Menuet sur le nom d'Haydn



Maurice Ravel (1875–1937) was born in the Basque region of France, but his family moved to Paris in his first year. He became a pupil of Fauré at the Paris Conservatoire, but was equally influenced by Chabrier and by Liszt, whose virtuoso piano writing he was to surpass (though no great pianist himself) in some of his larger works. He was a master of brilliant and subtle orchestration, with a highly individual harmonic idiom. This little jeu d'esprit (witty trifle) is based on the 'musical letters' of Haydn's name in all kinds of positions. The piece was composed in 1909, to mark the centenary of Haydn's death.

Source: Menuet pour le piano; sur le nom d'Haydn (Centenaire d'Haydn, Mai 1909) (Paris: Durand, 1910)

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