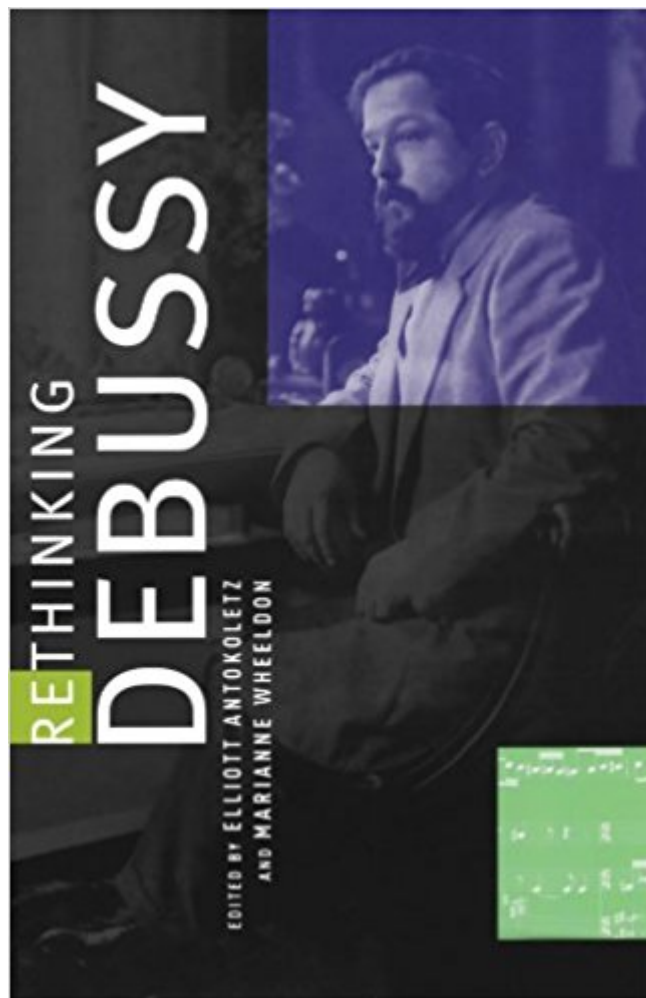


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# Rethinking Debussy



## Synopsis

Composer, pianist, and critic Claude Debussy's musical aesthetic represents the single most powerful influence on international musical developments during the long fin de siècle period. The development of Debussy's musical language and style was affected by the international political pressures of his time, beginning with the Franco-Prussian War of 1871 and the rise of the new Republic in France, and was also related to the contemporary philosophical conceptualization of what constituted art. The Debussy idiom exemplifies the ways in which various disciplines - musical, literary, artistic, philosophical, and psychological - can be incorporated into a single, highly-integrated artistic conception. Rethinking Debussy draws together separate areas of Debussy research into a lucid perspective that reveals the full significance of the composer's music and thought in relation to the broader cultural, intellectual, and artistic issues of the twentieth century. Ranging from new biographical information to detailed interpretations of Debussy's music, the volume offers significant multidisciplinary insight into Debussy's music and musical life, as well as the composer's influence on the artistic developments that followed. Chapters include: "Russian Imprints in Debussy's Piano Music"; "Music as Encoder of the Unconscious in *Pelléas et Mélisande*"; "An Artist High and Low, or Debussy and Money"; "Debussy's Ideal *Pelléas* and the Limits of Authorial Intent"; "Debussy in Daleville: Toward Early Modernist Hearing in the United States"; and more. Rethinking Debussy will appeal to students and scholars of French music, opera, and modernism, and literary and French studies scholars, particularly concerned with Symbolism and theatre. General readers will be drawn to the book as well, particularly to chapters focusing on Debussy's finances, dramatic works, and reception.

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"The engaging perspectives and careful research that characterize these essays make for a very useful and innovative collection of work. Truly multidisciplinary in scope, the collection will appeal to students and scholars of Music and French Studies, as well as to a much broader public, as it truly offers a compelling rethinking of the life and work of the celebrated, inventive, and complex man who was Claude Debussy." --H-France Review

"Rethinking Debussy arrives at an opportune time to showcase "new perspectives" and challenge previous interpretations. The questions these essays raise, and the data they present, will interest both the specialist looking for fresh angles on the subject and the educated general reader wanting to survey the current state of research."

--Notes"Highly Recommended." -- James Tobin

Elliott Antokoletz, Professor of Musicology at the University of Texas at Austin, has held two Endowed Professorships. He is the author of six books and editor of several others, as well as the International Journal of Musicology. His theoretical contributions earned him the B la Bart k Memorial Plaque and Diploma from the Hungarian Government in 1981. Marianne Wheeldon is Associate Professor of Music Theory at the University of Texas at Austin. Her articles on Debussy have appeared in the Journal of Musicology, Current Musicology, Int gral, Perspectives of New Music, and in several collections of essays. She is the author of Debussy's Late Style (Indiana University Press, 2009).

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