

Claude-Achille Debussy (22 August 1862 – 25 March 1918) was a French composer. Along with Maurice Ravel, he was one of the most prominent figures working within the field of impressionist music, though he himself intensely disliked the term when applied to his compositions. Debussy is among the most important of all French composers, and a central figure in European music of the turn of the 20th century.

Le Martyre de Saint Sébastien was written in 1911. The work—a five-act musical mystery play on the subject of Saint Sebastian -- was produced in collaboration with Gabriele d'Annunzio (at that time living in France to escape his creditors) and designed as a vehicle for Ida Rubinstein. Debussy's contribution was a large-scale score of incidental music for orchestra and chorus, with solo vocal parts (for a soprano and two altos). Some of the material was orchestrated by Andre Caplet. Though the first Gabriel Astruc production was attended by scandal (the Archbishop of Paris requested Catholics not attend because the dancer playing St. Sebastian was a woman and a Jew), the work was not successful and did not enter the repertoire; thanks to Debussy's score, however, it has been recorded in abridged and adapted versions several times—notably by Pierre Monteux (in French), Leonard Bernstein (sung in French, acted in English), and Michael Tilson Thomas (in French). Though Debussy's complete score still exists and can certainly be performed in its original form (perhaps including linking narration taken from the original play, if the story is not staged), the work is very seldom heard in this way. Much more often performed is a four-movement orchestral suite made up of music extracted from the score and subtitled 'Fragments Symphoniques' (Symphonic Fragments). In addition, there are also two short brass fanfares which are sometimes presented with the symphonic fragments.

Dr. Michael Pratt has degrees in music education and music composition from The University of Toledo, The University of Michigan, and Boston University. He studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan, and taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan.

He has sung with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Kirov Orchestra, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, The Croswell Opera House, The Adrian Symphony Orchestra and The Adrian City Band.

He has performed with many notable conductors, including, Valery Gergiev, Michael Tilson Thomas, Neeme Jarve, Mikhail Pletnev, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Leonard Slatkin, John Adams, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Paul McCreech, Peter Phillips, Catherine Comet, Eric Kunzel, Margaret Hillis, Martin Katz, and John Finley Williamson.

Michael Pratt is a member of ASCAP.

Fanfare

Duration 1:25

from Le Martyre de Saint Sebastien, Act III

Claude Debussy
Arr. by Michael Pratt
for brass septet

Modere ♩ = 72

Trumpet in B \flat 1

Trumpet in B \flat 2

Trumpet in B \flat 3

Horn in F

Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2

B \flat Tpt. 3

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 10

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

rit. *a tempo*