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French Orientalism in Reynaldo Hahn's Series "Orient" from Le Rossignol Eperdu

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UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

FRENCH ORIENTALISM IN REYNALDO HAHN'S SÉRIE "ORIENT"
FROM *LE ROSSIGNOL ÉPERDU*

By

Norito Irei

A DOCTORAL ESSAY

Submitted to the Faculty
of the University of Miami
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts

Coral Gables, Florida

May 2012

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Séries "Orient" from *Le Rossignol Éperdu*

(May 2012)

Abstract of a doctoral essay at the University of Miami.

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Reynaldo Hahn, a Venezuelan-born French composer, is growing in popularity for his vocal repertoires in the American academia. His piano works have been practically unknown on this continent until the late American pianist Earl Wild recorded a series of his piano works, *Le Rossignol Éperdu*, containing 53 solo piano compositions. *Le Rossignol Éperdu* is divided into four series, and the second suite entitled "Orient" drew particular attention from disc reviewers. Currently, there is no publication or dissertation written about Reynaldo Hahn's solo piano compositions in English, which limits accessibility to Reynaldo Hahn's piano music.

The purpose of this research is to promote understanding of the highlighted piano pieces by Hahn, "Orient" from *Le Rossignol Éperdu*, by tracing the history of French Orientalism in music and by providing compositional analysis of each piece in his "Orient" series.

I would like to add that my study of Orientalism in this essay is purely for academic purpose, and, by no means do I support the French imperialism in the past. This essay is not political, and it is meant to further both musical and aesthetic understanding of the selected piano pieces.

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And last but not least, I would like to express my gratitude to the late pianist Earl Wild for inspiring me to explore and study the *Orient* series of Reynaldo Hahn *Le Rossignol Éperdu*. My wish is to carry on his legacy for generations to come.

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