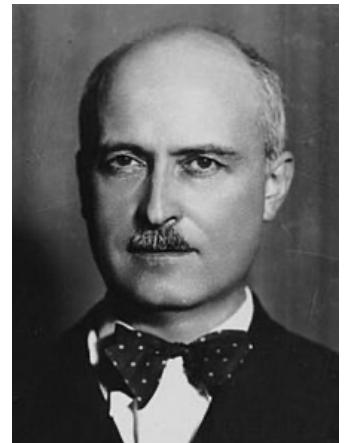


Jacques Ibert

born Aug. 15, 1890, Paris, France
died Feb. 5, 1962, Paris

Jacques Ibert is among the well-known French composers of classical music. Throughout his lifetime he composed numerous musical works which include seven operas, five ballets, works for orchestra, film and play music, piano solos, chorale works, and chamber music.



His Studies

Ibert began studying music at the young age of four. He later attended the prestigious Paris Conservatoire. During his time there he won the school's top prize, the Prix de Rome. This was in spite of his studies being disrupted by his service as a naval officer in World War 1. Not to mention, he won the Prize on his first attempt- a testament to his capabilities as a composer.

His Music

As mentioned earlier, Ibert's music spanned across a diversity of instrumental ensembles. In particular, Ibert seemed to favor woodwind instruments and wrote much solo and chamber music for winds. In addition to this, he composed in numerous styles, making his output difficult to categorize beneath one -or even a few- genres. Though Ibert enjoyed experimenting with different styles, his music still maintained its distinctly "French" character: that being its lightness, humor, and whimsy.

About this Piece

Cinq Pièces en Trio, meaning "Five Pieces for Trio," was written in 1935. It was composed for oboe, clarinet and bassoon in the Neoclassical style. Each of the five pieces is quite brief, adding to the easy French lightness of the work. The movements are marked as follows: Allegro vivo, andantino, allegro assai, andante, allegro quasi marziale. It is a popular choice for this trio ensemble and is played often.

(image on right: opening 28 measures of piece No.1, as seen in score)

A page of a musical score for "Cinq Pièces en Trio" No. 1 by Jacques Ibert. The score is for three instruments: Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, and Bassoon. The tempo is marked "Allegro vivo" with a metronome marking of quarter note = 128. The score shows the first 28 measures, with measures 1, 11, and 21 marked with Roman numerals. The music is in 3/4 time and features a lively, rhythmic melody with various dynamics like *pp* and *mf*.