

Motivgruppe Musik (International Philatelic Music Study Group)

The December 2012 issue of *Der Musikus* (Whole No. 112) begins with Peter Lang's thoughts on "Impressionism in Music," comparing what Monet achieved in painting with the work of Claude



Debussy (1862-1918), with his *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, a symphonic poem for orchestra, as the "climax of musical impressionism." Appended to the article is a very useful philatelic "checklist of Musical Impressionists." Debussy is also the focus in the "Composers" section of this issue in "A Philatelic Debussy Puzzle." The piece examines the unfortunate practice of philatelic agencies acting on behalf of countries such as Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Togo, Ivory Coast or the Central African Republic, to "inundate us with stamp issues of every possible topic." Rather than employing graphic designers to produce this onslaught of new issues, however, "the internet comes into play: a bit of cut and paste, a little retouching, and presto: a new stamp issue has been designed!" Another composer considered in this section is Luigi Arditi (1822-1903), an Italian violinist, composer and conductor. The other sections of this 60-page issue include Performers; Musical Instruments; Dance; Rock, Pop, Jazz; Music Venues; Musical Works (including *Evita*—the idea to write a rock opera about Eva Perón struck the British lyricist Tim Rice in 1973, when

he was reminded by a radio broadcast of a stamp portraying the former first lady of Argentina which he possessed as a youth); Music in General; Private Post; Stationery; Postmarks; Personalized Stamps; and Literature. Eight pages of "New Issues" at the centerfold make *Der Musikus* the premier philatelic publication on the topic of music.

Dues are €25 (€12.50 for collectors 25 years old or younger); €5 additional for air mail delivery of *Der Musikus*. Contact Peter Lang, Rotkamp 14, 13053 Berlin, Germany.

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