

**THÉODORE DUBOIS**  
**1837-1924**

**Toccatà in G**

Hundreds of toccatas have been composed over the centuries, going back at least to Renaissance Italy, when toccata (“touch piece”) might refer to any free-form keyboard piece. By the time of Bach, the toccata had become more of a showpiece (such as that most famous example in D minor). Later on, Widor’s toccata (the other most famous example) from his fifth Symphony for solo organ forever cemented the style of flashiness, rhythmic charge and the high level of bravado we have come to expect from a modern toccata. Melody may even be secondary to the rhythmic drive: how many of us are actually able to sing a modern toccata? The present example by Dubois maintains the customary rhythmic charge while carrying more melody than usual. This piece is more charming than flamboyant, more “polite” than aggressive. Dubois even includes a calm middle section.