# THE PEDAGOGICAL VALUE OF ART SONGS BY FRENCH-CANADIAN COMPOSERS.

## A SELECTION OF VOCAL MUSIC BY CALIXA LAVALLÉE, LIONEL DAUNAIS AND ANDRÉ MATHIEU.

This is the Lecture/Recital Portion of a Thesis Presented to The Faculty of the Department of Music Northeastern Illinois University In Partial Fulfillment Of the Requirements for the Degree Master of Arts In Applied Music Pedagogy

By Lorraine Manifold (May 2011)

# MUSIC IN CANADA

French-Canadian mélodies are a valuable addition to the repertoire of all students

Works by 3 composers are featured:

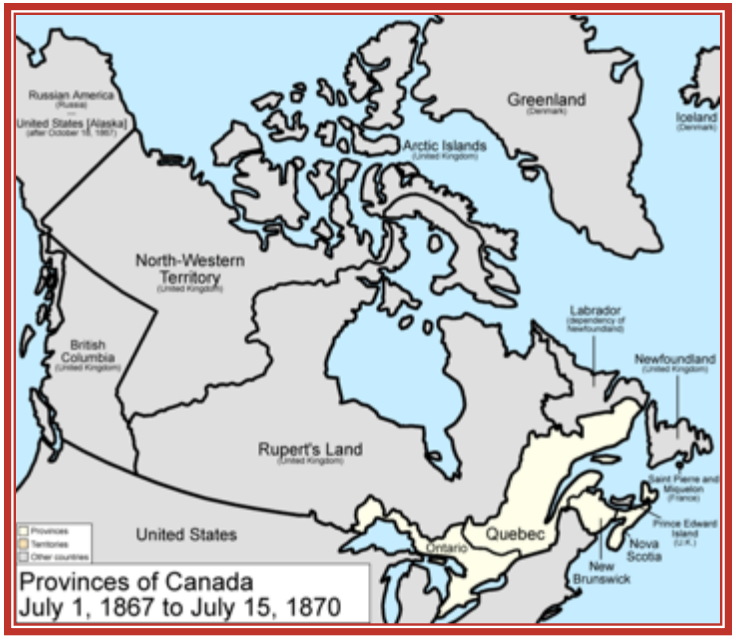
- Calixa Lavallée (1842 - 1891)
- Lionel Daunais (1901 - 1982)
- André Mathieu (1929 - 1968)

# Pedagogical Value

French-Canadian mélodies have a lot to offer voice students. The pedagogical value of these songs will help them learn French diction, vowel modification in the French language, breath management, unifying registers, adding more space, energy and depth for ascending pitches, as well as singing legato and with various articulations.

# MUSIC IN CANADA

## Cultural poverty in Canada before 1867.




- Canadian composers were mostly amateurs
- European influences could not be transplanted into Canada's "musical wilderness"
- The clergy prevented the rise of secular music

# HISTORICAL CONTEXT

1867 - 1920

## 1867

Confederation united the country politically, culturally and economically.

# MUSIC IN CANADA

## 19th century

The coffee house: a musical tradition that did not exist in France: amateurs as well as professionals performed ballads, opera arias, and instrumental music.

# MUSIC IN CANADA

## From Confederation 1867 to 1920

- Rise of a sense of professionalism in music education, performance and composition
- Large growth of number of native performers and composers
- Development of a Canadian musical style
- Rise of Canadian subjects as sources of inspiration.
- Canada began to export excellent musicians to other countries

# CALIXA LAVALLÉE

(1842-1891)

- Learned to play the organ when he was 11 years old
- Studied piano with Antoine Marmontel in Paris
- Elected President of MTNA in 1886
- Played in many concerts with Belgian violinist Frantz Jehin Prune

# CALIXA LAVALLÉE

- Important figure in Canadian music
- His works constitute the root of Canadian tradition in musical composition
- Produced more works in various genres than any other Canadian composer of the period
- Dedicated his life to the musical life in Canada
- Organized the first opera performance in Canada

# CHANT NATIONAL

CALIXA LAVALLÉE

- First written for SATB chorus
- Text by Judge Adolphe-Basile Routhier
- Was first played on 24 June 1880
- Gained immediate popularity among French Canadians
- Was not widely accepted throughout Canada until 1908, with the English text by Robert Stanley Weir
- Officially approved as national anthem by the Canadian Parliament in 1967.

# CHANT NATIONAL

CALIXA LAVALLÉE

- Original key: G Major
- Can be sung a cappella
- Fluid melody that often moves by steps
- Soprano Range: G4 to G5
- French, English or a bilingual version
- Vowel modification might be required
- Excellent for learning French diction and rules

# CHANT NATIONAL

CALIXA LAVALLÉE

## Liaisons and Elisions:

- French liaison:

  Examples: ton histoire, brillants exploits

- French elision:

  Example: ton histoire est

# CHANT NATIONAL

CALIXA LAVALLÉE

## Diphthong versus monophthong vowels:

- French monophthong vowel: /e/

  Examples: épée, porter

- English diphthong vowel: /ɛːɪ/

  Example: say

# SPRING FLOWERS

CALIXA LAVALLÉE

- Composed in 1886
- Published the same year by White-Smith
- Text by Gertrude Hall (1863-1961) nicknamed Kittie
- Comfortable song for beginners
- Gentle swaying piece meant to be sung in salons
- Melodic line is gentle and flowing,
- Only English song in this selection

# SPRING FLOWERS

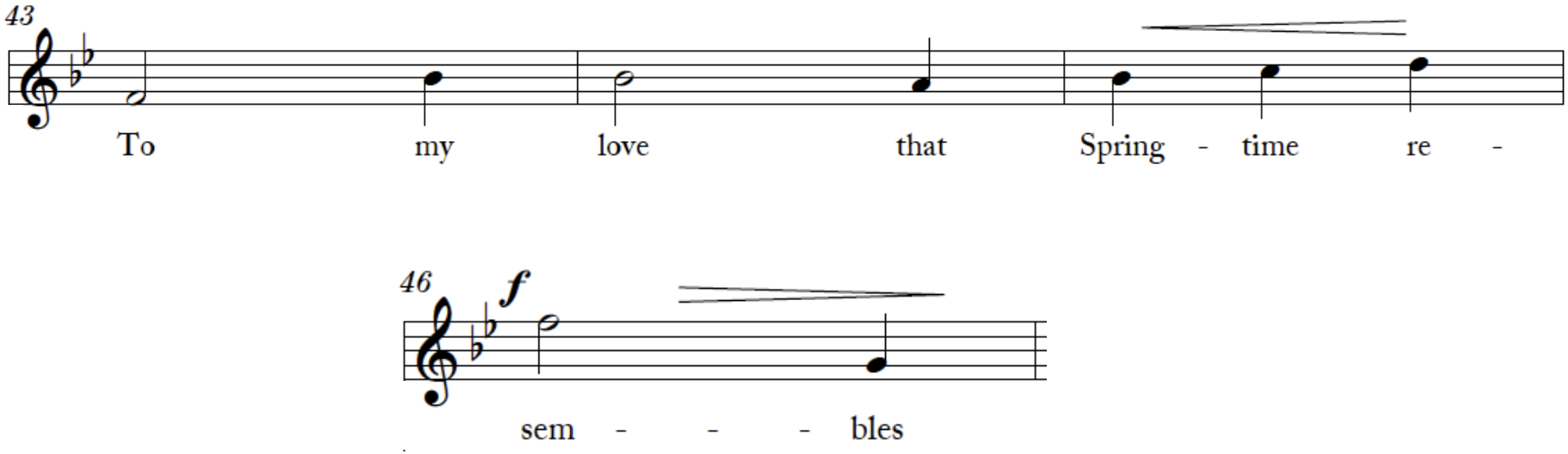
CALIXA LAVALLÉE

- Original key:  D flat Major (key analyzed: B flat Major)
- The tempo is waltz-like in 3/4 meter
- Range from D4 to F5
- Tessitura F4 to D5, good for lower voices
- Melody moves by step or small intervals of (3rds or 4ths)
- Pedagogical values: ascending leaps, unification of registers, singing legato phrases, breath control, and vowel modification

