QUOTES
"Music is the space between the notes."

Embracing nontraditional scales and tonal structures, Claude Debussy is one of the most highly regarded composers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and is seen as the founder of musical impressionism.

Synopsis

Claude Debussy was born into a poor family in France in 1862, but his obvious gift at the piano sent him to the Paris Conservatory at age 11. At age 22, he won the Prix de Rome, which financed two years of further musical study in the Italian capital. After the turn of the century, Debussy established himself as the leading figure of French music. During World War I, while Paris was being bombed by the German air force, he succumbed to colon cancer at the age of 55.

Early Life

Achille-Claude Debussy was born on August 22, 1862, in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France, the oldest of five children. While his family had little money, Debussy showed an early affinity for the piano, and he began taking lessons at the age of 7. By age 10 or 11, he had entered the Paris Conservatory, where his instructors and fellow students recognized his talent but often found his attempts at musical innovation strange. **Clair de lune, meaning moonlight, was written by the**

Impressionist French composer Claude Debussy. Here's everything you need to know about this piano masterpiece

Claude Debussy started wrote the incredibly romantic piano piece Clair de Lune in 1890 when he was just 28, but it wasn't published for another 15 years!

The title means 'Moonlight' and the piece is actually part of the four-movement work *Suite Bergamasque*.

'Clair de lune' takes its title from an atmospheric poem by the French poet Paul Verlaine which depicts the soul as somewhere full of music 'in a minor key' where birds are inspired to sing by the 'sad and beautiful' light of the moon.

Is it romantic? Please go to *Katie Mahan "Clair de Lune" on youtube to listen to this piece of music.* Close your eyes what do you feel and see? What colors?

The producers of *Twilight* clearly thought so – Bella and Edward dance to the piece. But more than that - it's a piece for solo piano about a beautiful moonlit night.

 CLAUDE MONET

Now let's learn about the famous FRENCH IMPRESSIONIST ARTIST **CLAUDE MONET** and his paintings of gardens. He painted on location or *en plein ai*

HIS ARTISTIC TALENT WAS EVIDENT AT AN EARLY AGE. Born in Paris in 1840, Monet began drawing as a young boy, sketching his teachers and neighbors. He attended a school of the arts and, as a young teenager, sold his charcoal caricatures of local figures. He also learned about oil painting and *en plein air* (outdoors) painting, which later became a hallmark of his style. Monet's mother encouraged his artistic talent, but his father, who owned a grocery store, wanted him to focus on the grocery business. After his mother died in 1857, Monet left home to live with his aunt and, against his father's wishes, study art.

 HE SERVED AS A SOLDIER IN ALGERIA. In 1861, Monet was drafted into the army. Forced to join the First Regiment of African Light Cavalry, he left Paris for Algeria, a territory that was then controlled by France. Monet's father offered to pay for his son's discharge if he would promise to give up painting, but Monet refused to abandon art. After serving one year of his seven-year military commitment, Monet got sick with typhoid fever. His aunt paid to get him released from the army, and she enrolled him in art school in Paris.

RENOIR CREATED A META PAINTING OF HIM.

Renoir's "Monet Painting in His Garden at Argenteuil." Public Domain // Wikimedia Commons

In 1873, Monet was spending his summer in a rented home in Argenteuil, a suburb of Paris. His friend Pierre-Auguste Renoir visited Monet to spend time together and paint outdoors. The two men connected over their mutual dislike of the traditional style of the Académie. During his visit, Renoir painted Monet painting in his garden, creating a painting within a painting. The painting, straightforwardly called *Monet Painting in His Garden at Argenteuil*, depicts Monet standing outside as he paints flowers.

HE INDIRECTLY HELPED COIN THE TERM "IMPRESSIONISM." Monet created a community with other frustrated artists, a group that included Renoir, Camille Pissarro, Edgar Degas, and Paul Cézanne. The group, which called itself The Anonymous Society of Painters,

Sculptors, Printmakers, etc., organized an exhibition in 1874. The exhibition included groundbreaking artwork featuring bright, vivid colors and loose, seemingly spontaneous brushwork. After a critic compared one of Monet's paintings—"Impression, Sunrise"—to an unfinished sketch (or "impression"), the term "Impressionists" caught on to describe the artists who displayed these radically different, new paintings.

.**HE IMPORTED HIS WATER LILIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD.**From 1883 until his death in 1926, Monet lived in Giverny, a village in northern France. Over the years, he hired gardeners to plant everything from poppies to apple trees in his garden, turning it into a beautiful, tranquil place for him to paint. Finally wealthy from sales of his paintings, Monet invested serious money into his garden. He put a Japanese footbridge across his pond, which he famously painted, and he imported water lilies from Egypt and South America. Although the local city council told him to remove the foreign plants so they wouldn't poison the water, Monet didn't listen. For the last 25 years of his life, he painted the water lilies in a series of paintings that showcased the plants in varying light and textures.

BELOW ARE PAINTINGS CREATED BY MONET OF HIS GARDENS…MAYBE THEY WILL INSPIRE YOU!

Your assignment

- **Listen to "Clair de Lune"**
- **Look at Monet's paintings**
- **Make sketches of your ideas**
- **Record the growth of your garden in sketches**
- **Turn your sketches/ideas into your final "masterpiece"**
- **Use crayons, colored pencils, cute pieces of colored paper or magazines pictures, paint**