The background of the slide is a reproduction of an Impressionist painting, likely by J.M.W. Turner, showing a scene with a boat on water. The brushwork is visible and textured, with a palette of greens, blues, and yellows. The text is overlaid on two semi-transparent orange rectangular boxes.

Bridging Project Summer 2020
A level Music

Linked to Area of Study 5: Fusions

For queries/support contact:
sarahmeacham@highfield.herts.sch.uk

CONTENTS

- 1) [Slide 3](#) - Watch a performance of the first set work we will be studying
- 2) [Slides 4 & 5](#) – Read about the background of Claude Debussy
- 3) [Slides 6 to 8](#) - Complete the glossaries to give you knowledge of the key vocabulary we will use
- 4) [Slides 9 & 10](#) – Read a bit of background about the set works
- 5) [Slide 11](#) – Answer questions about the set works
- 6) [Slides 12 to 17](#) - Annotate your printed copy of ‘Pagodes’ and ‘La soirée dans Grenade’
- 7) [Slide 18](#) - Over to you! Think of 3 questions related to either Debussy, the set work - *Estampes*, or Impressionist music. We will look at and find the answer to these as a class in September.
- 8) Keep practising on your instrument! Have a piece ready to perform in class for September 2020.
- 9) [Slide 19](#) - BBC Proms - a concert a day over the summer - classical, jazz, world and more!

1) Aim: To watch 'Pagodes' and 'La soirée dans Grenade'

Estampes ('Prints') is a set of three short solo piano pieces by Debussy. For A level Music you will study the first two of these: No. 1 'Pagodes' and No. 2 'La soirée dans Grenade'.

Here is a live recording of all three pieces:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFeD2A5p854>

2) Aim: To learn about the background of Claude Debussy



Playlist:

Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune (1894), Debussy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlLoXvamfZw>

Nocturnes (1899), Debussy

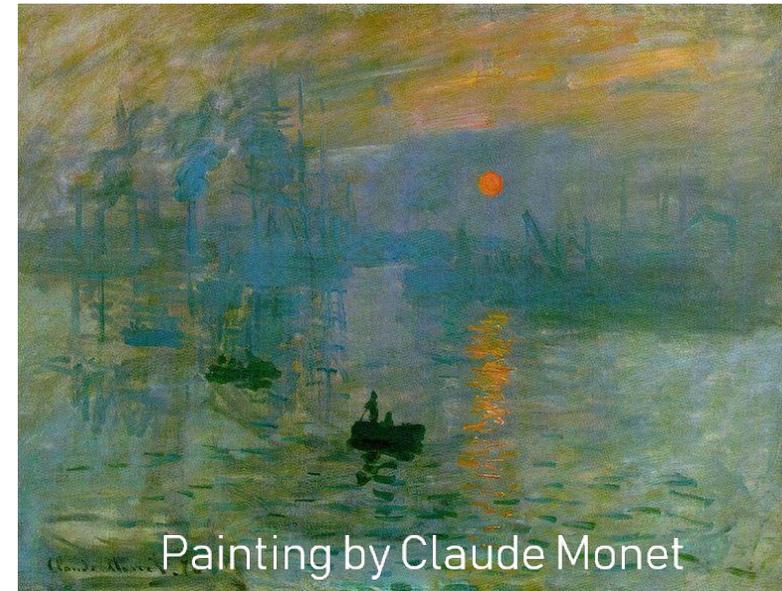
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOLR1Rw0W4c>

