

COMPACT  
disc  
DIGITAL AUDIO  
PASC 272

# DARIUS MILHAUD

PRISTINE  
AUDIO  
XR

**Darius Milhaud** (4 September 1892 – 22 June 1974) was a French composer and teacher. He was a member of Les Six—also known as The Group of Six—and one of the most prolific composers of the 20th century. His compositions are influenced by jazz and make use of polytonality (music in more than one key at once).

Born in Marseilles to a Jewish family from Aix-en-Provence, Milhaud studied in Paris at the Paris Conservatory where he met his fellow group members Arthur Honegger and Germaine Tailleferre. He studied composition under Charles Widor and harmony and counterpoint with André Gedalge. He also studied privately with Vincent d'Indy. As a young man he worked for a while in the diplomatic entourage of Paul Claudel, the eminent poet and dramatist, who was serving as French ambassador to Brazil.

On a trip to the United States in 1922, Darius Milhaud heard "authentic" jazz for the first time, on the streets of Harlem, which left a great impact on his musical outlook. The following year, he completed his composition "*La création du monde*" ("The Creation of the World"), using ideas and idioms from jazz, cast as a ballet in six continuous dance scenes.

In 1925, Milhaud married his cousin, Madeleine (1902 - 2008), an actress and reciter. In 1930 she bore him a son, the painter and sculptor Daniel Milhaud, to be the couple's only child.

The Milhauds left France in 1939 and emigrated to America in 1940 (his Jewish background made it impossible for him to return to his native country until after its Liberation). He secured a teaching post at Mills College in Oakland, California, where he collaborated with Henri Temianka and the Paganini Quartet. In an extraordinary concert there in 1949, the Budapest Quartet performed the composer's 14th String Quartet, followed by the Paganini's performance of his 15th; and then both ensembles played the two pieces together as an octet. The following year, these same pieces were performed at the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado, by the Paganini and Juilliard Quartet.

Legendary jazz pianist Dave Brubeck arguably became Milhaud's most famous student when Brubeck furthered his music studies at Mills College in the late 1940s (he named his eldest son Darius). In a February 2010 interview with *JazzWax*, Brubeck said he attended Mills, at the time an all-girls school, specifically to study with Milhaud; Brubeck: "Milhaud was an enormously gifted classical composer and teacher who loved jazz and incorporated it into his work. My older brother Howard was his assistant and had taken all of his classes."

Milhaud's former students also include two of the seminal figures in America's version of minimalism, Philip Glass and Steve Reich, several arrangers and composers associated with West Coast modern jazz, [citation needed] and popular songwriter Burt Bacharach. Milhaud told Bacharach, "Don't be afraid of writing something people can remember and whistle. Don't ever feel discomfited by a melody".

Milhaud (like his contemporaries Paul Hindemith, Gian Francesco Malpiero, Bohuslav Martinů and Heitor Villa-Lobos) was an extremely rapid creator, for whom the art of writing music seemed almost as natural as breathing. His most popular works include *Le boeuf sur le toit* (ballet), *La création du monde* (a ballet for small orchestra with solo saxophone, influenced by jazz), *Scaramouche* (for Saxophone and Piano, also for two pianos), and *Saudades do Brasil* (dance suite). His autobiography is titled *Notes sans musique* (Notes Without Music), later revised as *Ma vie heureuse* (My Happy Life).

From 1947 to 1971 he taught alternate years at Mills and the Paris Conservatoire, until poor health, which caused him to use a wheelchair during his later years (beginning sometime before 1947), compelled him to retire. He died in Geneva, aged 81.

*Biographical notes from Wikipedia*

#### Restoration notes

Both of these recordings were very well made for their era, and in both cases I was able to work from excellent transfers. That said, the originals sounded slightly veiled to modern standards, and I've endeavoured to lift this as best I can with a gentle application of XR remastering. The results bring even more life and vivacity to music which is often already bursting with vigour, and sound truly splendid.

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM](http://WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM)

SARL Pristine Audio, Le Bourg, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France - Tel. (00) 33 553 821857  
Internet: [www.pristineclassical.com](http://www.pristineclassical.com)



COMPACT  
disc  
DIGITAL AUDIO  
PASC 272  
STEREO

## MILHAUD CONDUCTS MILHAUD

### LES QUATRE SAISONS

ENSEMBLE DE SOLISTES DES  
CONCERTS LASMOUREUX

CONDUCTED BY  
DARIUS MILHAUD

### SAUDADES DO BRASIL CONCERT ARTS ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTED BY  
DARIUS MILHAUD

STEREO STUDIO RECORDINGS, 1956 & 1958

## Milhaud conducts Milhaud

### MILHAUD Les Quatre Saisons

- 1. **Concertino de Printemps**, Op. 135 (8:44)  
Szymon Goldberg, violin
- 2. **Concertino d'Été**, Op. 311 (13:27)  
Ernst Wallfisch, viola
- 3. **Concertino d'Automne**, Op. 309 (9:48)  
Geneviève Joy, Jacqueline Bonneau, pianos
- 4. **Concertino d'Hiver**, Op. 327 (12:28)  
Maurice Suzan, trombone

**Ensemble de Solistes des Concerts Lamoureux**  
conducted by **Darius Milhaud**

### MILHAUD Saudades do Brasil OP. 87B

- 5. **Overture** (0:47)
- 6. **1. Sorocaba** (1:35)
- 7. **2. Botofago** (1:51)
- 8. **3. Leme** (2:40)
- 9. **4. Copacabana** (2:39)
- 10. **5. Ipanema** (2:00)
- 11. **6. Gavea** (1:32)
- 12. **7. Corcovado** (1:52)
- 13. **8. Tijuca** (1:45)
- 14. **9. Sumaré** (1:56)
- 15. **10. Paineras** (1:13)
- 16. **11. Larenjeiras** (1:07)
- 17. **12. Paysandú** (1:53)

**Concert Arts Orchestra**  
conducted by **Darius Milhaud**



PASC 272

XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

**Les Quatre Saisons** first issued on  
Philips 00-875, recorded June 1958

**Saudades do Brasil** first issued on  
Capitol P8358, recorded 10-12  
September 1956, Studio A, Capitol  
Tower, Hollywood USA

Cover artwork based on a  
photograph of **Milhaud**

Total duration: **67:17**

For a full catalogue visit  
[www.pristineclassical.com](http://www.pristineclassical.com)  
or call : (00) 33 979 622713

© 2011 **Pristine Audio**

