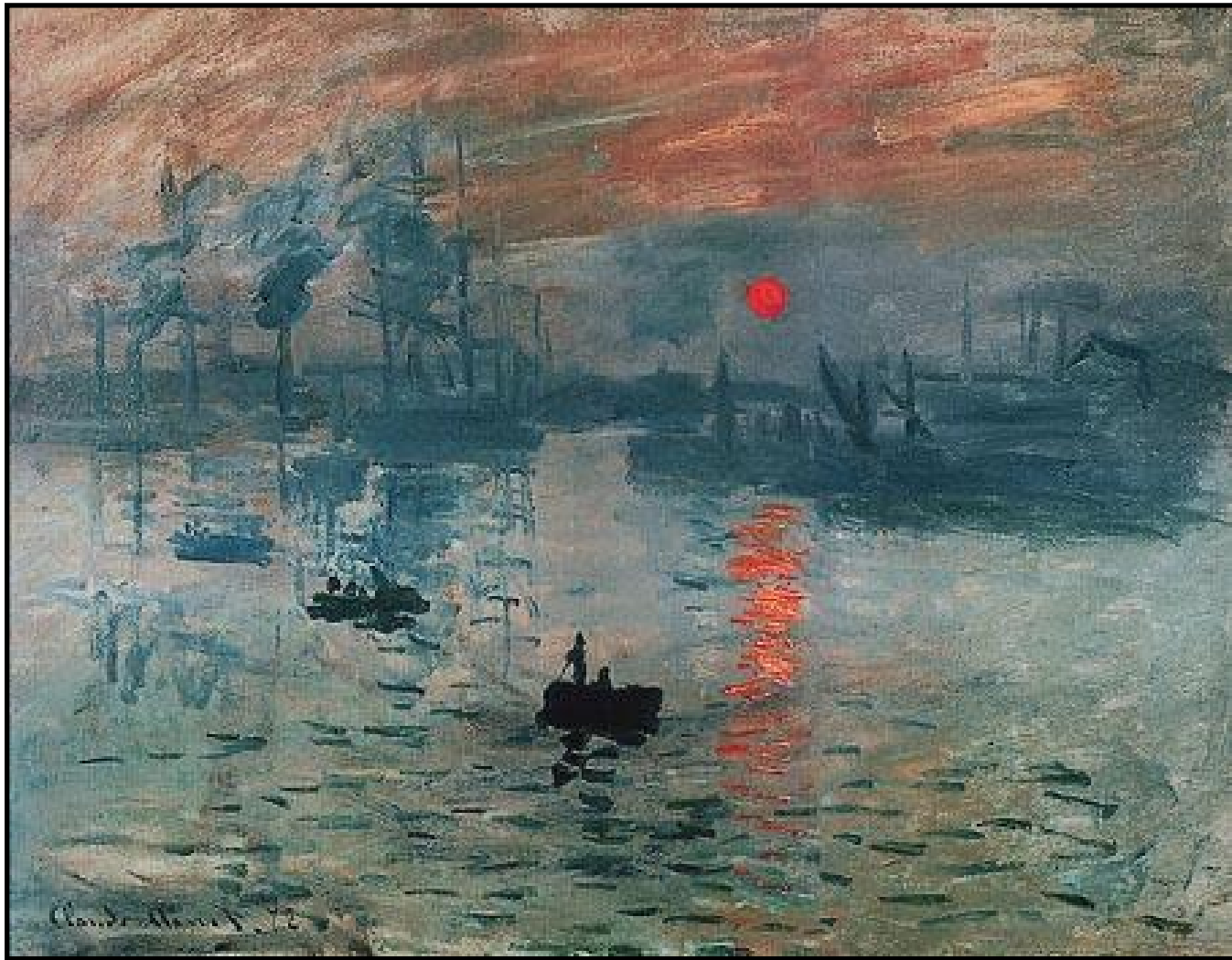


Impressionist Music

(circa 1875 to 1925)

Impressionism is a late 19th century and early 20th century artistic movement that began as a loose association of Paris-based painters whose independent exhibitions brought them to prominence in the **1870s and **1880s**.**

The name of the Impressionist movement is derived from the title of an **1872 painting of **Claude Monet**, ***Impression, Sunrise***.**



Impression, Sunrise (1872)
Claude Monet

In addition to **Claude Monet**, other leading Impressionist painters include:

