

# The Renaissance

2009-10: volume 25

## Petite Symphonie

Gabriel Fauré's *Piano Quartet*  
Charles Gounod's *Petite Symphonie*  
Jacques Ibert's *Divertissement*

April 17, 2010

MANSFIELD  
SYMPHONY

Robert Franz  
Music Director

8:00 PM



### Gabriel Fauré

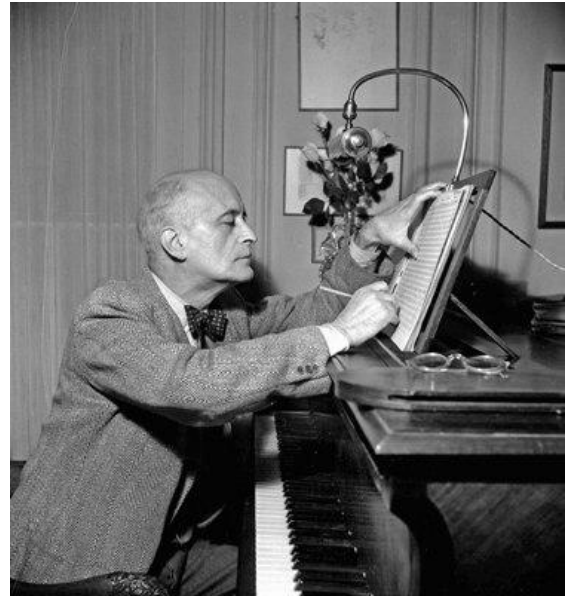
Fauré was born in Pamiers, Ariège, Midi-Pyrénées, to Toussaint-Honoré Fauré and Marie-Antoinette-Hélène Lalène-Laprade. He was sent to live with a foster-nurse for four years. At the age of nine he was sent to study at the École Niedermeyer, a school which prepared church organists and choir directors in Paris, and continued there for eleven years. He studied with several prominent French musicians, including Camille Saint-Saëns, who introduced him to the music of several contemporary composers, including Robert Schumann and Franz Liszt.

## Jacques Ibert

Jacques Ibert studied under Paul Vidal at the Paris Conservatoire and won the Prix de Rome in 1919 for his cantata *Le poète et la fée*. From 1937 he was director of the French Academy in Rome, and from 1955 to 1957 directed Paris' Opéra-Comique. He died in Paris.

Ibert's music is considered to be typically quite "light" in character, often witty, colorfully orchestrated with attractive melodies. Although he was not a member of Les Six, his music shares some characteristics with theirs. His best known work is probably the orchestral *Divertissement* (1930), based on his incidental music for Eugène Labiche's play, *Un chapeau de paille d'Italie* (The Italian Straw Hat).

source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques\\_Ibert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Ibert)



Jacques Ibert (1890-1962); FRA

## Charles Gounod

Gounod was born in Paris, the son of a pianist mother and an artist father. His mother was his first piano teacher. Under her tutelage, Gounod first showed his musical talents. He subsequently went to Italy where he studied the music of Palestrina and other sacred works of the sixteenth century. Around 1846-47 he began studying for the priesthood, but he changed his mind and went back to composition.

In 1885, his friend, the highly influential flute professor of the Paris Conservatory, Paul Taffanel commissioned him to write a piece of chamber music for winds. This resulted in his successful '*Petite Symphonie pour instruments à vent*'. It's instrumentation of a wind octet with added flute part in honour of Taffanel mirrors that of Mozart's wind serenades. This complete miniature symphony is elegant, delicate and sweet.

sources: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_Gounod](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Gounod) & [http://www.philharmoniewinds.org/PDF/pdf\\_concert11.pdf](http://www.philharmoniewinds.org/PDF/pdf_concert11.pdf)



Charles Gounod's burial site  
(Auteuil, Paris, France)



CHARLES GOUNOD.  
Charles Gounod