



Eugene Bozza

Born April 4, 1905, Nice, France
Died Sept. 28, 1991, Valenciennes, France

Eugene Bozza was a French composer and violinist. He is recognized as one of the most prolific composers of chamber music for wind instruments.

His Studies and Career

A brilliant student, Eugene Bozza studied at the Paris Conservatory. There he proved his capability as a musician and took first prize in many competitions on violin, conducting, and composing. Later in life he was appointed director of the École Nationale de Musique in Valenciennes, France. He remained there until his retirement in 1975. The years spent in Valenciennes were some of his most productive as he produced many solo pieces and books of études.

His Output

During his life, he created a wealth of compositions that included, of course, chamber music and solo pieces, but also works for large ensembles. Included in the pieces for large groups are: operas, symphonies, ballets, large choir works, and pieces for wind band. Unlike Bozza's chamber music, his compositions for large ensembles are rarely performed outside of France.

His Music and Style

Bozza's creative career spanned a vast majority of the 20th century. Because of this, he coincided with many of the artistic "-isms" throughout the years. No category of musical style fully and accurately captured Bozza's output. His compositions were diverse. They dabbled between genres and mixed elements of various styles. When looking at his mature works as a whole, one could describe it as "highly accessible, elegant, and lyrical" in character. The description "highly accessible" refers to his idiomatic writing. The success of his chamber music partially had to do with his familiarity of the instruments he was writing for. In playing his music, it is apparent that he was aware of the technique and endurance required of the instrumentalist.