Edouard Manet

Edgar Degas

Pierre Auguste Renoir

Georges Seurat

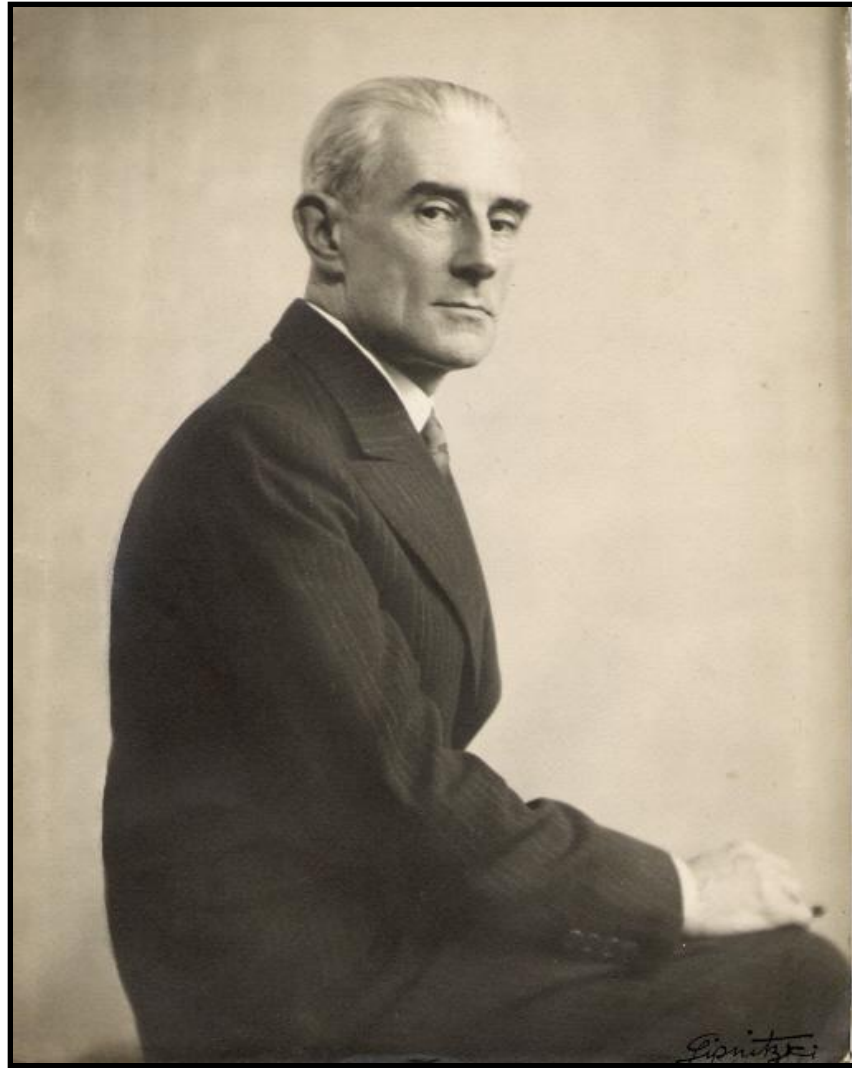
**As with most artistic movements,
the Impressionist movement in music
was a **reaction** to the **previous era** of
music, namely the **Romantic era**,
in which the music of many composers
is **heavy and overly dramatic**
by comparison.**

**Musical Impressionism
formed a transition from
late-Romantic music to
20th century Modernist music.**

**Musical Impressionism was
based in France, and the
French composers
Claude Debussy and
Maurice Ravel are generally
considered to be the two
"great" Impressionists.**



Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)



Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

Other important Impressionist composers included:

Ottorino Respighi (Italian - 1879-1936)

known for: **The Pines of Rome** (orchestral suite)

Frederick Delius (English - 1862-1934)

known for: **Summer Night on the River**

Manuel DeFalla (Spanish - 1876-1946)

known for: **Ritual Fire Dance** from the ballet

El amor brujo (“Love, the Magician”)

Characteristics of Music of the Impressionist Period:

- 1. Music that conveys atmosphere and subtle emotion in contrast to the strong emotions expressed in music of the Romantic period**

Characteristics of Music of the Impressionist Period:

2. A departure from traditional major/minor harmonies to include the use of whole tone scales, advanced chromatic harmony and dissonance.

Characteristics of Music of the Impressionist Period:

- 3. A departure from traditional musical forms, such as the symphony, concerto and sonata, in favor of shorter musical forms, such as the prelude, nocturne and the song.**

Characteristics of Music of the Impressionist Period:

**4. Great emphasis on orchestration as
a form of art in itself**

**(Orchestration is the study or practice
of writing music for an orchestra.)**

Characteristics of Music of the Impressionist Period:

- 5. Rhythm: a strict sense of pulse and time are often absent, making the music sound much more free and explorative. Downbeats are no longer accented as is usual is in other periods of music, and accenting as a whole is much more subtle throughout works of Impressionist composers.**

Important Works By Impressionist Composers:

Claude Debussy:

Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun

**Claire de Lune
from Suite Bergamasque**

La Mer (The Sea)

Important Works By Impressionist Composers:

Maurice Ravel:

Daphnis & Chloe Suites 1 & 2

(ballet suites)

Bolero

La Valse