# SPRING FLOWERS

CALIXA LAVALLÉE

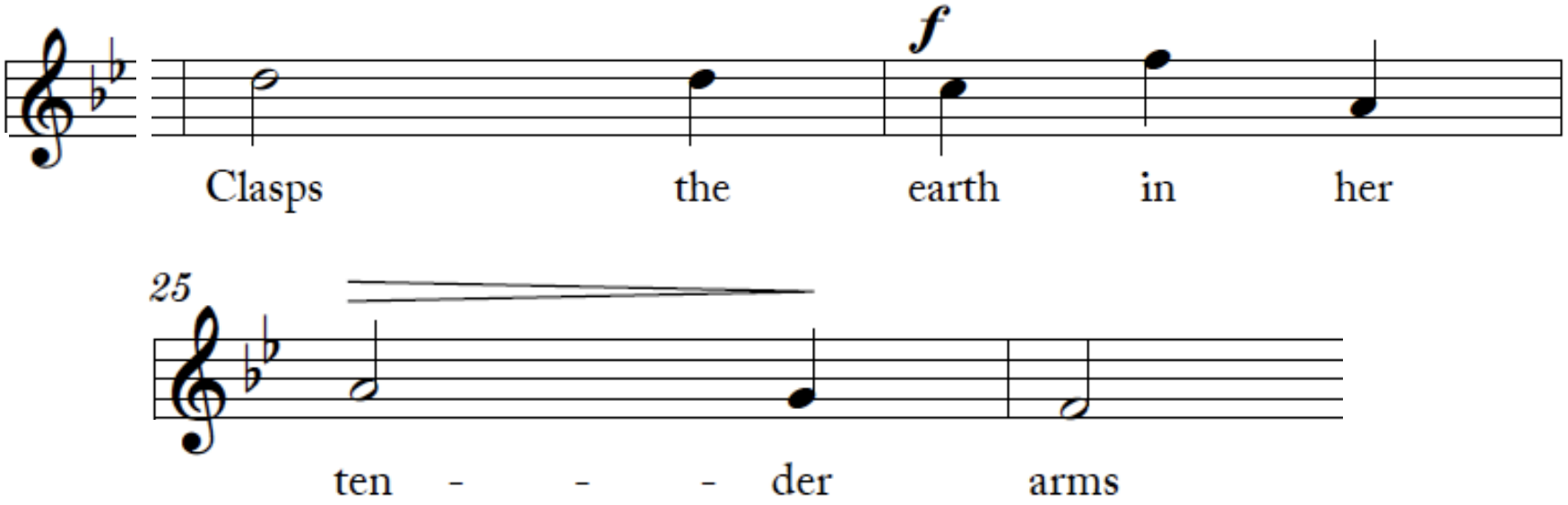
## Keeping Timbre Consistent



# SPRING FLOWERS

CALIXA LAVALLÉE

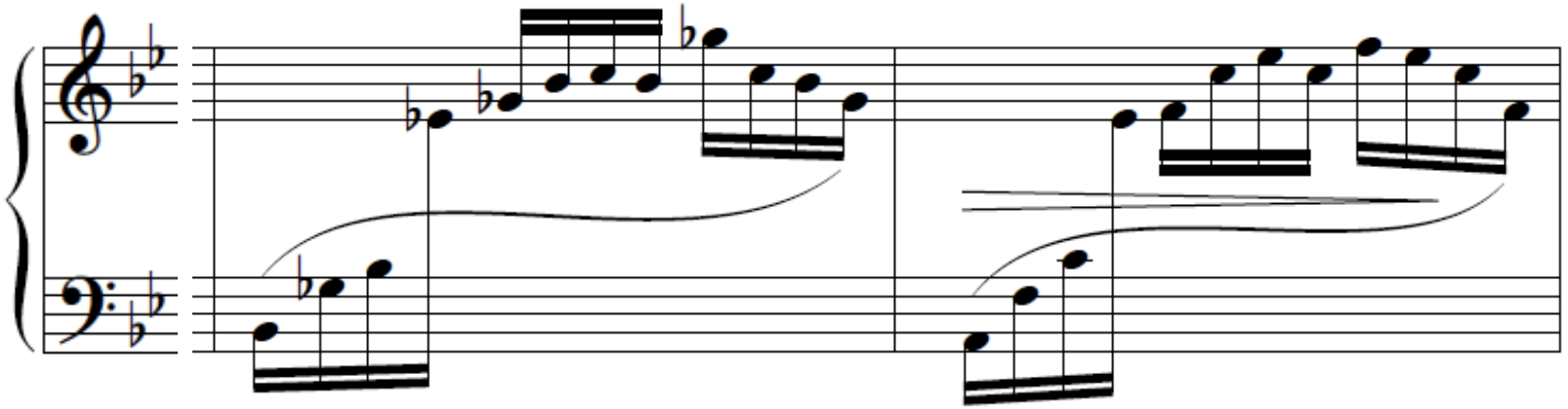
Learning to sing legato phrases, especially in areas where there are ascending and descending intervals.



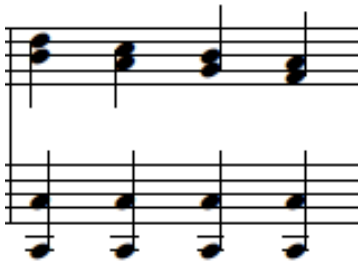
# SPRING FLOWERS

CALIXA LAVALLÉE

Piano accompaniment helps the singer think legato:



In comparison to



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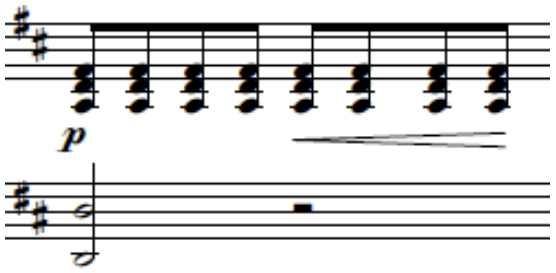


# NUIT D'ÉTÉ

CALIXA LAVALLÉE

- *Summer Night* composed in 1880
- Published the same year by Lavigne
- Poem by Napoléon Legendre (1841-1907)
- Strophic form
- Piano accompaniment suggests the warmth of a summer night.

