



AMERICAN CLASSICS

## The Composer

One of the so-called Creole Romantic musical dynasties of New Orleans, the Dédé family – including father Edmond and son Edouard – were among the most noted of the city's nineteenth-century free black community. Along with another father/son pair named Lambert, these pioneering African-American composers helped to develop the cross-cultural musical language that served as a link between European concert music, ragtime and jazz.

## The Works

The alternately Gallic and Italianate *Mon pauvre cœur* (1852) was Edmond Dédé's first local success and the earliest piece by a black person to be published in New Orleans. The zany *Françoise et Tortillard* (1877), dating from his Bordeaux years, is a lightning-fast comedy, while the orchestral *Chicago Valse* (1891) dates from Edmond's later years in Paris and is by turns brassy and stentorian, dreamy and sentimental. The composer often maintains a certain dignity even in the midst of frivolity, an example being *Méphisto masqué*, a polka with a buzzing ensemble of mirlitons, or French kazoos.

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# EDMOND DÉDÉ (1827–1901)

**Françoise et Tortillard • Mon pauvre cœur  
Méphisto masqué • Battez aux champs**  
Hot Springs Music Festival • Richard Rosenberg

- 1 **Chicago (for orchestra)** 8:35
- 2 **Tond les chiens, coup' les chats** 3:59
- 3 **Mirliton fin de siècle** 3:54
- 4 **Rêverie champêtre** 2:56
- 5 **En chasse (Eugène Dédé, orch. Edmond Dédé)** 4:12
- 6 **Méphisto masqué (for solo piano)** 4:22
- 7 **Battez aux champs** 5:40
- 8 **El Pronunciamento** 3:12
- 9 **Cora La Bordelaise** 3:25
- 10 **Mon pauvre cœur** 3:44
- 11 **Chicago (for solo piano)** 5:28
- 12 **Mon Sous Off!** 4:32

### Françoise et Tortillard 5:29

- 13 **Ouverture** 0:53
- 14 **Rondeau** 1:16
- 15 **Duo** 2:38
- 16 **Quadrille et galop final** 0:43
- 17 **Mon Sous Off!cier** 7:18
- 18 **Méphisto masqué (for orchestra)** 5:28

Recorded at the First Christian Church, Hot Springs National Park (12, 16–18) and Horner Hall, Hot Springs Civic and Convention Center (1, 3–5, 17–18), from 3–12 June 1999

American Classics Series Producers: Victor and Marina A. Ledin  
Producer: William Fulton • Engineer: Paul Griffith  
Cover Art: Dédé's *Masque* (1999) by Gary Simmons  
American flag, folk artist, 1880s.

English Text / Texte en français / Texto en español

Playing Time:  
**73:03**

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