



Claude Debussy (about 1895)

The Impressionistic music of Claude Debussy, revolutionary in its time, fascinates pianists and audiences. The floating sonorities, wash of tone color and compelling rhythms create illusions that can not be described.

Clair de Lune and the *Golliwogg's Cake-Walk* are among the most popular piano compositions ever written. The delightful *Children's Corner*, which Debussy wrote for his little daughter Chouchou, transports us back to the delights of childhood. The *Sarabande* is regarded as a major landmark in writing for the piano. *Rêverie* and *Arabesque* have been popular since the first printing.

In the Foreword, Debussy's work is placed in context with the novelists, poets, painters and other composers who mutually influenced each other. His pivotal position in music history is made clear in a discussion of his new harmony, illustrated with passages from the pieces in this book. The technic and interpretation he taught, revealed by memoirs of some of his pupils, is described in detail. Editorial suggestions for pedaling and fingering have been added in light print, based on Debussy's teaching. All of the French terms in the pieces have been translated.

This book has been meticulously prepared from extant autographs, original and first editions. The new engraving is spaced for ease of reading.

DEBUSSY

AN INTRODUCTION TO HIS PIANO MUSIC

EDITED BY MARGERY HALFORD

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by Alfred Sisley (1839-1899)
Oil on canvas, 1876
The Granger Collection, New York

LE PETIT NÈGRE

CAKE-WALK

Allegro giusto

f con molto ritmico

f marcato

mf e dim.

6

f

mf

dim.

12

cresc. molto

f

poco riten.

19

a tempo

pp

dolce e espress.

p

Ⓐ The suggested pedalling is editorial. See the discussion on page 9 for different types of pedalling which may be used.