

GABRIEL FAURÉ 1845 – 1924

Fauré was a French composer and organist, and a distinguished teacher who taught composition to some of France's most famous musicians, including Ravel. He was also director of the Paris Conservatory for 15 years (1905 -1920). He wrote many songs and short piano pieces, and a number of longer orchestral works, among them 'Pavane', Ballade for piano and orchestra, and Requiem. At its heart Fauré's music is the essence of French lyricism. Unforced and beguiling, its fine melodies and counter melodies invest the harmonic structures with subtle shifts to form a delicately balanced idiom.

The lovely themes and counterpoints of the Cantique den Jean Racine and Pie Jesu suit the tremolo style.

The Cantique (Chant), Op. 11, was composed in 1865 when Faure was a nineteen-year-old student at the École Niedermeyer de Paris, winning him first prize. The text had been translated from a Latin hymn by Jean Racine in 1688.

Pie Jesu come from the Requiem in D minor, Op. 48, composed between 1887 and 1890.