

Maurice Ravel admired his disciple Vlado Perlemuter. Towards the end of his life, Vlado Perlemuter gave his student, Junko Okazaki, the task of publishing his working notes regarding the piano works of the composer, who attracts more and more young interpreters throughout the world.

These annotations, extremely precise and numerous, were written on his personal music scores by Vlado Perlemuter while he was working on them with the Master himself in 1926. They offer a unique testimony of the aesthetic musical preoccupations of one of the greatest French composers.

Our most important publishing houses have never shown much interest for this kind of document, but the admiration triggered in the Far East by Vlado Perlemuter - particularly after 1972 - has inspired a Japanese publisher to comply with his wish to entrust Madame Okazaki with this project. Respecting her scrupulous rigour, the publisher went as far as agreeing to a bilingual edition with the complete French original score.

The difficult problem of indicating these numerous minute annotations, in both languages and in the precise places required in the scores - and copied in full - was to be solved with the technical mastery and artistic sense that Japanese artists have always been famous for.

The complete publication of Maurice Ravel's piano works has been conveniently designed to be sold in seven separate booklets (one for each work or set of works). The project is nearing its completion, since the last volume (Le Tombeau de Couperin) will be soon be available.

This beautiful work, alongside its exceptional human and artistic value, is supported by the talent of Madame Okazaki, who has given her time freely in defence of this repertoire. This ultimate testimony can only develop the interest towards our national music and in particular the Japanese veneration of Maurice Ravel. A pioneer in this field, Madame Okazaki (who has been living in Paris since 1984) appears to us as deserving the special esteem and gratitude of the French cultural milieu for the mission she has heartily undertaken.

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