ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: A Performance Analysis of Claude Debussy’s Estampes

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As one of the founders of twentieth-century contemporary music and the originator of Impressionistic music, French composer Claude Debussy (1862-1918) occupies an important position in western music history. Estampes, one of Debussy’s most famous piano works, includes many of the signature traits of his compositional style and consists of three separate pieces: “Pagodes,” “La soirée dans Grenade,” and “Jardins sous la plouie.” This paper explored the compositional techniques of form, melody, texture, and rhythm in each piece. It also included a discussion of some of the specific pianistic challenges found within each piece followed by practice suggestions.