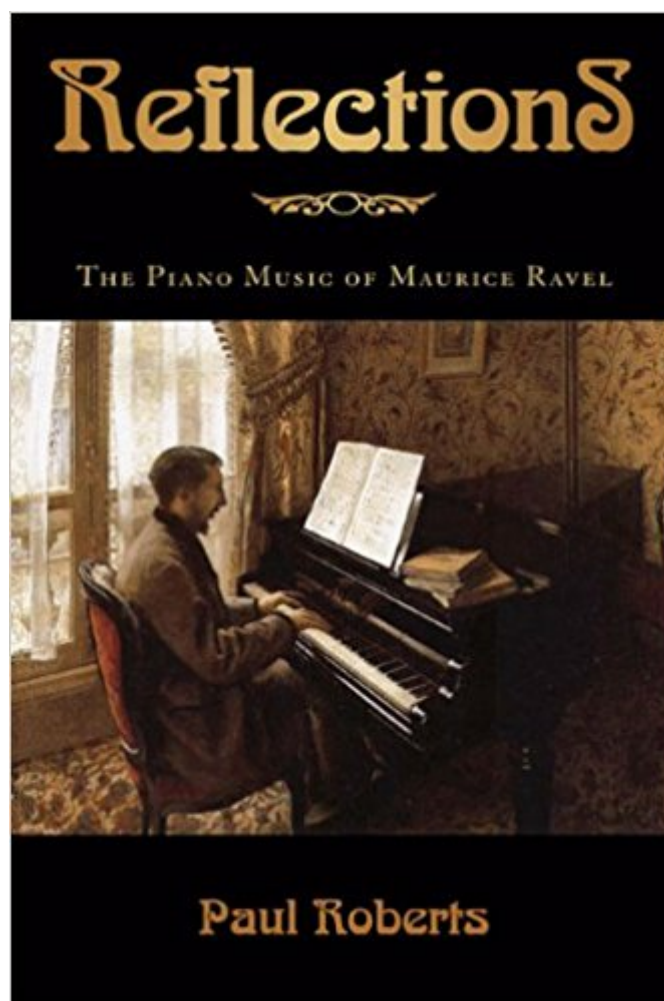


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# Reflections: The Piano Music Of Maurice Ravel



## Synopsis

(Amadeus). The piano music of Maurice Ravel is among the most thrilling, the most colorful, and, for pianists, the most challenging of the repertoire. This book is about how performers and listeners can discover it and relate to it how it sounds and feels under the fingers and within the receptive imagination. But to write about those experiences, to explore the background, influences, and impulses behind Ravel's music, is to be engaged in a form of biography. Discovering the delicate melancholy of the Pavane and the Sonatine , the astounding virtuosity of Gaspard de la nuit , and the exotic tone painting of Miroirs (Reflections) leads to the question "Who was the extraordinary person who created this?" Here are indispensable insights into the literary origins of Gaspard de la nuit , the derivation of the water imagery in Jeux d'eau and the sensuous delights of Miroirs . The chapter on Valses nobles et sentimentales illuminates Ravel's meticulously controlled sense of irony. Le tombeau de Couperin is related to the impact of the First World War on his psyche and to the refuge he sought in the civilizing values of the age of Watteau and Couperin. Intimate and perceptive, Reflections is inescapably about the life of Maurice Ravel reflections, by way of the piano music, on an exceptionally private but immensely attractive man.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Like his book on Debussy's piano music, "Reflections" is indispensable for all who have a serious interest in Ravel's piano works, or in the composer's works in general. Despite having read extensively for years on Ravel, I found much new information and many new insights in Roberts'

book. He brings forth long experience as a performer and teacher, in tandem with his scholarship and insightfulness. His writing style is both concise and eloquent. I wish only that he had not limited himself to works originally for solo piano and had included a full discussion of the two piano concertos. But this is a minor quibble. Hopefully he will write another book on the concertos and the piano transcriptions from orchestral works. To sum up: to anyone interested in this subject, Roberts' book can be given the highest recommendation.

Detailed, superbly documented with incredible insights into Ravel, his piano music, the time period and influences both on him and from him on others. Includes helpful ideas on performances of the works.

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