# NUIT D'ÉTÉ

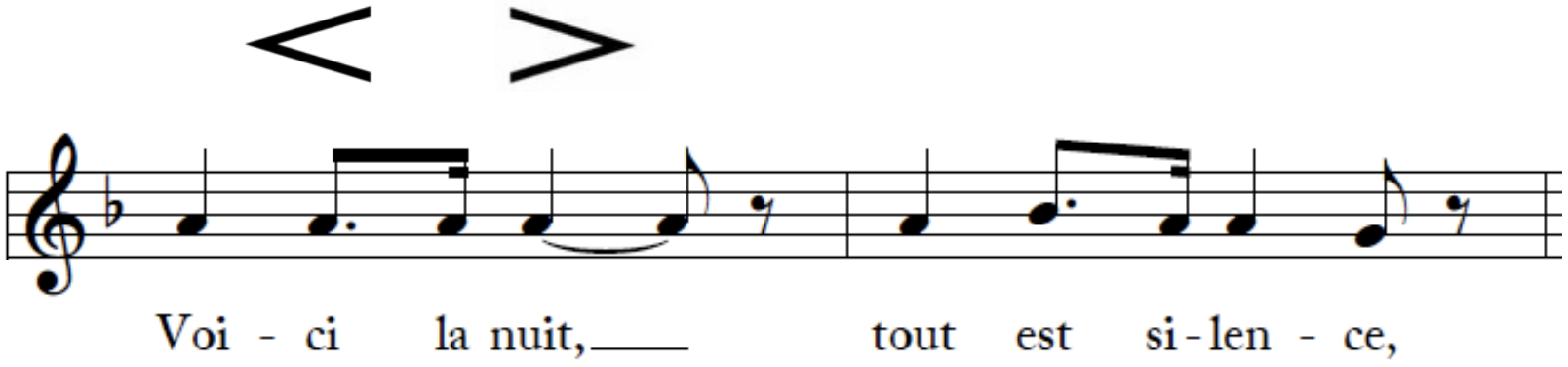
CALIXA LAVALLÉE

- Original key:  A Major (key analyzed: F Major)
- Range: C4 to E5
- Tessitura: between F4 and D5
- Melodic line is predominantly stepwise with a few leaps of 4ths or 6ths
- Consonant harmonies, though some chromaticisms appear in the melody.
- Pedagogical values: singing legato on repeated notes, *messa di voce*, elisions, and possibly vowel modification.

# NUIT D'ÉTÉ

CALIXA LAVALLÉE

## *Messa di voce*
## for intermediate students



# HISTORICAL CONTEXT

1920 - 1945

## After World War I

- Changed social conditions
- Women worked during the war
- Schools were developing
- Influx of immigrants
- Move from rural to urban areas
- Shift towards Francophone identity in Quebec

# MUSIC IN CANADA

- European trends not widely spread in Canada before 1939
- Search for a Canadian identity
- Canadian League of Composers in Toronto in 1951.
- Creation of CBC radio (1930s) helped disseminate compositions by Canadian artists.
- Increase of art songs & song cycles

# LIONEL DAUNAIS

(1901-1982)

- Born into a family of musicians
- Began singing lessons at 19 years old
- Won 1st prize in the Montreal Musical Festival 2 years later
- Won the Prix d'Europe himself (in singing) at age 24
- Multi-faceted career as singer, composer, lyricist, stage director and producer, writer and broadcaster.

# LIONEL DAUNAIS

- Well-known baritone who won many prizes for his vocal performances
- Founded the *Trio Lyrique* with whom he recorded 250 radio broadcasts
- Composed more than 200 songs for voice and piano, 30 songs for children, 18 choral pieces and arranged more than 70 folksongs

# IL HABITE MON COEUR

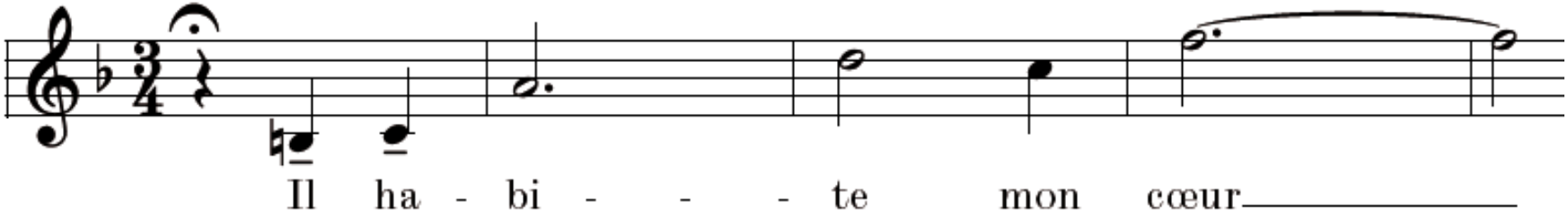
- Daunais wrote music and text to *He Lives in My Heart*
- Waltz reminiscent of Erik Satie's *Je te veux*
- Composed in 1941
- Pedagogical values: keeping consistent timbre throughout large range, chromatic harmonies, and vowel modification.

# IL HABITE MON COEUR

- Original key: F Major
- Transposed key available in E flat Major
- Large range: from B3 to A5
- Tessitura is medium: from G4 to E5
- Song is in $ABA^1$ form with a coda at the end.
- Chromatic harmonies in Section B

