

**JEHAN ALAIN**  
**1911-1940**

**Le Jardin suspendu**  
**Litanies**

Jehan Alain, eldest brother of organist Marie-Claire Alain, composed with many original tone colors in mind. His music is at once daring and poetic, evocative and declamatory. The dreamy *Suspended Garden* is subtitled "chaconne," in which style a harmonic/melodic passage is repeated several times, paired with varied material around it. *Litanies* is probably Alain's best known and exciting piece. It truly is a passionate litany of sorts, with a repeated motive that is as fertile rhythmically as it is melodically.

**Variations on a Theme of Clément Jannequin**

This piece is but a brief venture: Alain treats an ancient, modal, soothing melody with a statement and only two variations. The first variation is a modal re-statement of the theme; the second is a fugato treatment. Alain glides deftly in and out of tonality, only the first one or two occurrences of which are unsettling to the unsuspecting ear. Alain soon wins the listener over with his mastery of tonal coloring and harmonic control, and we embrace his brilliance as one of France's great prodigies.