A Kalmus Classic Edition

CÉCILE CÉCILE CHAMINADE

SELECTED COMPOSITIONS

FOR PIANO

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Cécile-Louise-Stéphanie Chaminade was born in Paris on August 8, 1861. From an early age she showed signs of rare musical ability. At the age of eight she composed sacred music that won the attention of Bizet, who predicted a brilliant future for her. She studied with LeCouppey, Savart, Marsick, and Godard and made her piano concert debut at the age of eighteen. She soon became famous as a composer. Her compositions were so strong that, in ignorance, several critics referred to her early publications as the work of a man.

Musician, author, and poet Ambroise Thomas said after a performance of one of her works, "This is not a woman who composes, but a composer who is a woman." This quickly put Chaminade in the circle of famous musicians of the time.

Her principal work, *Callirhoë*, a ballet-symphony, was premiered in 1888 in Marseilles, and performances of other orchestral and operatic works soon followed. In addition to orchestral and stage works, a great deal of her musical output was for piano. Her major works were often performed across Europe and in America. All of her compositions show expressive melody, accentuated by sparkling rhythms, and extensive use of chromaticism combined with musical values produces novel, graceful effects. Her vocal literature was in great demand by concert artists of her day, and she often continued performing her own piano compositions as a touring concert pianist. Chaminade was also highly regarded as a conductor in concerts in Paris, where she held a governmental appointment as Officer of Public Instruction.

Chaminade died in Monte Carlo on April 18, 1944. Her piano compositions survive her and continue to be used in lessons and recitals.

SÉRÉNADE Opus 29

CÉCILE CHAMINADE

