

CLAUDE DEBUSSY _____ to _____ born in _____, _____

Family background: what did his parents do?

Education and training: what institution did Debussy attend, at what age? What was he a virtuoso of?

Connection: what prize did Debussy win? Among the composers studied, who won the same prize?

Employment: which opera established Debussy's career?

What was Debussy's side job (in writing)?

Connection: which patron did he teach and what was their link to Tchaikovsky?

Connection: who asked Debussy to write ballets? Which other twentieth century composer was linked to this person?

What teaching post did Debussy take in his later years?

Life: what was Debussy's private life like? Who was his child and what pieces did he write for her?

Influence: Which German composer inspired Debussy at Bayreuth? Why did he subsequently reject this composer?

What ensemble influenced Debussy at the Paris Exposition?

Which authors and poets influenced Debussy? Which of his pieces were directly inspired by their texts?

Which painters and sculptors did Debussy admire?

Impact: what musical and artistic styles are associated with Debussy? Which did he accept and which did he reject? What paintings are associated with these styles?

Genres: Give a representative work for each:

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------|----------|
| opera | symphonic poem/suite | art song |
| chamber music | solo piano | ballet |

PRÉLUDE À 'L'APRÈS-MIDI D'UN FAUNE' (DEBUSSY) written _____ genre _____

Instrumentation: what are the performing forces? What unique percussion instrument is included?

Historical context: who was Debussy collaborating with for this work? What was the original project (which was never finished) this piece was supposed to be a part of?

Text: author _____ language _____ literary movement _____

Is Debussy's treatment of the poem explicitly programmatic? Why or why not?

Structure: what types of non-diatonic scales occur in the piece?

What is unique about Debussy's treatment of the harp?

Details: form _____ key _____ tempo _____ meter _____

Analysis: write out the opening theme of the piece:

What scale does this theme use? What interval does the theme cover?

Where is the contrasting section of the piece? What is its tempo marking?

Extra-musical connections: how was the work received?

Read the original poem and listen through Debussy's music again. Suggest some relationships between the text and the music.