

Erik Satie

Gymnop é dies

Eric Alfred Leslie Satie (17 May 1866 – 1 July 1925)

was a French composer and pianist.

Satie was a colourful figure in the early
20th-century Parisian avant-garde.

His work was a precursor to later artistic movements
such as minimalism, Surrealism,
repetitive music,

and the Theatre of the Absurd.

An eccentric, Satie was introduced
as a "gymnopedist" in 1887,

shortly before writing his most famous compositions,
the Gymnop é dies. Later, he also referred to himself
as a "phonometrician"

(meaning "someone who measures sounds"),
preferring this designation t
o that of "musician",

after having been called

"a clumsy but subtle technician"
in a book on contemporary French
composers published in 1911.

In addition to his body of music, Satie was "
a thinker with a gift of eloquence"
who left a remarkable set of writings,
having contributed work for a range of publications,
from the dadaist 391 to the American
culture chronicle Vanity Fair.

Although in later life he prided himself
on publishing his work under his own name,
in the late 19th century he appears to have used
pseudonyms such as Virginie Lebeau and Fran ç ois
de Paule in some of his published writings.