

Robert
CASADESUS

1899 – 1972

An extraordinary composer

An exceptional pianist

A singular man

<i>Portrait</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>On the web...</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Biography</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>News</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Catalogue</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Documents</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Contacts</i>	<i>8</i>

The Robert Casadesus spirit

«A poetic nature, a spiritual aspiration, a need for order, light and clarity..»

Albin Jacquier, *L'Echo Illustré* (Geneva), 27 February 1971

In a career spanning 50 years, Robert Casadesus built up a cultural heritage that has resulted in his now being considered one of the great French musicians of the 20th century.

His double vocation of performer and composer gave him the rare privilege of being both observer and perpetuator of the principal French musical currents of the last century.

Without any doubt, this quality constantly shows through in his musical writing, giving it sweep and spirit.

If Ravel could say, about an interpretation of *Le Gibet*, *« You have to be a composer yourself to understand the music of others so well »*, the opposite can be verified: in his works, Casadesus brings everything that forged his experience as a performer, that is to say authenticity, balance and transparency.

More than 30 years after his death, recording and propagating his works is doubtless the best way to make known the personality of this atypical composer.

« He is as much a virtuoso of writing as he is a virtuoso of the keyboard; but he is not only that for, with him, the solidity of technique and professional perfection (of the dual career: composer as well as pianist) only serve thinking that remains the essential of his art. »

René Dumesnil, *Mercure de France*, 1st November 1935

While preserving the strength of classical unity, solid architecture and a highly affirmed character, Robert Casadesus was continually attracted to modernity, popular music and jazz in his compositions.

« With him, rhythms have great importance, the obvious sign of a modernity that he did not reject any more than the classical tradition. To him, evolution was preferable to breaks. He was not seeking to break that which linked Rameau to Ravel but, to the contrary, show that, by continuous movement, music, like life itself, evolves and can conquer new territories without denying its past. »

Jean Roy, *L'intemporel Robert Casadesus*

In the final analysis, Robert Casadesus is the model of harmony, the perfect agreement between the man, his oeuvre, his life and his art, *«a highly original style that combines technical mastery, assurance and poetic feeling. »*

Jean Roy, quoting Sacha Stookes in *L'intemporel Robert Casadesus*

On the web...

www.robertcasadesus.com

Today, 30 years after his death, Robert Casadesus did indeed deserve to have the memory of his achievements preserved with precision. Thus, in France, has a place of choice on the Internet been devoted to him.

This undertaking comes at just the right moment, for never has there been so much activity in propagating the memory of his career: new compilations of his recordings, publications and recordings of his unpublished works, articles about his art, radio and television broadcasts, showings of films on his life, etc.

It was therefore essential that anyone, in the four corners of the world, be able to become accurately acquainted with the ineluctable influence of this peerless artist.

Stimulating the vividness of his memory and bearing witness to the quality of his oeuvre: these are the fundamental objectives of the «Robert Casadesus.com» website.

www.robertcasadesus.com

«...The website devoted to Robert Casadesus (www.robertcasadesus.com) is a goldmine of information about the musician.

The abundance of information makes this site a total success and a model in the use of the new technologies. (...)

Pablo Galonce, *Le Monde de la Musique*, April 2003

«Two versions of the biography of this 'exceptional musician'—in one page or in 15—are presented on a homage site, inaugurated thirty years after his death.

After the website devoted to the Casadesus family, this one is devoted solely to the artist who, in a career spanning 50 years, gave more than 3,000 concerts, left a large discography (the complete recordings were recently released on 19 CDs) and counts not only as a performer but as a composer as well. Of interest is the detailed on-line catalogue of works. (...)

Sylvia Avrand-Margot, *La Lettre du Musicien*, 1-15 March 2003

«The famous French pianist Robert Casadesus, who died just thirty years ago, will have his own Internet site (Robertcasadesus.com). (...) he was the unforgettable, untiring servant of French music of his time with Ravel and Debussy, recording complete sets of their works that are marked with the seal of the most punctilious authenticity, for Robert Casadesus had dealings with those composers.

Three thousand concerts in a fifty-year career, seventy opus numbers, films and innumerable interpretation classes make him one of the principal international players in 20th-century music: he indeed merited a place in Internet heaven! »

J.Dn, *Le Figaro*, 7 - 8 september 2002

Biography

Both observer and perpetuator of the principal musical trends of the 20th century, this extraordinary composer built up a cultural heritage that was unique in its own way: indispensable testimony to the French musical patrimony.

Born on 7 April 1899 in Paris, where he would pass away on 19 September 1972, Robert Casadesus is now considered one of the great French pianists of the 20th century.

