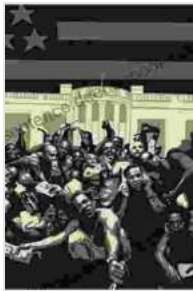


Georges Auric: A Life in Music and Politics

Georges Auric was a French composer, pianist, and conductor who was closely associated with the Dadaists and Surrealists art movements. He composed music for ballets, operas, films, and other works. He also served as the musical director of the Opéra de Paris from 1959 to 1962.



Georges Auric: A Life in Music and Politics by Colin Roust

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 27966 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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Early life and career

Georges Auric was born in Lodève, France, on February 15, 1899. He began studying music at the age of five and entered the Paris Conservatory at the age of twelve. There he studied composition with Vincent d'Indy and piano with Alfred Cortot. He quickly became known for his precocious talent, and his early works were praised for their originality and freshness.

In the 1920s, Auric became involved with the Dadaists and Surrealists art movements. He was drawn to their anti-establishment ethos and their emphasis on the irrational and the subconscious. He composed music for

several Dadaist and Surrealist productions, including Jean Cocteau's "Parade" (1917) and Erik Satie's "Relâche" (1924).

In 1925, Auric composed his first ballet, "Les Fâcheux." The ballet was a critical and commercial success, and it established Auric as a leading composer of ballet music. He went on to compose music for over twenty ballets, including "Le Train bleu" (1924), "Les Matelots" (1925), and "Gala" (1928).

In addition to his work as a composer, Auric also worked as a pianist and conductor. He conducted the premieres of several of his own works, and he also conducted works by other composers, including Igor Stravinsky, Maurice Ravel, and Darius Milhaud.

Political involvement

In the 1930s, Auric became politically active. He was a member of the Communist Party, and he composed music for several left-wing causes. He also spoke out against fascism and Nazism.

In 1940, France was occupied by Nazi Germany. Auric was forced to flee the country, and he went to live in the United States. He returned to France after the war, and he continued to be active in politics. He was a member of the French Parliament from 1946 to 1958, and he served as the Minister of Culture from 1953 to 1954.

Later years and death

In his later years, Auric continued to compose music. He also wrote several books about music and politics. He died in Paris on July 23, 1983.

Legacy

Georges Auric was one of the most important composers of the twentieth century. His music is characterized by its originality, its freshness, and its wit. He was a master of orchestration, and his music is often full of color and vitality.

Auric was also a politically engaged artist. He used his music to promote his political beliefs, and he was a vocal critic of fascism and Nazism. He was a man of great integrity and courage, and he left a lasting legacy of music and political activism.

Works

- Les Fâcheux (1925)
- Le Train bleu (1924)
- Les Matelots (1925)



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