



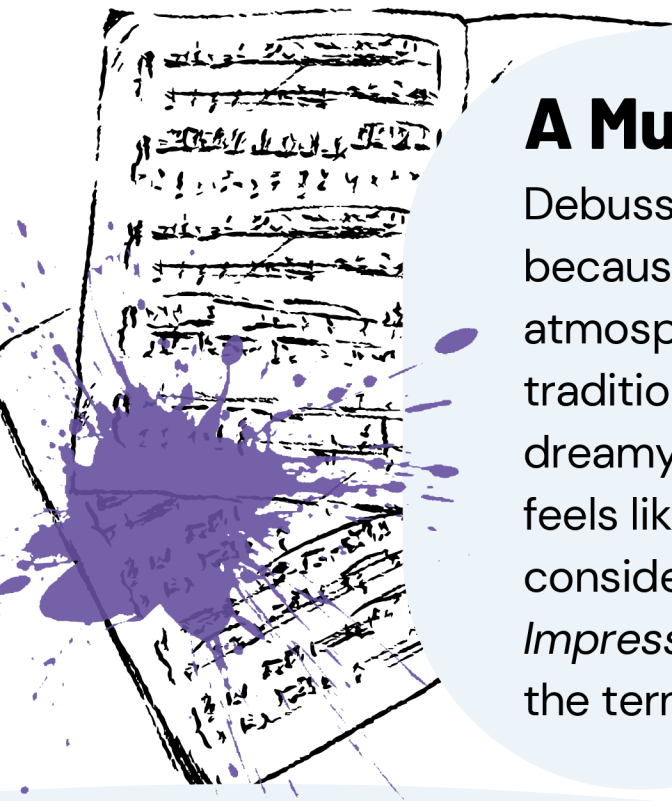
COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT



CLAUDE DEBUSSY

1862–1918

Impressionism



A Musical Painter

Debussy's music is often compared to paintings because of the way he used sound to create atmosphere and imagery. He didn't follow the traditional rules of composition, instead using dreamy harmonies and flowing melodies. His music feels like a beautiful painting come to life, and he's considered the founder of the musical style called *Impressionism*—although he himself did not like the term.

Inspired by Nature

Many of Debussy's pieces were inspired by nature, like the ocean, the moon, and gardens. One of his most famous works, *Clair de Lune*, means "moonlight," and it perfectly captures the quiet, mysterious feeling of a moonlit night. Debussy loved using music to bring these natural scenes to life.



Echoes of the Far East

Debussy was fascinated by Javanese gamelan music, which he first heard at the 1889 Paris Exposition. The sounds of these traditional Indonesian instruments, like gongs and metallophones, influenced his compositions and gave his music an exotic, shimmering quality.

A Pianist's Dream

Debussy's piano music is some of the most loved in the world. His pieces are full of delicate, colorful sounds that allow pianists to play very expressively. Pieces like *Arabesque* and *Reverie* are favorites for students and professionals alike because of their beauty and emotional depth.

Significant Works:

- Suite Bergamasque, L. 25
- La cathédrale engloutie, L. 125, No. 10
- Estampes, L. 100