

# Avant-dernières Pensées

## I. Idylle

Modéré, je vous prie.  
(Moderately, I beg you.)

*p* Que vois-je?  
(What do I see?)

*p* Le Ruisseau est tout mouillé;  
(The brook is all wet;)

La basse liée, n'est-ce pas?  
(Basso legato, don't you think?)

*mf*  
et les Bois sont inflammables et secs comme des triques.  
(and the wood dry and flammable as a switch.)

*pp*  
Mais mon cœur est  
(But my heart is

*p* 8  
tout petit.  
very small.)

Les Arbres ressemblent à de grands peignes mal faits;  
(The trees look like great misshapen combs;)

*p* et le Soleil a, tel une ruche, de beaux rayons dorés.  
(and the sun, like a beehive, has golden rays.)

*p* Mais mon cœur a froid dans le dos.  
(But my heart has shivers of fright.)

La Lune s'est  
(The moon has

brouillée avecque ses voisins;  
(blurred with its neighbors.)

et le Ruisseau est trempé  
(and the brook is soaked

*pp* jusqu'aux os.  
(through to the bones.)

*ralentir aimablement. (slow down graciously.)*

## II. Aubade

Pas vite

Ne dormez pas, belle endormie.  
(Do not sleep, Sleeping Beauty.)

*p*

*Chantez sérieusement. Très terre à terre:  
p (Sing gravely. Very matter-of-factly:)*

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a series of chords, each with a quarter note. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a few notes, including a long note with a fermata.

Ecoutez la voix de votre  
(Harken to the voice of your

*sans luisant.  
(without shining.)*

The second system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the chordal pattern from the first system. The lower staff contains a melodic line with several notes and a fermata.

bien-aimé.  
beloved.)

The third system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the chordal pattern. The lower staff contains a melodic line with several notes and a fermata.

Il pince un rigaudon.  
He is plucking out a rigaudon.

*léger, mais décent (light, but seemly.)*

The fourth system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the chordal pattern. The lower staff contains a melodic line with several notes and a fermata.

Comme il vous aime!  
(How he loves you!)

*Au temps*

C'est un poète.  
(He is a poet.)

*f*

L'entendez-vous?  
(Do you hear him?)

Il ricane, peut-être?  
(He is poking fun, you say?)

*3*

Non: Il vous adore, douce Belle!  
(No: He adores you lovely lady!)

*pp*

Il repince un rigaudon et un rhume.  
(He catches up a rigaudon again, and a cold.)

*léger, comme devant (light, as before)*

Vous ne voulez l'aimer?  
(You wouldn't love him?)

*élargissez (expand)* **f**

Pourtant, c'est un poète, un vieux poète!  
(But, he's a poet, an old poet!)

*ralentissez*

### III. Méditation

**Un peu vif**

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a series of eighth-note chords. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a series of eighth-note chords. The tempo marking 'Un peu vif' is written above the first staff. The dynamic marking 'pp' is written below the first staff. The dynamic marking 'p' is written below the second staff. The French text 'Le Poète est enfermé dans sa vieille tour.' is written below the second staff.

(The Poet is shut away in his old tower.)

The second system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a series of eighth-note chords. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a series of eighth-note chords. The French text 'Voici le vent.' is written below the second staff.

(Hear the wind.)

The third system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a series of eighth-note chords. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a series of eighth-note chords. The dynamic marking 'p' is written below the first staff. The French text 'Le Poète médite, sans en avoir l'air.' is written below the second staff.

Le Poète médite, sans en avoir l'air.

(The Poet is musing, without appearing to.)

The fourth system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a series of eighth-note chords. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a series of eighth-note chords. The French text 'Tout à coup, Il a la chair de poule.' is written below the first staff. The French text 'Pourquoi?' is written below the second staff.

Tout à coup, Il a la chair de poule.

Pourquoi?

*pp*

The fifth system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a series of eighth-note chords. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a series of eighth-note chords. The dynamic marking 'pp' is written below the first staff. The French text '(All of a sudden, he has goose-bumps.)' is written below the first staff. The French text '(Why?)' is written below the second staff.

(All of a sudden, he has goose-bumps.)

(Why?)

Voici le Diable!  
(The Devil!)

*p*

*f* Non, pas Lui: c'est le vent,  
(No, it's not Him: it is the wind,)

*sec*

Le Poète en a plein la tête,

le vent du génie qui passe  
(the wind of the spirit passing by)

*f* (The Poet's head is full of it,)

du vent!

Il sourit malicieusement, tandis que son cœur

(of wind!)

*p* tendre (tender)  
(He smiles slyly, while his heart

pleure comme un saule.

Mais le Génie est là! qui le regarde d'un  
(But the spirit is present!

tendre (tender)  
weeps like a willow.)

*f*

mauvais œil: d'un œil de verre.

Et le Poète devient tout humble et tout rouge.

(it gazes on him with an evil eye: a glass eye.)

*p* (And the poet grows meek and blushes.)

Il ne peut plus méditer:  
(He can muse no more:)

The first system consists of two staves. The upper staff is a vocal line with a melody of eighth notes, mostly beamed in pairs. The lower staff is a piano accompaniment with a simple harmonic line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Il a une indigestion!  
(He retches!)

un terrible indigestion de mauvais vers blancs et de  
(a terrible retching of bad blank verse and)

*pp*

The second system consists of two staves. The upper staff is a vocal line with a melody of eighth notes. The lower staff is a piano accompaniment with a more complex harmonic structure, including some chords with a fermata. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The dynamic marking *pp* is placed between the staves.

Désillusions amères!  
(bitter disillusionions!)

*pp* 8

The third system consists of two staves. The upper staff is a vocal line with a melody of eighth notes. The lower staff is a piano accompaniment with a complex harmonic structure, including some chords with a fermata. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The dynamic marking *pp* and the number 8 are placed between the staves.