



BRILLIANT
CLASSICS

TIERSEN

LA PLAGÉ

ARRANGEMENTS FOR GUITAR

George Tossikian
guitar

Yann Tiersen
Arrangements for Guitar

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| 1. La Valse des Monstres | 3'41 |
| 2. La Plage | 2'20 |
| 3. La Valse d'Amélie | 3'07 |
| 4. Comptine d'un autre été – l'après midi | 2'38 |
| 5. Le Banquet | 1'42 |
| 6. La Dispute | 4'29 |
| 7. A Quai | 4'03 |
| 8. Comptine d' été No.2 | 2'47 |
| 9. Comptine d' été No.1 | 2'27 |
| 10. Sur le Fil | 8'06 |

All arrangements for guitar by George Tossikian

George Tossikian *guitar*

This is the first complete collection of works by Yann Tiersen played on the classical guitar. Over the course of the last 15 years I have often made and performed by own arrangements of his pieces: here are 10 of them, designed to convey the voice of a French composer whose minimalist, lyrical and expressive music places him among the most inspired composers of his generation.

Born in Brest in Brittany on June 23, 1970, Tiersen was raised in Rennes and made a name for himself as one of the star pupils at his local conservatory (despite middling academic grades). Tiersen studied violin and piano as a child, and eventually trained to be a conductor. However, Tiersen rebelled against his classical training and, inspired by the likes of Joy Division and the Stooges, played guitar with several local post-punk-influenced bands during his later teenage years.

Borrowing from French folk music, chanson, musette waltz, and street music, as well as rock, avant-garde, and classical and minimalist influences, Tiersen's deceptively simple style has a classical base in the music of Chopin, Satie, Philip Glass and Michael Nyman. He became popular outside France for his score to Jean-Pierre Jeunet's *Amélie*, but by that point he had gained considerable experience composing soundtracks for short films and incidental music for plays. Several of these pieces ended up on his first album, *Valse des Monstres* (1995); they also featured intricate arrangements incorporating various instruments.

The evolution of the guitar is inextricably linked with the art of transcription and arrangement. From Francisco Tárrega and Andrés Segovia to Manuel Barrueco and Roland Dyens, many guitarists of note have practiced the art of transcription, transforming works by Bach, Chopin, Albéniz and Piazzolla, among many others, as well as folk themes from all over the world.

In using Yann Tiersen's exquisite melodies as my raw material, I wish to continue this tradition. In the pieces which were originally composed for solo piano or violin, I have stayed as faithful as possible to the original score. However, by applying techniques which belong to the guitar's particular technique – the production of tremolo, harmonics, campanella – I have sought to avoid the trap of imitation. The pieces originally composed for ensembles are dealt with in a freer and more creative vein, while retaining their original character, whether melancholic or joyful, childlike or romantic. My hope is that the classical guitar gives them a new home and a new life.

© George Tossikian

George Tossikian was born in Piraeus in 1981. He studied guitar under Iakovos Kolanian (Contemporary Conservatory of Athens), graduating in 2004 with a unanimous First Class Diploma.

At the same time, he attended seminars by internationally acclaimed guitarists, and distinguished himself in Greek competitions, and also at the International Renaissance Music Contest-Festival of Armenia, where he was awarded First Prize.

Since 2005, he has given recitals and participated in festivals in Greece and abroad.

In recent years, he has been a permanent collaborator and member of the orchestra of composer George Varsamakis, while, since 2011, he has been appearing as part of a duet with guitarist and composer Notis Mavroudis.

In 2010, his first discographic work was released, under the title *Guitar Music by Greek Composers*, with works for guitar by established as well as young Greek composers, many of them premiere recordings.

Three years later, he brought out his second album, entitled *Mosaic*, consisting of compositions influenced by the musical traditions of countries of the Near East and the Balkans.

In 2015, an album entitled *Aurora* was released, in which George Tossikian plays pieces for guitar, and the *Suite for Guitar and String Ensemble* by George Varsamakis.

In 2018, George Tossikian with Notis Mavroudis as a guitar duo released *Café Latino*, a collection of folk songs and dances from Latin America: anonymous compositions lost in the depths of time, arranged for two guitars.

He teaches classical guitar at the Contemporary Music Education Conservatory, and at the Philippos Nakas Conservatory.



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