

ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION: A Musical Discussion and Analysis of *Romance Sans Paroles* by Three French Composers – Charles-François Gounod, Camille Saint-Saëns, and Gabriel Fauré

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Contained in this study is a musical discussion and analysis of seven *Romance Sans Paroles* (song without words), written by three French composers, Charles-François Gounod, Camille Saint-Saëns, and Gabriel Fauré.

The *Romance Sans Parole* genre seems to be quite unknown in the piano field; as a result, there are few secondary sources available. By immersing myself in these scores, I sought to discover their musical value and compositional nuance and excellence. I thoroughly investigated each composer's unique treatment of melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, and form.

Chapter One includes an Introduction, brief biographical information on each composer, the Need for the Study, the Purpose of the Study, a Review of Literature, and a Methodology. Chapters Two, Three, and Four consist of a musical analysis and discussion of the seven *Romance Sans Paroles*. Chapter Five offers a Conclusion and Suggestions for Further Study.

I believe my dissertation will enhance the understanding and appreciation of this art form.