

# Annals of the Harp

## Germaine Tailleferre at the Paris Conservatory

by Elizabeth Huntley

According to Paul Wehage of Music Fabrik, Carole Tardieu was the assistant harp teacher at the Paris Conservatory at the beginning of the twentieth century, working under both Alphonse Hasselmans and Marcel Tournier. When Tournier was away, serving in the military during WW I, Madame Tardieu became the *de facto* harp professor for the duration of the war. Germaine Tailleferre studied with Mme Tardieu for a short time, learning enough about the harp to be able to write for the instrument. In exchange for lessons, Tailleferre wrote eighteen short preludes now available as a collection under the title *Le Petit livre de harpe de Madame Tardieu*. These short pieces, dated between 1912 and 1915, were to be used as class sight-reading exercises. As Hasselmans died in 1912, Tailleferre must have known him, although as a beginner, she probably studied only with Tardieu. The longest of the pieces, number XV, bears the date 3 novembre 1913, and is the only one with an inscription: "à Madame Tardieu en toute sympathie." Undoubtedly, it was this experience of writing for the harp under the tutelage of Caroline Tardieu that allowed Tailleferre to write so beautifully for the instrument years later in her harp sonata. ♪



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