = ca. 84)

44

48 *pp*

52 *pp* *espr.*

54 Tempo I° (♩ = ♩)

58 *pp*

64 *mf* *p*

67 *pp* *retenu* *au mouvt* 2

70

