

JEAN-JULES AIMABLE ROGER-DUCASSE
1873-1954

Pastorale

Depending on your preferred definition of “French Impressionism,” Roger-Ducasse’s Pastorale, his only organ work, is the closest that French organ music comes to Debussy. The single, gently lilting theme on which this twelve-minute piece is based appears in nearly every measure, whether as a melody or as a rhythmic undercurrent. Myriad treatments range from rhythmic alteration to multi-voice canons to hidden statements amidst other interesting passages. This piece builds to the customary “storm scene” so common in pastorales, and the ensuing denouement is truly breathtaking.