# IL HABITE MON COEUR

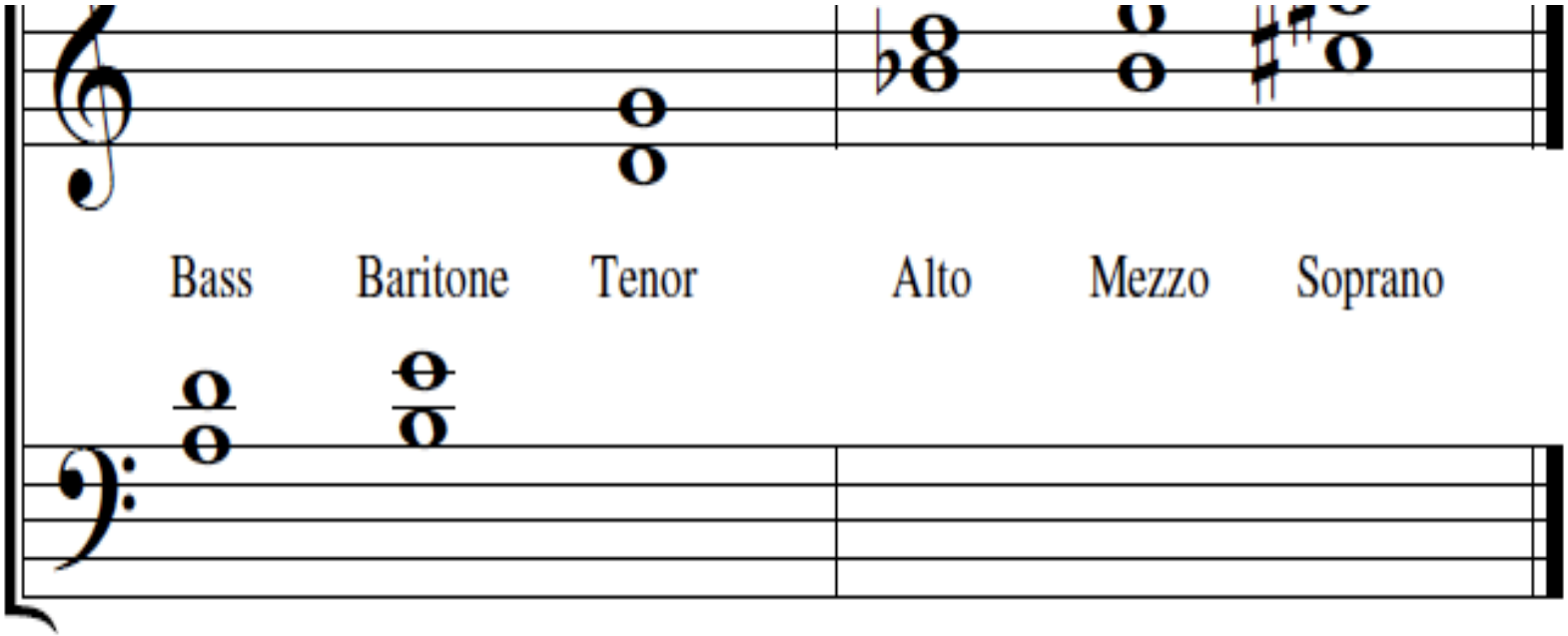
## Unifying Registers




- Laryngeal stabilization is required to keep timbre consistency
- Add space, energy and depth as pitch ascends

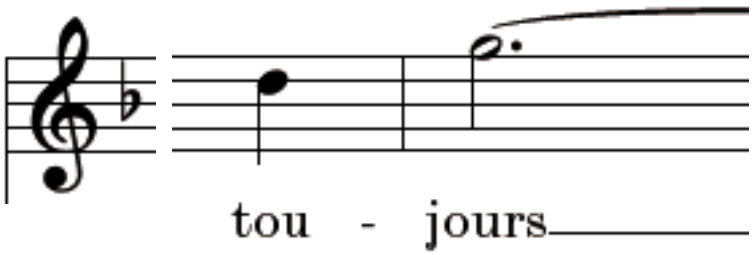
# VOCAL PEDAGOGY

## Passaggio Zones & Vowel Modification



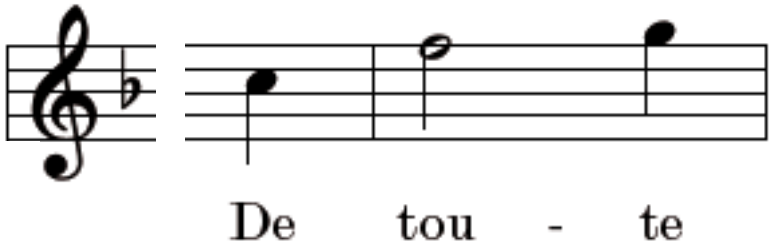
# IL HABITE MON COEUR

## Vowel Modification




[tujur] → [tʊjʊr]

[tutə] → [tʊtʌ]



# REFRAINS COURTS-VÊTUS

1973

- Set of 12 light and comic songs
- Can be sung by older and younger singers alike
- Contain simple rhythms and diatonic harmonies
- Most songs have ranges of less than one octave
- Arranged for SATB choir by Daunais in 1979

# 4. CE CHER ABBÉ BÉLUS

- Original key: G Major
- Range: from G4 to C5
- Time signature is 2/4
- Rhythms are easy consisting of 8th, 1/4 & 1/2 notes.
- Pedagogical goals of this piece include: exaggerating the diction, singing legato lines and singing expressively.

# CE CHER ABBÉ BÉLUS

## Final Consonants

- Recurring final sound (fake Latin-sounding words): /ys/
- Tongue position of /i/ + lip position of /u/ = /y/

angel us

terminus

trolleyb us

émérit us

escrabouill us

orémus

laï us

tempus

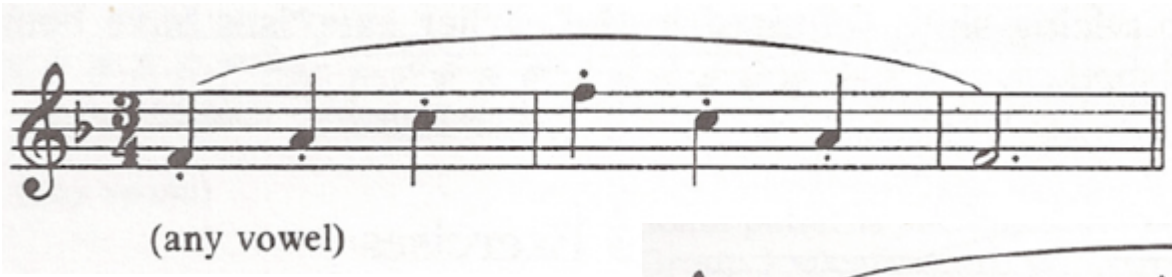
# 6. LE BEL ALEXIS

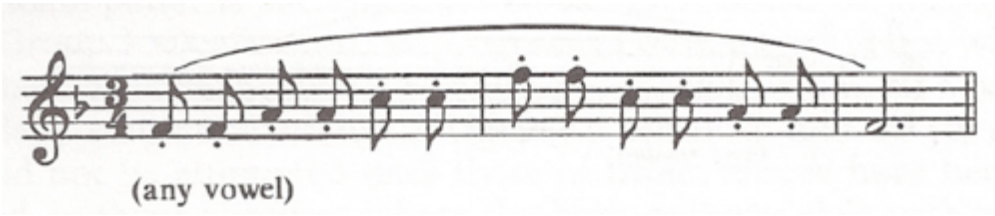
- Original key: G minor
- Range: from G4 to E flat 5
- Expression marking: very melodious, with tenderness.
- Pedagogical goals of this piece include: minor key, staccato-tenuto, singing legato and expressively.

# 6. LE BEL ALEXIS

## Tenuto

## Staccato-Tenuto



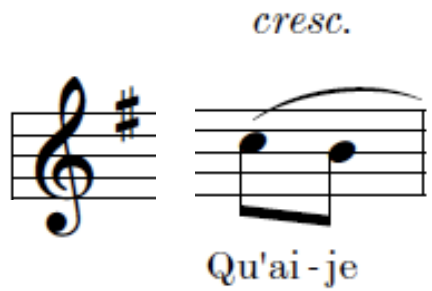
# LE VENT DES FORÊTS

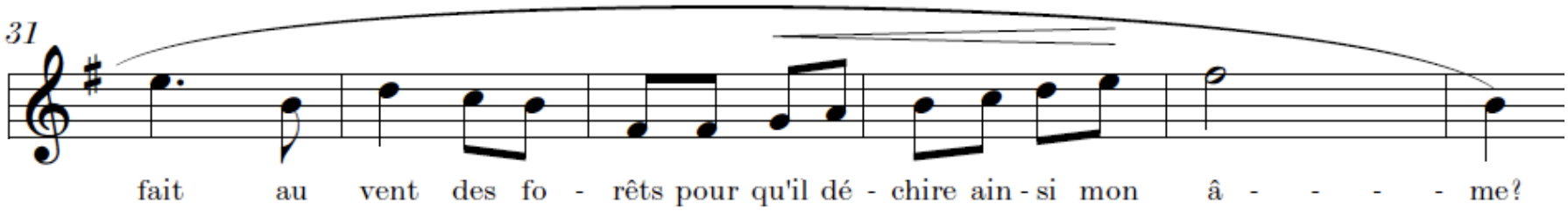
- Original key: D minor
- Range: from  B flat 3  to E flat 5
- Small tessitura: E4 and B4
- Original title of the poem: *Vent du soir*
- Text by Paul Fort (1872-1960) ( > 30 volumes of ballads)
- Pedagogical goals of this piece include:  long legato phrases, vowel modification and French diction.