Jeux d'eau (1902), Ravel

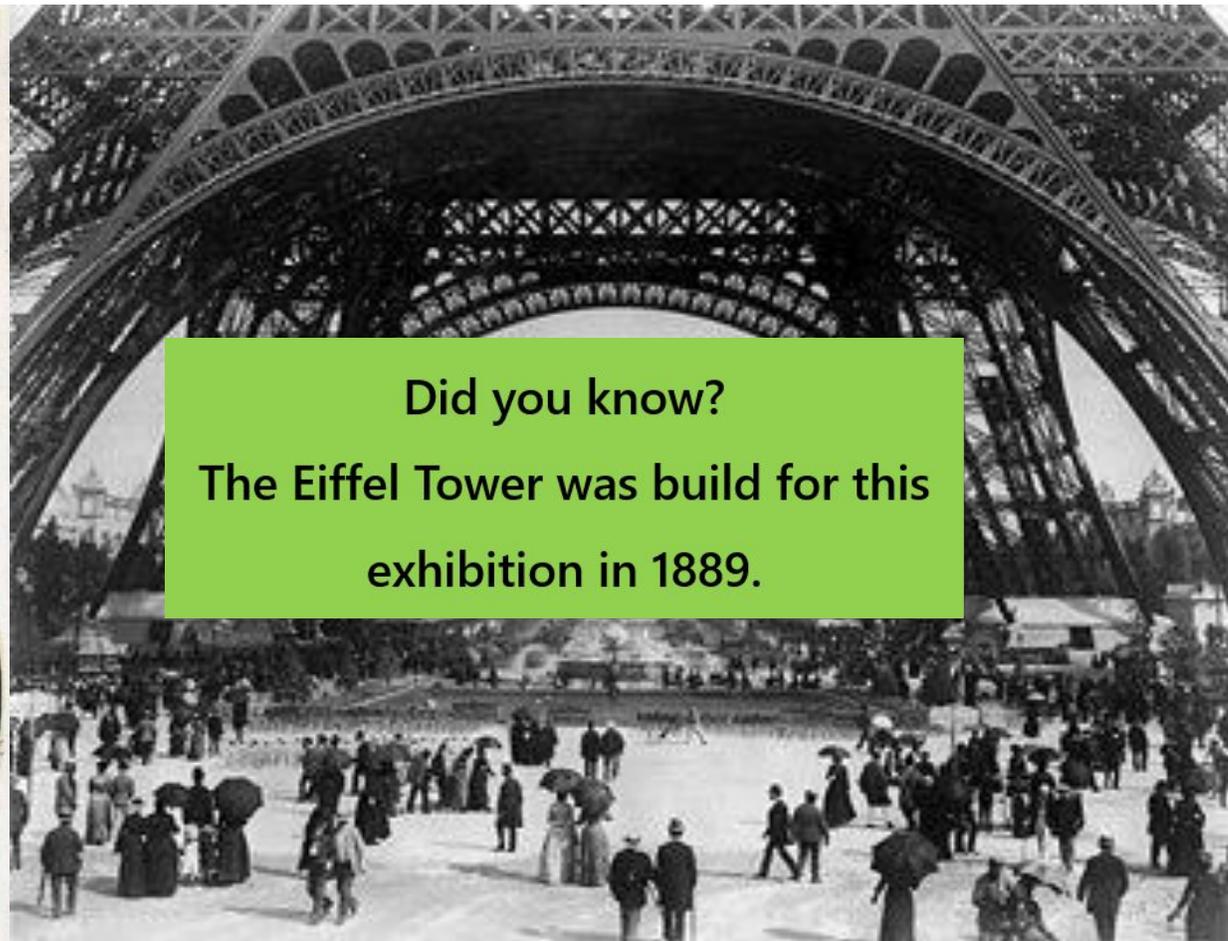
