

DISC PROPOSAL

Clare Hammond
SOLO PIANO

RAVEL
Sonatine (11')

LISZT
'Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este' from
Les Années de Pèlerinage, Book III (7')

RAVEL
Jeux d'eau (5')

DEBUSSY
Images, Book I (12')
'Reflets dans l'eau', 'Hommage à Rameau',
'Mouvement'

COUPERIN
Selection from *Les Pièces de Clavecin*, 6e ordre (12')
'Les langueurs-tendres', 'Les bergeries',
'Les barricades misterieuses', 'La Bersan'

RAVEL
Le Tombeau de Couperin (25')
'Prélude', 'Fugue', 'Forlane',
'Rigaudon', 'Menuet', 'Toccata'

72 minutes in total

This programme showcases some of the finest and most enduring works of the French pianistic canon. We open with Ravel's *Sonatine* which, in the minuet-like elegance of the second movement and the toccata-like finale, draws inspiration from music of the past. This is followed by a triptych of water pieces. Liszt's 'Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este' depicts the fountains at the Villa d'Este just outside Rome, which he visited towards the end of his life. This work was the model for Ravel's *Jeux d'eau*, which flows naturally into the first movement of Debussy's *Images*, 'Reflets dans l'eau'. In the second movement, 'Hommage à Rameau', Debussy pays tribute to another of the great eighteenth-century French composers.

The grace and charm of the pieces by François Couperin are reflected in the final work, *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, Maurice Ravel's tribute to the eighteenth-century *claveciniste*. Published in 1919, this work is comprised of six short movements, each of which is dedicated to friend of Ravel's who fell during the Great War. Thus it forms a tribute not only to French musical styles of the past, but also to lost soldiers.

"... In Ravel's *Tombeau de Couperin*, the pianist was likewise in full expressive command of her fingers, conveying the swirling shimmer and sweet melancholy of a work that veers between elegance and emotion. Two pieces of Satie and two of Albéniz were exquisitely played..."

HERALD SCOTLAND, Conrad Wilson