

Principles of Music Composition in Impressionism by Focusing on Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel's Piano Works

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Abstract : The essence of Musical Impressionism is best captured in the compositions of Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel. These two important individuals represent the core of this art form, with their piano compositions remaining significant, impactful, and commonly performed in contemporary times. Their piano works reflected a revolutionary compositional style that strayed from classical romanticism and drew heavy inspiration from Symbolist poets and Asian arts. Additionally, numerous technical applications are commonly utilized to exemplify the principles of impressionism style by composers who did not frequently use them in prior eras, resulting in effectively evoking impressionistic images through diverse sonorities. The goal of this study is to showcase the range of impressionistic elements and compositional techniques, such as dissonances, pentatonic and whole-tone scales, parallel movements, and polytonality, through an examination of their piano compositions.

Keywords : music, impressionism, Debussy, ravel, piano, composition

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