

Olivier Messiaen

December 10, 1908 - April 27, 1992

Olivier Messiaen was an influential French composer, organist, and ornithologist. Born in 1908, he studied music at the Paris Conservatory with renowned composers like Vincent D'Indy and Paul Dukas. He became known for his unique style of composition, which drew heavily from nature and religious themes, and he eventually earned a degree in harmony and composition at only 20 years old.

Messiaen's early works were heavily influenced by the music of Debussy and Stravinsky, but he soon developed his own unique style that incorporated birdsong into many of his compositions. Messiaen was an avid birdwatcher and ornithologist. He

conducted extensive research on the song and migration cycles of birds, which he then used as inspiration for many of his compositions.

In addition to birdsong, Messiaen was also known for incorporating other natural sounds into his music, such as ocean waves and wind. He was a prolific composer, producing dozens of works in various genres throughout his long career. Additionally, Messiaen was a pioneer in the field of color theory. He used colors not only as compositional devices, but also as musical symbols. He believed that colors had different "chords" and corresponded to various emotional states, which he explored in his works, especially those for the organ.

Although he spent most of his career teaching at the Paris Conservatoire, he was well-respected among many major composers of the time, including Igor Stravinsky and Pierre Boulez. Despite suffering from poor health for much of his life, Messiaen continued to compose right up until his death in 1992 at the age of 83.

Today, Messiaen is widely recognized as one of the most important composers of the 20th century. He is remembered as a bold and innovative creator who pushed the boundaries of classical music, incorporating sounds from nature into his compositions to create works that were both beautiful and expressive.

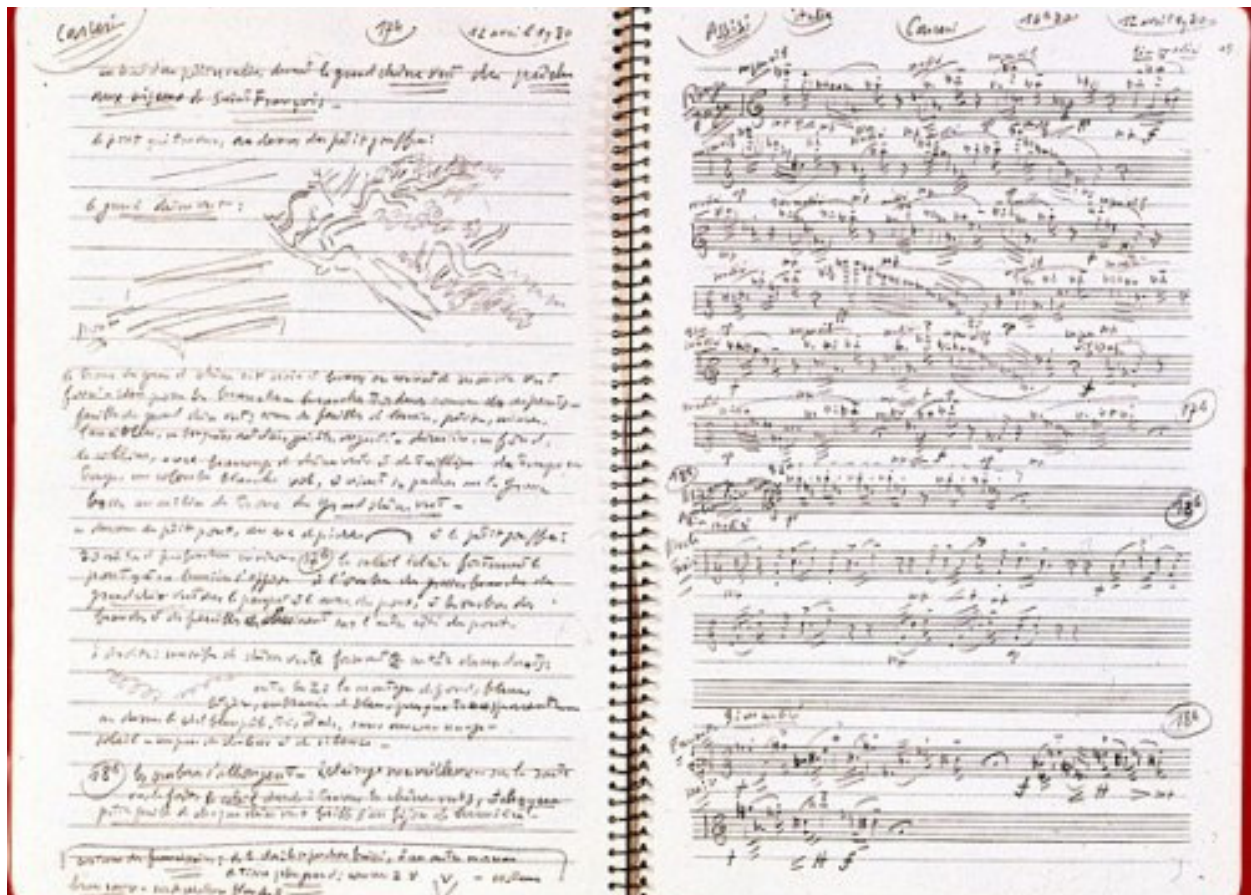
Classical Pieces

Week 1 - Oiseaux Exotiques (Exotic Birds)

Week 2 - Le Réveil des Oiseaux (The Awakening of the Birds)

Week 3 - Catalogue d'oiseaux (Catalog of Birds)

Week 4 - Le Merle Noir (Black Bird)



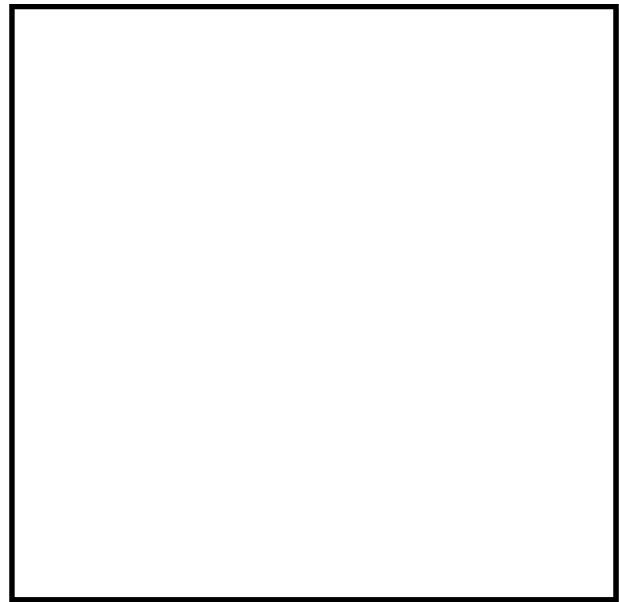
Composer Study

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Composer Fun Facts:



Instruments Used: _____

Famous Compositions: _____

Further Study:
