

Notes on the Unpublished Song Cycles of Louis Durey

To date, very little has been written in English about the noteworthy French composer Louis Durey (1888-1979). While Durey was a member of *Les Six* during the group's earliest associations, his distancing from the other composers coincided with Jean Cocteau's self-appointment as the *porte-parole* for the group. Consequently, little is known about this composer who embodies not only the ideals of *Les Six*, but whose music reflects all that was important during this époque.

Aside from Frédéric Robert's book and a recording with liner notes by Graham Johnson and François Le Roux, very little has been published by or about Durey. With this in mind, I traveled to Paris in October to meet with Durey's daughter, Arlette Durey. Through my conversations with her, I have been able to gather information on two fronts. The first is her recollections of her father, providing fresh insight into the man about which very little is known. The second is Mme. Durey's gracious offer to send me copies of the many original manuscripts of song cycles that have not yet been published.

My thesis will therefore be a discussion of the life and unpublished song cycles of Louis Durey. My paper will constitute an addendum to the performance or listening experience of Durey's music. I will focus on the following unpublished and unrecorded works: *Trois Poèmes de Verlaine* – 1914; *L'Offrande Lyrique* (Rabindranath Tagore) – 1914; *Le Voyage d'Urien* (André Gide) – 1916. I will discuss how, above all, Durey's works are characterized by lyricism and a tendency towards homophony. I will explore how Durey's works, perhaps ironically, characterize the spirit of *Les Six* as outlined by Jean Cocteau in his text *Coq et Arlequin*.

These works shall be discussed within a context of the music of the period, as well as some of Durey's better-known, published works. As the manuscripts continue to arrive, I may include a discussion of other unpublished song cycles: *6 madrigaux de Mallarmé*, *3 poèmes de Paul Valéry*, *Cantate de la prison* (G. Apollinaire), *4 stances de Moréas*, *4 poèmes de minuit* (G. Audisio), *Grève de la faim* (N. Hikmet), *Une femme du sud chante* (L. Hughes), *3 poèmes de Paul Eluard*, *Cantate de la rose et de l'amour* (L. Ernié), *Le dit du petit garçon Khoa* (Tran Dang Khoa).

Vocal/Piano Works by Louis Durey

1918 *Op. -1	<i>Hommage à Erik Satie</i>	Blaise Cendrars
1914 Op. 2	<i>3 poèmes de Verlaine</i>	
1914 Op. 3	<i>5 poèmes de Francis Jammes</i>	
1914 Op. 4	<i>L'offrande lyrique</i>	R. Tagore tr. A. Gide
1916 Op. 5a	<i>Le voyage d'Urien</i>	A. Gide
1918 Op. 11a	<i>Images a Crusoë*</i>	A. St-L. Léger
1918 Op. 13	<i>Epigrammes de Théocrite</i>	
1918 Op. 15	<i>3 poèmes de Pétrome</i>	
1918 Op. 16	<i>Inscriptions sur un oranger</i>	E. Parny
1919 Op. 17a	<i>Le bestiaire</i>	G. Apollinaire
1919 Op. 20	<i>2 Lieder Romantiques</i>	H. Heine
1919 Op. 22(a)	<i>6 madrigaux de Mallarmé</i>	
1919 Op. 23a	<i>Chansons basques</i>	J. Cocteau
1921-3 Op. 31	<i>3 poèmes de Paul Valéry</i>	
1922 Op. 32b	<i>Cantate de la prison</i>	G. Apollinaire
1927 Op. 38	<i>La vivier</i>	R. Chalupe
1931-2 Op. 42	<i>Vergers</i>	R. M. Rilke
1935 Op. 45	<i>4 stances de Moréas</i>	
1944 Op. 47	<i>4 poèmes de minuit</i>	G. Audisio
1950 Op. 64	<i>Grève de la faim</i>	N. Hikmet
1950 Op. 65	<i>Une femme du sud chante</i>	L. Hughes
1951 Op. 69	<i>2 poèmes d'Ho-Chi-Minh</i>	
1952-3 Op. 74a	<i>3 poèmes de Paul Eluard</i>	
1965 Op. 104a	<i>Cantate de la rose et de l'amour</i>	L. Ernié
1968 Op. 110	<i>Le dit du petit garçon Khoa</i>	Tran Dang Khoa

***Works in bold have been published.**

Of the above, the following are arranged for instrumentation:

1916 Op. 5b	<i>Le voyage d'Urien no. 2</i> arr. 1v, orch
1918 Op. 11b	<i>Images a Crusoë</i> arr. 1v, str qt, fl,cl,cel/hp
1958 Op. 17b	<i>Le bestiaire</i> , arr. 1v, 12 insts
1919 Op. 22b	<i>6 madrigaux de Mallarmé</i> arr. 1v,fl,ob,cl,bn,pf
1919 Op. 23b	<i>Chansons basques</i> arr. 1v,ob, en hn,cl,bn OR str qt
1922-3 Op. 32a	<i>Cantate de la prison</i> , arr. 1v, orch.
1944 Op. 47	<i>4 poèmes de minuit nos. 1 and 2</i> arr. 1v, orch – LOST
1952-3 Op. 74b	<i>3 poèmes de Paul Eluard</i> arr. 1v, orch
1966 Op. 104b	<i>Cantate de la rose et de l'amour</i> arr. 1v, str orch

This is only a partial list of Durey's vocal works. There are other works for solo voice that have never been arranged for piano accompaniment, and there are numerous works for choirs, theatre, cantata, and folksong arrangements.