Coming from a family of musicians, at the age of 14 he earned a first prize in piano at the Paris Conservatoire, followed by the Diémer Prize in 1920. The following year, he undertook his first concert tours in Europe, thus launching an international career that would last a half-century.

In 1935, Robert Casadesus performed in the United States for the first time. Toscanini invited him a year later, and the success was immediate. This would mark the beginning of a great number of tours, especially throughout the United States, as well as in some forty countries in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Japan.

His numerous public appearances (nearly 3,000 concerts) and abundant discography (one hundred recordings) resulted in fame that endures up to the present day.

He appeared with the greatest conductors of the era, such as Ansermet, Barbirolli, Beecham, Bernstein, Celibidache, Karajan, Krips, Mengelberg, Mitropoulos, Monteux, Munch, Ormandy, Rosbaud, Schuricht, Stokowski, Szell, Toscanini, Walter and Weingartner.

He also enjoyed sharing the stage with his wife, Gaby, and son Jean (both excellent pianists), and violinist Zino Francescatti, his friend, with whom he formed a memorable duo for numerous concerts and recordings.

An internationally respected teacher, he was associated for nearly thirty years with the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, in France and the United States, as professor and, later, director.

A confirmed composer, he left a considerable catalogue of 69 opus numbers and including seven symphonies, several concertos (for solo, two and three pianos, violin, cello, flute) and numerous chamber works.

Today, a growing number of recordings bear witness to the timeless quality of his oeuvre.

On 19 September 1972, shortly after the death of his son Jean, Robert Casadesus passed away.

He was promoted to the rank of Commander of the French Legion of Honour, Commander of the Order of Léopold (Belgium), Commander of the Order of Nassau (Netherlands).

CD Releases 2003/2004

Orchestra

- Robert Casadesus : Symphonies N°1, 5 & 7 opus 19, 60 and 68
Howard Shelley - Northern Symphonia
Release 2004 (Chandos)
- Robert Casadesus : Concerto for two pianos opus 17
Aglika Genova and **Liuben Dimitrov** - SWR Radio Symphony Kaiserslautern
Release 2004 (CPO)

Chamber Music

- Robert Casadesus : Complete cycle of the 4 String Quartets, opus 13, 29, 46 and 55 (world premiere)
Quatuor Manfred
Release : Spring 2004 (Sony Classical)
- Robert Casadesus : 2 trios opus 6 and 53
Sonata for cello and piano opus 22
Yves Henry, piano, **Gilles Henry**, violin and **Paul Julien**, cello
Release : Spring 2004 (Sony Classical)

Piano

- Robert Casadesus : Complete cycle of the 4 sonatas for piano opus 14, 31, 44 and 56 (world premiere)
Variations d'après l'hommage à Debussy de M. de Falla opus 47
Jean-François Bouvery, pianist
Release : Spring 2004 (Sony Classical)
- Robert Casadesus : 24 préludes op. 5
Impromptu op. 67
Toccata op. 40
Six enfantines pour piano op. 48.
John Owings, American pianist specialising in the works of Robert Casadesus
Release : Spring 2004 (Sony Classical)

Newsletter

Creation of a quarterly newsletter. Subscribers will receive musical news about Robert Casadesus by e-mail or on paper, as they so choose.

The website

Henceforth in French and English, the web site will soon be translated into Japanese.

Book Project 2004

A compilation of the most significant interviews of Robert Casadesus speaking about his art. This collection of personal accounts and photos will be published by Van de Velde / Lemoine.

Catalogue

<i>Work</i>	<i>Opus</i>	<i>Length</i>
<i>Piano</i>		
Le voyage imaginaire	1	-
24 Preludes	5	00:43:00
3 Berceuses	8	-
Piano Sonata No.1	14	00:14:20
8 Etudes for piano	28	00:18:00
Piano Sonata No.2	31	00:17:00
Toccata	40	00:04:20
Piano Sonata No.3	44	00:15:10
6 Enfantines for piano	48	00:09:10
Variations d'après l'hommage à Debussy de M. de Falla	47	00:09:30
Suite in A for piano	52	00:11:10
3 Dances for piano	54a	00:07:30
Piano Sonata No.4	56	00:15:40
3 Berceuses	67	-
Impromptu (sometimes called '69 no.4')	67 n°4	-
<i>Two Pianos</i>		
6 Pieces for 2 pianos	2	-
3 Mediterranean Dances	36	00:11:20
Chant pour la libération de Paris, for 2 pianos	38	-
Sonata for 2 Pianos	62	00:15:00
<i>Concertante Music</i>		
Piano Concerto No.1	7	-
Violin Concerto	15	-
Concerto for 2 Pianos & Orchestra	17	00:18:30
Concerto for Flute & Chamber Orchestra	35	-
Piano Concerto No.2 'for Dimitri Mitropoulos'	37	00:20:00
Concerto for Cello	43	-
Capriccio for Piano & String Orchestra	49	00:17:00
Piano Concerto No.3	63	-
Concerto for 3 Pianos & String Orchestra	65	00:15:30
<i>Vocal Music</i>		
Spleen, for voice & orchestra	3	-
3 Rondels pour après, for voice & piano	21	-
7 Epigrams on Greek tombs	57	00:11:00

