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Playing
Time
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O P E R A E X P L A I N E D

This series introduces, in words and music, the plot and background of major operas. Using the principal themes and arias, taken from the Naxos recording of the complete work, Thomson Smillie is informative yet entertaining, enabling the listener to get more from this remarkable art form.

An Introduction to...

DEBUSSY

Pelléas et Mélisande

written by **Thomson Smillie**
narrated by **David Timson**

Dating from the last decade of the nineteenth century, *Pelléas et Mélisande* points the way into the twentieth century. The score is hauntingly beautiful, but there is more to the work than shifting panels of elusive, impressionistic sound. Debussy retains the text of Maeterlinck's play, allowing its linguistic subtleties to be matched perfectly by the musical detail. Taking a little time to explore the romantic, elusive world of this opera is particularly rewarding.

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