# LE VENT DES FORÊTS

## Breath Management

- Good posture
- Low breaths
- Prevent rib cage from collapsing



# ANDRÉ MATHIEU

(1929-1968)

- At 6 years old, had already composed more than 9 works for piano
- At age 7, won a scholarship to study piano and composition in Paris
- Paris critics compared him to Mozart for the quality of his compositions

# ANDRÉ MATHIEU

- His *Concertino No. 2* won 1st prize
- He performed it in Montreal with Sir Thomas Beecham conducting
- Played it at Carnegie Hall when he was only 13 years old.

# ANDRÉ MATHIEU

André Mathieu representing Canada at an event in Carnegie Hall presided over by Eleanor Roosevelt, Fiorello La Guardia and supported by Thomas Mann and Albert Einstein.

# ANDRÉ MATHIEU

- Studied composition with Arthur Honegger
- Studied piano with Jules Gentil
- Played for Alfred Cortot
- Composed mainly for piano but also 11 songs for voice
- He died suddenly in 1968 at the age of 39.

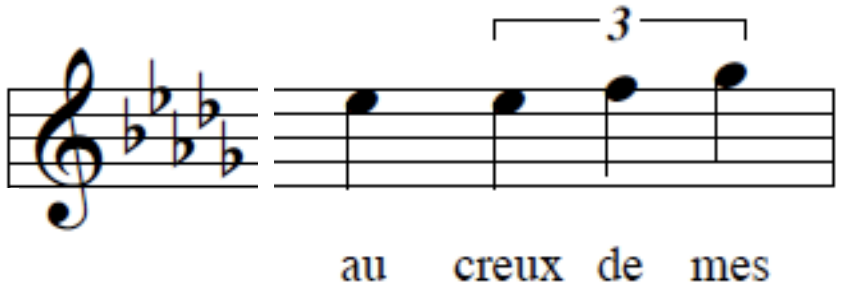
# SI TU CROIS...

1955

- Original key: D flat Major
- Form is $AA^{1}BAA^{11}$ (Blues Tempo)
- Range: from $C_4$ to A flat 5
- Medium Tessitura: $F_4$ to D flat 5
- Text by Jean Laforest, a scriptwriter at Radio-Canada.
- Pedagogical goals of this piece include: triplets, French diction, vowel modification.

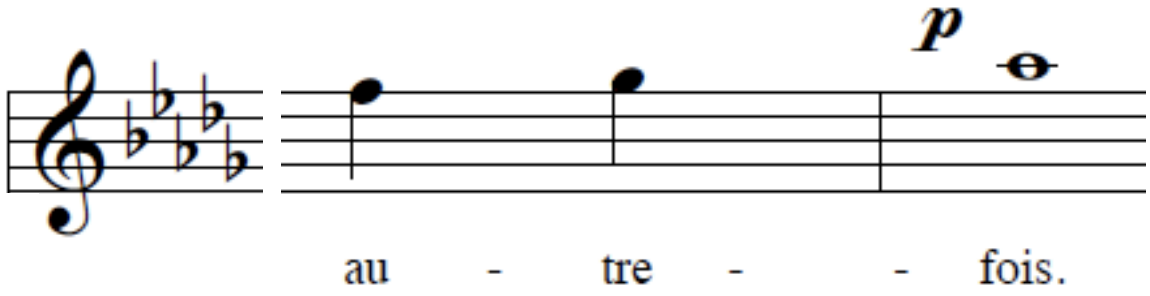
# SI TU CROIS…

Vowel Modification



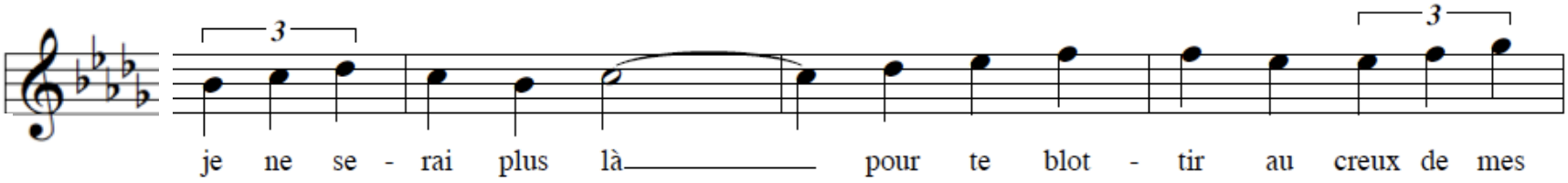

[crø də] → [crœ dʌ]

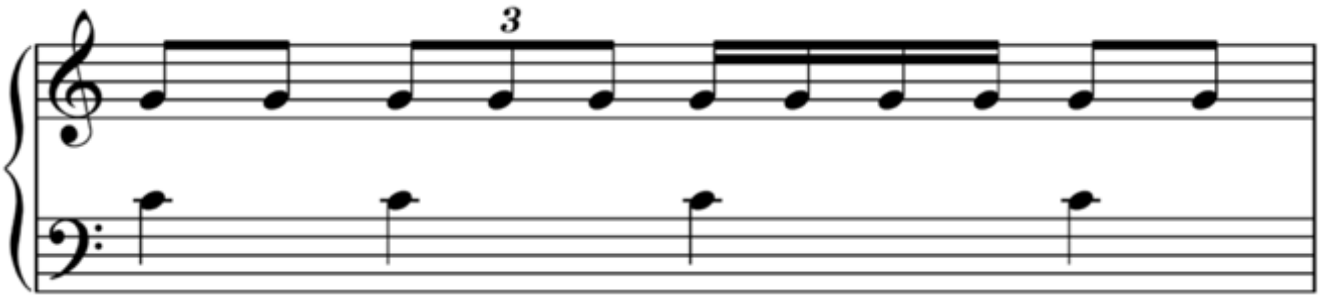
[trə] → [trʌ]