Work

Opus

Length

Chamber Music

Introduction and Polonaise, for cello & piano	4	-
Piano Trio No.1	6	-
Sonata for Violin & Piano No.1	9	00:10:40
Quintet for Harp, Flute, Violin, Viola & Cello	10	00:10:00
Sonata for Viola & Piano	12	-
String Quartet No.1	13	00:17:50
Piano Quintet	16	00:22:00
Sonata for Flute & Piano	18	00:13:10
2 Pieces for harp	20	00:09:15
Sonata for Cello & Piano	22	-
Sonata for Oboe & Piano	23	00:16:00
3 Intermezzi for wind quintet	24	-
Sonata for B flat clarinet & piano	23 bis	00:16:00
String Trio	25	-
Concertstück for piano & chamber orchestra	27	-
String Quartet No.2	29	00:17:00
Piano Quartet	30	-
Sonata for Violin & Piano No.2	34	00:16:30
Suite for 2 violins	39	00:15:10
Trio for Oboe, Clarinet and Bassoon	42	-
Nonetto for piano, string quartet & wind quartet	45	00:22:30
String Quartet No.3	46	00:18:20
Hommage à Chausson, for piano & violin	51	00:07:50
Piano Trio No.2	53	00:14:20
String Quartet No.4	55	00:15:00
Sextet for piano & wind quintet	58	00:17:30
Fantasy for flute & piano	59	-
2 Pieces for piano & bassoon	61	-
String Septet (or for string orchestra)	64	00:15:00

Orchestra

Suite for Orchestra No.1	11	-
Symphony No.1, in D major	19	-
Suite for orchestra No.2	26	-
Symphony No.4 'Princeton'	32	-
Suite No.4 'sur le nom de Rameau'	33	00:21:50
Symphony No.3	41	-
Symphony No.4	50	-
3 Dances for orchestra	54b	00:08:30
Symphony No.5 'sur le nom de Haydn'	60	00:20:26
Symphony No.6	66	-
Symphony No.7 'Israel', with chorus	68	00:18:50

