

La Mer

est pleine d'eau: c'est à n'y rien comprendre

Erik Satie (1915)
Completed by Robert Orledge (2009)



SOUNDkiosk Piano Edition
SKPE 07

La Mer

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The Sea

is full of water: it's total nonsense

Erik Satie (c.1915) completed by Robert Orledge (2009)

Satie began this little piece as a composition for an orchestra consisting of two clarinets, cor anglais and a few strings. His famous remark after hearing the première of Debussy's *La Mer* in October 1905 immediately springs to mind, as cited by Hélène Jourdan-Morhange in *Ravel et nous*. Referring to the first movement 'From Dawn to Midday on the Sea', Satie cried out: "Ah! My old friend! There is above all a little moment between 10.30 and 10.45 that I found amazing!"

His own aquatic evocation is of gently lapping wavelets, miles distant from Debussy's often exuberant triptych, but I could not help thinking, as I completed the last 30 or so bars, that Satie might perhaps have put in one or two disguised thematic references to Debussy's masterpiece somewhere. Perhaps a few listeners may spot them in the piano version, which is here published for the first time.

(Robert Orledge)

Source: BNF MS 9625(2), 6–8 (bars 1–30) Ibid. 9 (melody of bars 33–41)

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Andantino (♩ = 96)

Piano solo version

p doux et bien lié

Avec pédale

The first system of the musical score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff contains a series of eighth-note chords, starting with a half note chord and followed by six eighth-note chords, all beamed together. The bass staff contains a series of half notes, starting with a whole rest and followed by six half notes. The dynamic marking *p* is placed above the first chord, and the instruction 'doux et bien lié' is written below the treble staff. The instruction 'Avec pédale' is written below the bass staff with a downward-pointing arrow.

8

pp

p

poco *pp*

The second system of the musical score continues from the first system. It consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff contains a series of eighth-note chords, starting with a half note chord and followed by six eighth-note chords, all beamed together. The bass staff contains a series of half notes, starting with a half note and followed by six half notes. The dynamic marking *pp* is placed above the first chord, and the instruction 'poco' is written below the bass staff with a downward-pointing arrow. The dynamic marking *p* is placed above the fifth chord.

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