# SI TU CROIS...

Triplets



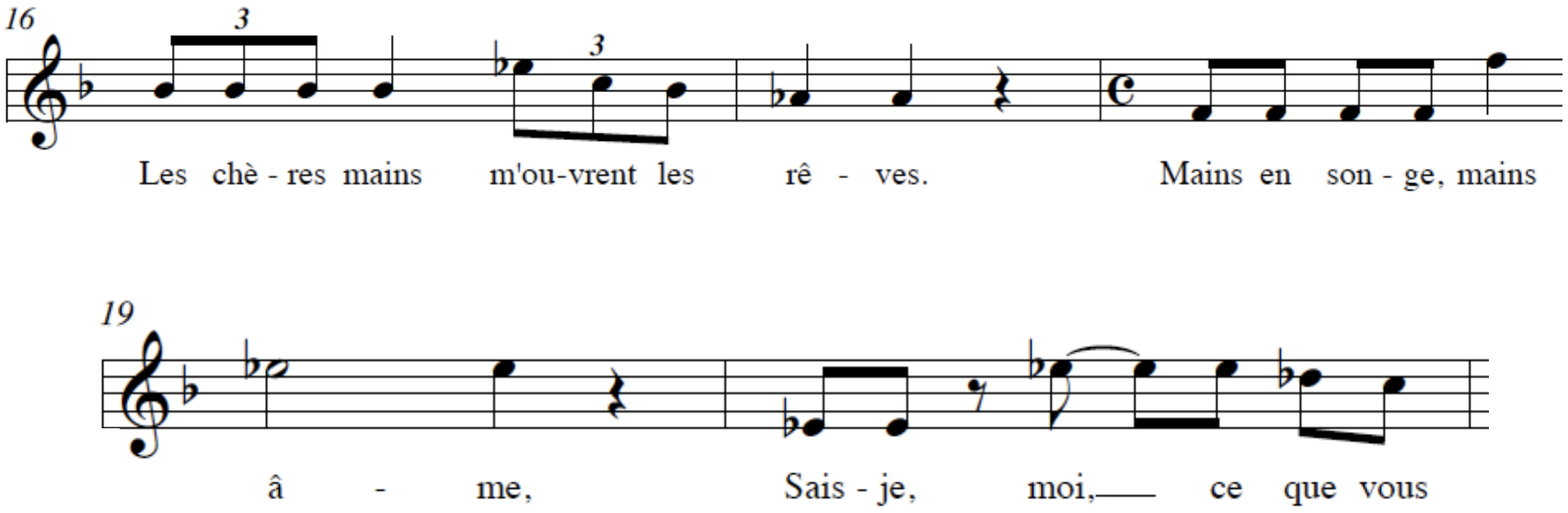
# LES CHÈRES MAINS

1946

- Original key: F Major
- Range: from D flat 4 to to A φλατ 5
- Medium Tessitura: A4 to D5
- Text by Paul Verlaine (1844-1896)
- Only known musical setting of this poem.
- Pedagogical goals include: Changing time signatures & rhythmic patterns, chromatic harmonies, key modulation, ascending octave leaps and vowel modification.