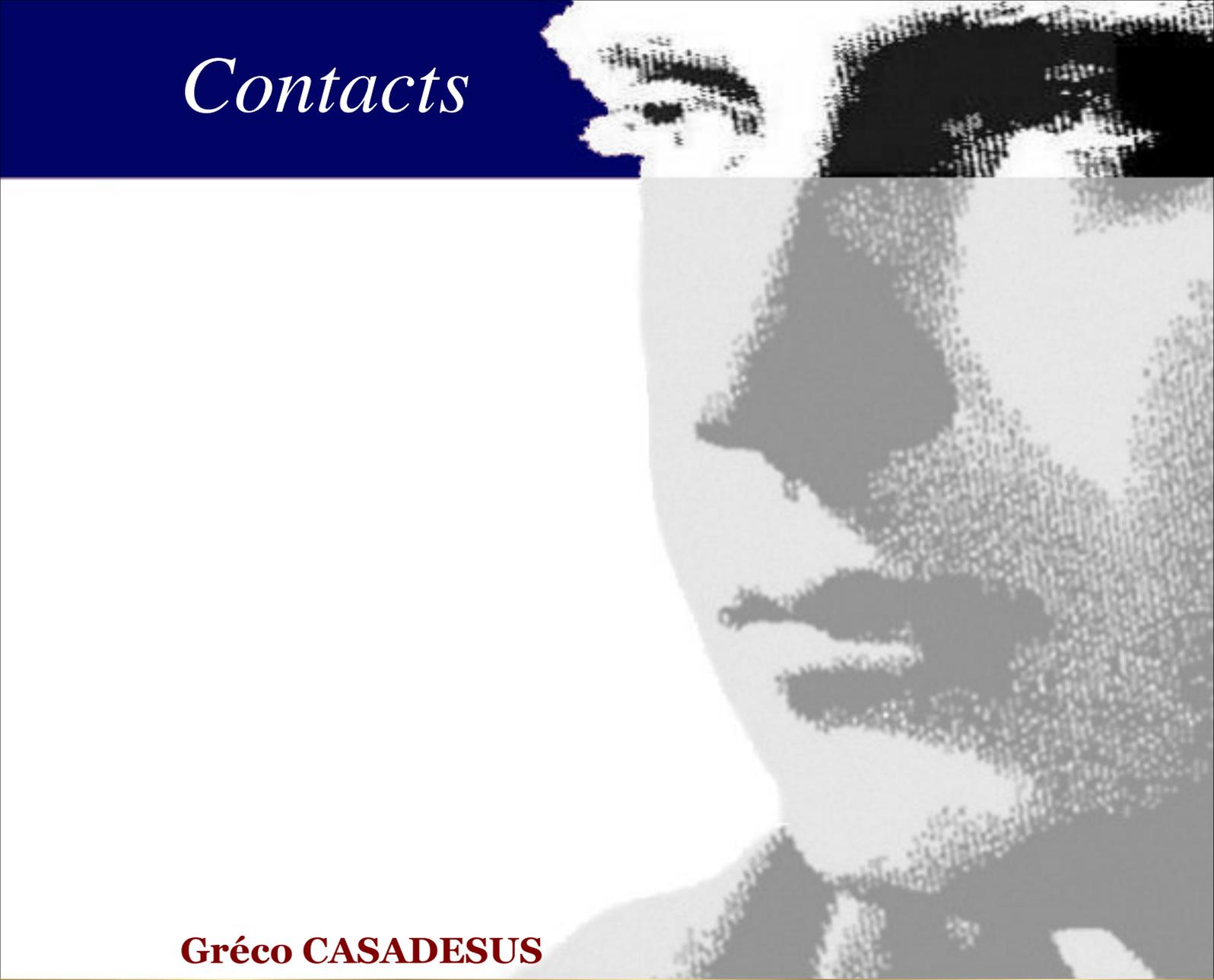
Bibliography

- ***L'intemporel Robert Casadesus***, Jean Roy , Buchet-Chastel, 1999
A very complete study of the pianist and composer.
Includes an unreleased CD of the following works: Opp. 28, 34, 36, 56 and 58.
- ***Les grands pianistes***, Stéphane Villemin, Georg Editeur, 1999
An anthology of the greatest pianists of the twentieth century with a biography of Robert Casadesus.
- ***La musique de piano***, Guy Sacre , Robert Laffont, 1998
An analysis of the following piano works: Opp. 5, 8, 14, 28, 31, 40, 44, 47, 48, 56, 67 and 67 no.4.
- ***Propos et Hommages inopportuns***, Albin Jacquier, Press Art, Genève, 1990.
A biography of Robert Casadesus in the chapter entitled «Les Lumières de Robert Casadesus».
- ***Mes noces musicales***, Gaby Casadesus & J. Muller, Sacem/Buchet-Chastel, 1989
The life of Robert, Jean and Gaby.
- ***Conversations***, Juergen Meyer-Josten, Van de Velde, 1989.
An interview with Robert Casadesus.
- ***La correspondance de Maurice Ravel aux Casadesus***, Arbie Orenstein, Fondation M. Ravel 1985.
Letters written by Maurice Ravel to Robert and Gaby Casadesus.
- ***Notes sur la musique***, Darius Milhaud, Flammarion, 1982.
- ***Histoire de la musique***, tome 5, René Dumesnil, Armand Colin, 1960.
- ***The Art of Robert Casadesus***, Sacha Stookes, The Fortune Press, London 1960
An analysis of numerous works by the composer (up to Op.48).

Filmography

- ***Robert Casadesus, pianiste et compositeur***, Olivier Bellamy, Aller-Retour, 1999.
A report on the Casadesus family centring on the memory of Robert.
- ***L'année Beethoven***, Gérard Herzog et Nicole Courson, 1970 (fond INA)
Robert Casadesus interpreting works by Beethoven, with Zino Francescatti.
- ***Casadesus, A Dynasty of pianists***, James Lipscomb, The Bell telephone hour, 1967.
Numerous sequences on the private and professional life of Robert, Jean and Gaby, including a large part in the USA...
- In the '***Classic Archive***' series, Kaléo Films / Idéale Audience :
Robert Casadesus, interpreter of Ravel, Debussy, Chabrier, Beethoven and Fauré (1960 [BBC], 1970 and 1971 [INA])

Contacts



Gréco CASADESUS

**President of
the Robert Casadesus Association**

36 rue d'Estienne d'Orves
91370 Verrières-le-Buisson
greco@robertcasadesus.com
33 (0)1-60-11-24-00

Aurélie MIEZ

In charge of Communication

amiez@robertcasadesus.com
33 (0)1-30-58-13-32