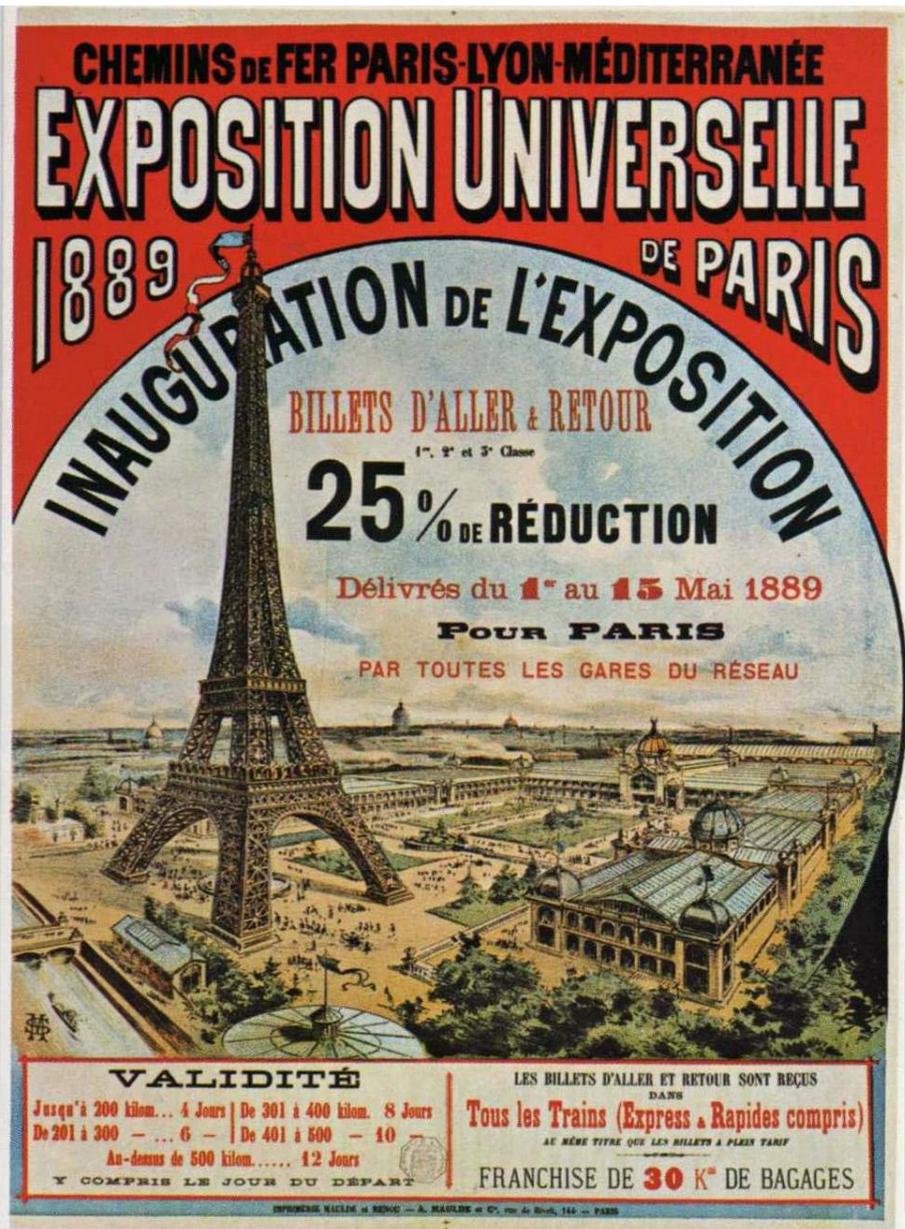
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_36x1_LKgg