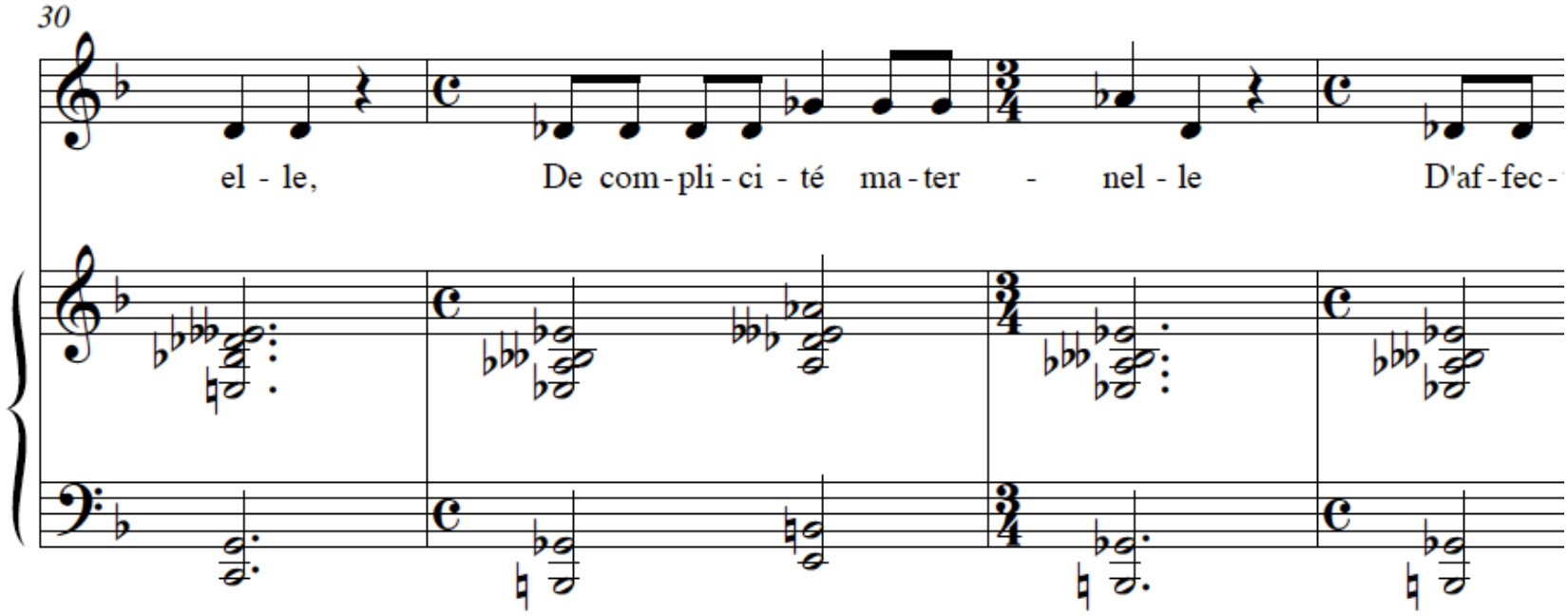
# LES CHÈRES MAINS

Octave leaps, changing time signatures & rhythmic patterns



# LES CHÈRES MAINS

## Chromatic harmonies & key modulation



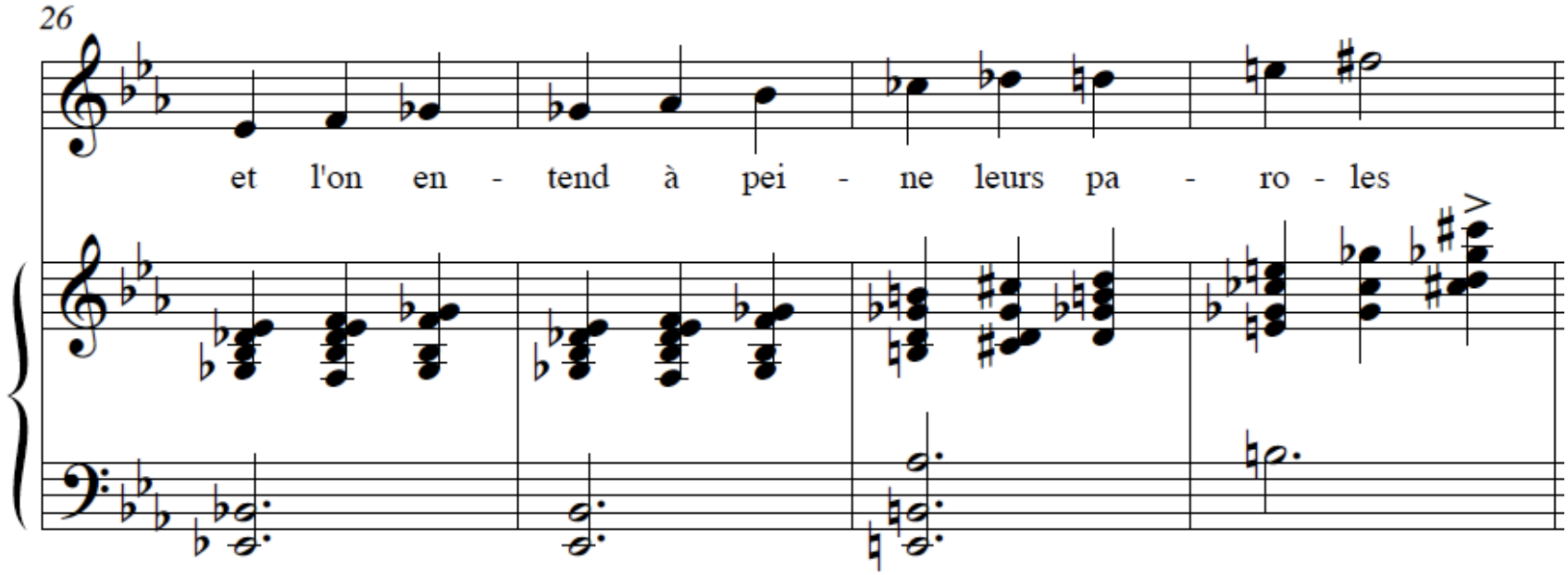
# COLLOQUE SENTIMENTAL

1946

- Original key: E flat Major
- Range: from C4 to F sharp 5
- Medium Tessitura: A flat 4 to E flat 5.
- Text by Paul Verlaine (1844-1896)
- Piece best suited for intermediate students
- Pedagogical goals include: ascending octave leaps, chromatic variations, vowel modification, complex rhythms and changing time signatures.

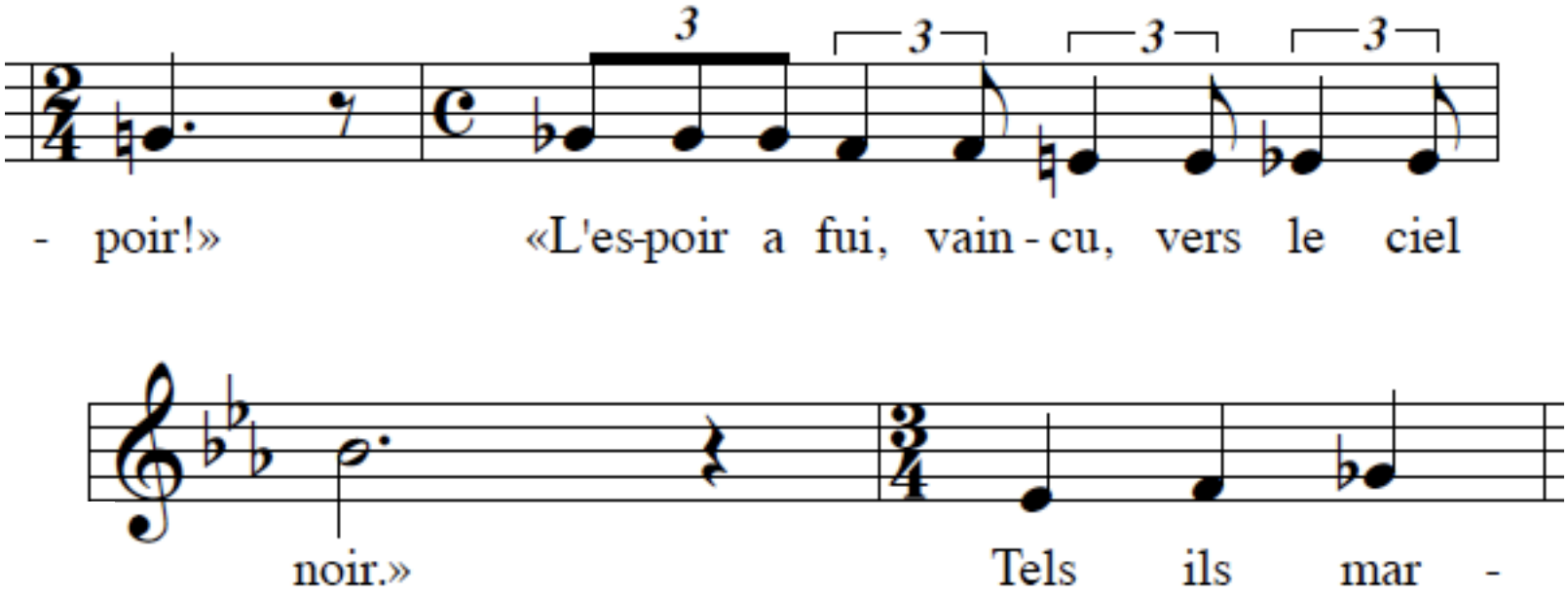
# COLLOQUE SENTIMENTAL

Complex harmonies and non-diatonic tones



# COLLOQUE SENTIMENTAL

## Changing time signatures



# Conclusion

In addition to French mélodies, French-Canadian Art Songs add more depth and variety to the repertoire.

# RECITAL

A SELECTION OF MUSIC BY
CALIXA LAVALLÉE,
LIONEL DAUNAIS, &
ANDRÉ MATHIEU

# CHANT NATIONAL

CALIXA LAVALLÉE

PLEASE STAND

# CHANT NATIONAL

CALIXA LAVALLÉE

PLEASE SING!

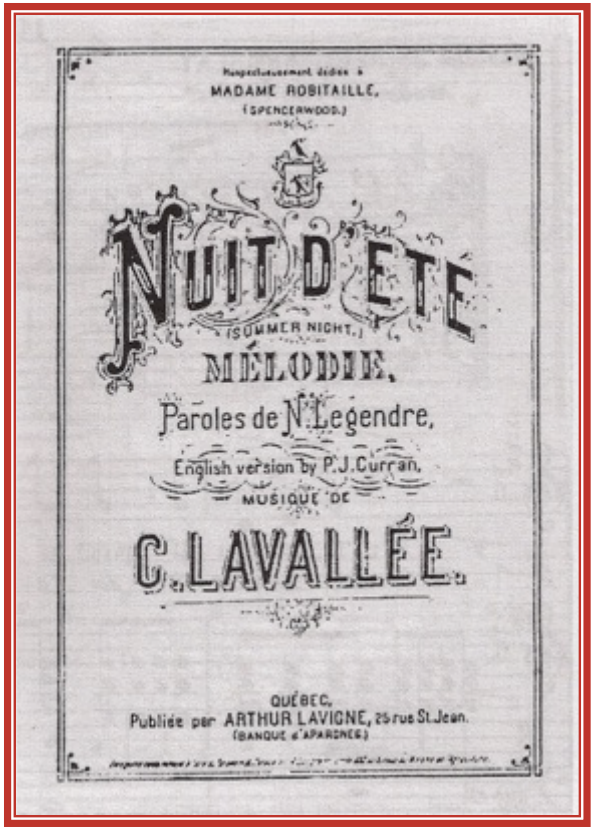
O Canada !
Terre de nos aïeux,
Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux !
Car ton bras sait porter l' épée,
Il sait porter la croix !
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits.
Et ta valeur, de foi trempée,
Protègera nos foyers et nos droits (2x)

# SPRING FLOWERS

CALIXA LAVALLÉE

# NUIT D'ÉTÉ

CALIXA LAVALLÉE




TITLE PAGE FROM THE *MORNING CHRONICLE*, 24 JUNE 1880.

