

Maurice Ravel, *Trois beaux oiseaux du Paradis*

The great French impressionist composer Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) needs little introduction. His *Trois beaux oiseaux du Paradis* is one of a very few of the composer's choral works, and one of three songs he wrote to his own texts in late 1914 and early 1915, shortly after the outbreak of the First World War, while he was waiting to be conscripted into the French army. Published in 1916, the songs received their first performance in October 1917. Note that Blue, white and red are the colours of the French flag (as well as the flags of many other countries).

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