Claude Debussy (1862 – 1918)

- His music is often associated with **Impressionism**; a movement in which art **suggests** the atmosphere and environment of the subject rather than attempting to be fully descriptive and programmatic.
- Debussy's piano-writing often used the extreme registers, with widely spaced chords and parallel movement and took a new approach to pedalling which produced subtle blending effects.
- Several of Debussy's piano pieces demonstrate that he was influenced by non-Western scales and instruments (such as 'Pagodes', which we will study).



2) Aim: To learn about the background of Claude Debussy



Debussy attended the **Paris World Exhibition of 1889** where he first heard a **Javanese gamelan**.

In 1900 he attended again and heard a **Balinese gamelan**.

We will hear the influence of gamelan music in Debussy's piano piece '**Pagodes**'.

3) Aim: To learn keywords ready to study the Debussy set work

Debussy Glossary 1

Impressionism	
Gamelan	
Pentatonic scale	
Extended chords	
Diminished triad	
Parallelism	
Open 5 th chord	
Whole-tone scale	
Ternary form	
Coda	

3) Aim: To learn keywords ready to study the Debussy set work

Debussy Glossary 2

Sustaining pedal	
Una corda pedal	
Cross rhythm	
Habanera	
Duple time	
Triple time	
Monophonic	
Homophonic	
Acciaccatura	
Rubato	
Tempo giusto	

3) Aim: To learn keywords ready to study the Debussy set work

Debussy Glossary 3

Pedal note	
Syncopated	
Tonal centre	
Counter melody	
Conjunct	
Contrary motion	
Gong	
Pagoda	
Tessitura	
Retenu	
Très rythmé	

4) Aim: To develop your understanding of 'Pagodes' and 'La soirée dans Grenade'

Debussy's background

- Attended **Paris Conservatoire** from the age of 10
- Whilst there questioned the rules of harmony and orchestration
 - Became the centre of Parisian music

Impressionism

- In art: Monet & Renoir were Impressionist artists. Impressionist artists used light and texture to create an impression rather than a true or exact representation of their subject.
- In music: '**Blurred**' sense of pulse and harmony (Debussy used cross-rhythms, parallel chords and used modes rather than major or minor tonality); **free structure; focus on texture, timbre and sonority; evocative descriptive piece titles.**
- Although Debussy hated being labelled an Impressionist composer, it is right for us to do so when writing about these pieces

4) Aim: To develop your understanding of 'Pagodes' and 'La soirée dans Grenade'

Estampes

- *Estampes* (meaning 'Prints') is a set of three solo piano pieces written in **1903**.
- Each one describes a **place**... 'Pagodes' – oriental pagodas, such as those in Japan and Vietnam, 'La soiree dans Grenade' – Granada in Spain, 'Jardins Sous La Pluie' – Gardens in the rain

'Pagodes'

- A **pagoda** is a type of building. It's sloping roof is reflected in the ascending and descending melodic patterns.



- Gamelan music often features three layers:

Bottom: **Gongs**

Middle: **Ostinati/repeating patterns**

Top: **Shimmering and decorative patterns**



- Debussy took inspiration from this in 'Pagodes'. He uses the sustain pedal on the piano to create the effect of the gong.

5) Aim: To demonstrate an understanding of 'Pagodes' and 'La soirée dans Grenade'

Questions:

1. What was the main inspiration behind Debussy's 'Pagodes'?
2. Describe two ways you can hear this in the music.
3. In what loose form is 'Pagodes'? Ternary, rondo or sonata?
4. Say three things about the writing for piano, e.g. it covers a wide range.
 5. What is the inspiration for 'La soirée dans Grenade'?
 6. Which country is the habanera rhythm associated with?
7. What genre does Debussy's music fit within (even though he himself hated the label)?
 8. Which of these statements best fits both pieces:
 - They are in a major key
 - They have a tonal centre
 - They are in a minor key

6) Aim: Annotate your printed copy of 'Pagodes' and 'La soirée dans Grenade'

'Pagodes'

- In loose ternary form. A: bars 1 – 32 B: bars 33 – 52 A: bars 53 - end
- Piece begins with an open 5th (B – F#) representing the gongs. The tonal centre of the piece is B. The G# creates an added note chord.
 - The up and down shape of bars 1 and 2 mimic the sloping roof of a pagoda.
 - Pentatonic scale is used in the melody over syncopated chords.
 - Bar 7: Conjunct counter melody
 - Bar 11: Contrary motion. The rhythms here blur the sense of pulse.
 - Bar 15: New material, oscillating left hand
 - Bar 19: Pedal (gong) returns
 - Bars 23-6: Cross-rhythms, pedal note
 - Bars 37 – 49: Imitating the three layers of the gamelan

