Design and Aesthetic in Debussy's Music: *The Premiere rapsodie* for Clarinet and Piano

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Abstract
In Claude Debussy's *Premiere rapsodie* for clarinet and piano, the composer is beyond the realm of "music just for listening", but has become a designer, an architect of musical structure. During the early 1900s, Debussy began to develop a different Paris, France, was a cosmopolitan city in the early 1880s and on into the outlook for his compositions. *La mer* (1903-1905), a piece for orchestra, begins to exhibit Debussy's new focus on and compositional purpose of design and structure during his late career. The *Premiere rapsodie*, written from December 1909 to January 1910, is an example of this late compositional style. This thesis will explore the historical context of France from 1880-1910, attempt to discover the influences for a design aspect from the composer's personal life, and complete a detailed analysis of the *Premiere rapsodie*.

Recommended Citation

Claude Debussy is associated with the impressionist movement in music which mirrored that in art and also seemed to centre itself in France. As well as orchestral works and works for various instruments, Debussy wrote extensively for the piano including the following works. Arabesque No. 1 from Deux Arabesque Play or Print. Golliwog's Cakewalk from Children's Corner Play or Print. Handel, George Frideric (1685-1759) : George Frideric Handel was born in Germany, but settled in England where he frequently composed music for the Royal family including favourites such as the "Water Music" and "Music for the Royal Fireworks".