

A pupil of Massenet and Fauré, the prolific French composer and teacher Charles Koechlin expanded traditional harmonies and compositional techniques and was much admired by his contemporaries. *Les heures persanes* was inspired by Vers Ispahan, Pierre Loti's diary of a journey through Persia. Oriental atmospheres are recreated through cycles of day and night, and in piano writing completely new for its time. This evocative piece salutes Koechlin's musical forebears as well as foreshadowing Messiaen through the "passionate and skilled" (*The Sunday Times* on 8.572570) advocacy of Ralph van Raat.

Charles
KOECHLIN
(1867-1950)

Les heures persanes, Op. 65 (1916-19)

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|---|-------------|--|-------------|
| 1 No. 1. Sieste, avant le départ: Lent | 3:37 | 10 No. 10. Roses au soleil de midi: Presque adagio | 2:23 |
| 2 No. 2. La caravane (rêve, pendant la sieste): Pas vite | 5:53 | 11 No. 11. A l'ombre, près de la fontaine de marbre: Moderato | 2:24 |
| 3 No. 3. L'escalade obscure: Adagio (non troppo) | 1:54 | 12 No. 12. Arabesques: Allegro (non troppo) | 1:46 |
| 4 No. 4. Matin frais, dans la haute vallée: Pas trop lent | 2:50 | 13 No. 13. Les collines au coucher du soleil: Très calme | 2:43 |
| 5 No. 5. En vue de la ville: Moderato | 1:47 | 14 No. 14. Le conteur: Assez lent – Le pêcheur et le genni – Le palais enchanté – Danse d'adolescents – Clair de lune sur les jardins | 7:27 |
| 6 No. 6. A travers les rues: Allegro vivo | 4:06 | 15 No. 15. La paix du soir, au cimetière: Assez lent | 6:22 |
| 7 No. 7. Chant du soir: Très calme | 2:06 | 16 No. 16. Derviches dans la nuit – Clair de lune sur la place déserte | 5:53 |
| 8 No. 8. Clair de lune sur les terrasses: Andante moderato | 3:10 | | |
| 9 No. 9. Aubade: Moderato | 2:22 | | |

Ralph van Raat, Piano

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