6) Aim: Annotate your printed copy of 'Pagodes' and 'La soirée dans Grenade'

'Pagodes'

- Section B – The texture and harmony becomes more complex
- 2nd Section A: Exact repeat of material (without 2 bar intro)
 - Section B climax repeats at bar 73
 - Bar 78: High tessitura (range), rippling idea and oscillation
- Bar 80: Long 'gong' pedals return, main melody returns but in the middle of the texture
 - Bar 84: Countermelody from bar 7 returns
- Final bar: "laissez vibrer" – continue vibrating – the pianist must keep the sustain pedal down until the sound has completely died

6) Aim: Annotate your printed copy of 'Pagodes' and 'La soirée dans Grenade'

'La soirée dans Grenade'

- 'An evening in Granada'. Granada is an area of Southern Spain with Arabic (Moorish) ancestry
- Debussy uses the Habanera rhythm, originally from Cuba but associated with Spain after it was used by Bizet in his opera 'Carmen', which is set in Spain
 - Have a listen to this famous aria from 'Carmen' that uses the habanera rhythm:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJ_HHRJf0xg
 - Structure = 'sectional' (made up of 4 short contrasting sections)
 - 5 repeating melodies
 - Section A - Bars 1 – 37
 - Bar 7, Melody 1: Tonal centre of C# and ornament in bar 12
- Bar 17, Melody 2: Upward parallel chords and spread chord at end of each bar sounds like a flamenco guitar

6) Aim: Annotate your printed copy of 'Pagodes' and 'La soirée dans Grenade'

'La soirée dans Grenade'

- Bar 23, Melody 3: Stepwise, whole tone scale, 2-bar phrases, rubato
 - Section B: bars 38 – 60
- Bar 42, Melody 4: Tonal centre of A major, new version of the habanera
- Section C: bars 61 – 91: Melody 3 returns in bar 61, interval of augmented 2nd replaces use of whole tone scale, habanera rhythm still, tonal centre of C#
 - Bar 67, Melody 5: Disjunct, syncopated and dissonant. Gx (double sharp) gives bluesy feel.
 - Bar 78, Melody 3
 - Dies away to habanera rhythm on low G#
 - Section D: bar 92 to end: tonal centre of A major
 - Bar 92: Melody 2
 - Bar 97: Melody 4

6) Aim: Annotate your printed copy of 'Pagodes' and 'La soirée dans Grenade'

'La soirée dans Grenade'

- Bar 23, Melody 3: Stepwise, whole tone scale, 2-bar phrases, rubato
 - Bar 109: 'Lontain' = distant
- Bar 122: Melody 1 (the only time it is repeated), spread A major and D major chords beneath, fragmented habanera on top, *pp*, crossed hands
 - Bar 128: Tiny repeat of melody
 - Piece dies away on habanera rhythm

6) Aim: Annotate your printed copy of 'Pagodes' and 'La soirée dans Grenade'

'La soirée dans Grenade'

- Bar 23, Melody 3: Stepwise, whole tone scale, 2-bar phrases, rubato
 - Bar 109: 'Lontain' = distant
- Bar 122: Melody 1 (the only time it is repeated), spread A major and D major chords beneath, fragmented habanera on top, *pp*, crossed hands
 - Bar 128: Tiny repeat of melody
 - Piece dies away on habanera rhythm

7) Aim: To provide the basis for discussion in our first lessons in September

3 questions:

Help kick start our discussion about this music when we begin studying it in September. Come prepared with 3 questions. These can be about the composer, Debussy; about the piece, *Estampes*, about Impressionist music in general or anything else you think is relevant.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



BBC Proms

**A whole summer of music - every concert live on
BBC Radio 3 and some televised on BBC Four**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/proms>

A teal-colored background with a white dotted circle centered on the page. The text "See You in September" is written in a dark blue, serif font, centered within the dotted circle.

See You in
September