# IL HABITE MON COEUR

LIONEL DAUNAIS

# REFRAINS COURTS-VÊTUS

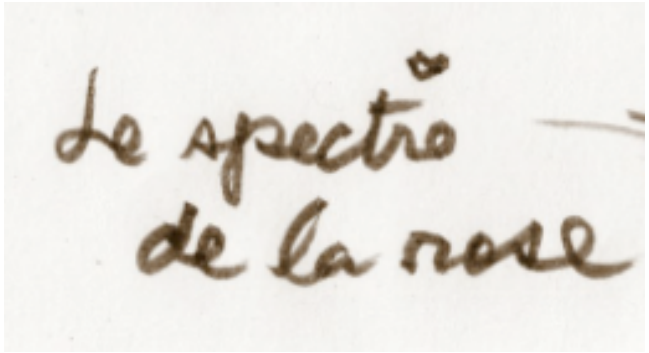
LIONEL DAUNAIS

## Ce cher abbé Bélus

# REFRAINS COURTS-VÊTUS

LIONEL DAUNAIS

## Le bel Alexis



# LE VENT DES FORÊTS

LIONEL DAUNAIS

# SI TU CROIS

ANDRÉ MATHIEU

# LES CHÈRES MAINS

ANDRÉ MATHIEU

PRESTIGIOUS WINDSOR HOTEL WHERE THE SONG WAS PREMIERED IN 1950

# COLLOQUE SENTIMENTAL

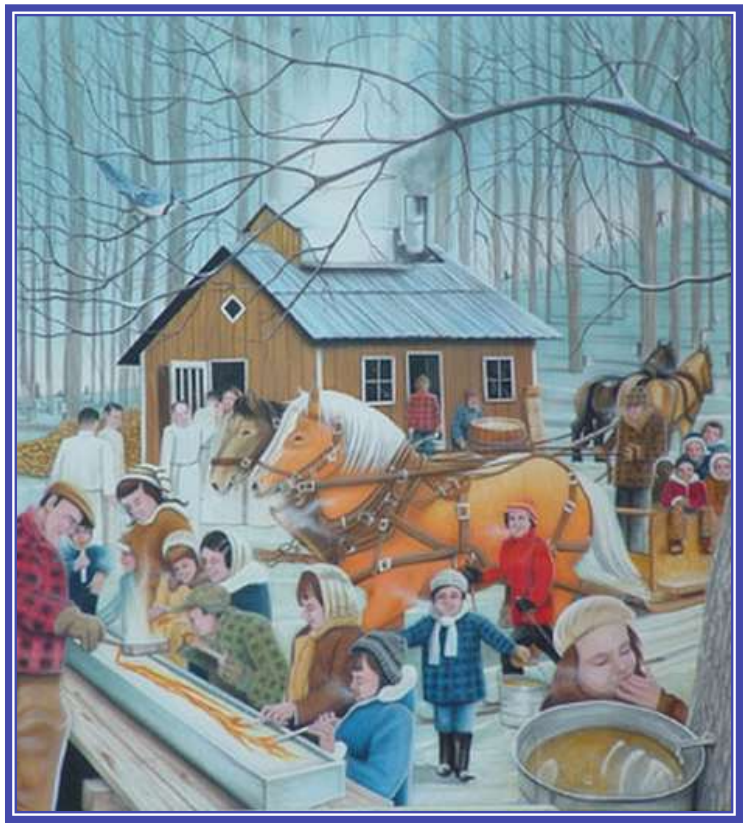
ANDRÉ MATHIEU

# LA TOURTIÈRE

LIONEL DAUNAIS

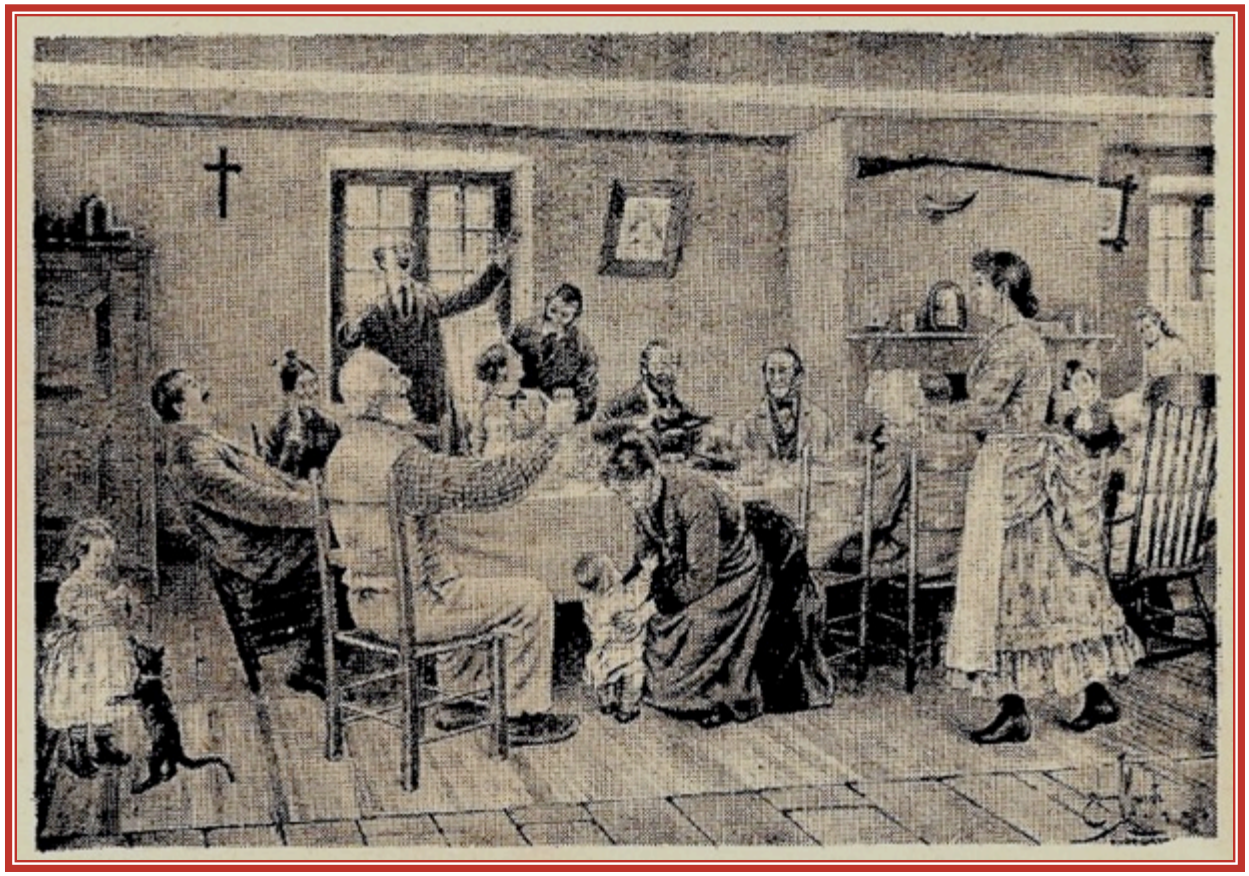
# LA CABANE À SUCRE

ALBERT LARRIEU



# LA SOUPE AUX POIS

ALBERT LARRIEU



# THE END

TED HARRISON, O CANADA

# THANKS, EH?

Thank you for coming. I hope you have enjoyed this brief survey of French-Canadian music.

Please contact me if you would like to find out more about Canadian music or how to order sheet music of Canadian compositions.

Lorraine@ManifoldMelodies.com
847-224-9996