

# Georges Auric: A Life in Music and Politics

Georges Auric was a French composer, music critic, and conductor who played a vital role in the development of modern French music. Born in Lodève, Hérault, France, on February 15, 1899, Auric began his musical education at the Paris Conservatory at the early age of 12. He studied under the renowned Gabriel Fauré, who recognized Auric's exceptional talent and encouraged him to pursue a career in music.

## Early Career: The Groupe des Six

Auric quickly established himself as a rising star in the Parisian music scene. In 1918, he joined forces with five other young composers, including Francis Poulenc, Arthur Honegger, and Darius Milhaud, to form the renowned Groupe des Six. This group rejected the prevailing musical trends of romanticism and impressionism, instead embracing a simpler, more modernistic style. Auric's contributions to the group included his ballet "Les Mariés de la tour Eiffel" (1921) and the opera "Sous le masque" (1924).



## Georges Auric: A Life in Music and Politics by Colin Roust

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 27966 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 308 pages  
Lending : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported

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## **Collaboration with Jean Cocteau**

Auric's collaboration with the avant-garde poet and filmmaker Jean Cocteau had a profound impact on his career. Together, they created several innovative works, including the opera "Orphée" (1925) and the film scores for "La Belle et la Bête" (1946) and "Orphée" (1949). Auric's music perfectly captured the surreal and dreamlike qualities of Cocteau's work, creating a unique and unforgettable artistic experience.

## **Music for Film and Theater**

Auric's talent extended beyond the concert hall into the realms of film and theater. He composed music for over 120 films, including "Hôtel du Nord" (1938), "Moulin Rouge" (1952), and "Gigi" (1958). His film scores were characterized by their melodic beauty, rhythmic vitality, and ability to perfectly complement the on-screen action. Auric also wrote music for numerous stage productions, including ballets, operas, and plays.

## **Political Activism**

In addition to his musical pursuits, Auric was also an active political figure. He joined the Communist Party of France in 1933, and his political beliefs influenced many of his compositions. He wrote music for workers' demonstrations and political campaigns, and he used his platform to speak out against fascism and social injustice. Auric's political activism made him a target for criticism from both the right and the left, but he remained steadfast in his convictions.

## **Later Career and Legacy**

As Auric entered the latter stages of his career, he continued to compose prolifically. He wrote a wide range of works, from symphonies to operas to

film scores. In 1945, he was appointed director of the Paris Opéra, a position he held until 1951. Auric's legacy as a composer is secure. His music is characterized by its melodic beauty, rhythmic vitality, and harmonic richness. He was a master of orchestration, and his compositions are known for their vivid and evocative soundscapes.

## Georges Auric Life In Music And Politics

This comprehensive biography of Georges Auric offers a fascinating look into the life and work of one of the most important figures in 20th-century music. It explores Auric's musical development, his collaborations with Jean Cocteau, his political activism, and his enduring legacy. Written by a leading expert on Auric's life and work, this book is essential reading for anyone interested in the history of 20th-century music.

Georges Auric was a multi-talented artist whose contributions to music, film, and politics left an indelible mark on the cultural landscape of the 20th century. As a composer, he created works of great beauty and originality. As a collaborator, he helped shape the artistic vision of some of the most influential figures of his time. And as an activist, he used his voice to speak out for social justice. Georges Auric was a true Renaissance man, and his legacy continues to inspire and enchant audiences around the world.



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