

Depiction of the literature topic. Here it is clearly depicted that the analysis is going to be about.

Regret by Debussy

The *mélodie* *Regret* by Claude Debussy is a nostalgic piece in an A-flat major that reflects on the loss of love (Hilton). The opening measure begins with a whole falling note, setting the melancholic tone for the rest of the piece. The following two measures introduce a lyrical but bittersweet quality to both left and right hands. In the fourth measure, a B-flat minor chord appears, emphasizing the emotion of *Regret* as it descends to an E-flat in the fifth measure. This chromaticism is then resolved by a whole note which lingers on for two measures and leads into a repetitive motif of E-flats and A-flats that span across two octaves in the right hand.

Thesis statement

In the following few measures, the melody moves between A-flat and B-flat with sustained chords in the left hand, creating a feeling of longing. The melody then switches to a dominant chord, creating tension, before settling back into the central theme with a descending pattern in the right hand and broken chords in the left, creating a sense of resignation. The piece resolves to A-flat major in the final two measures, conveying a comforting embrace. Debussy's use of chromaticism, harmonies, and lyrical melodies effectively convey the narrator's sense of *Regret* and longing, showcasing his skill as a composer to capture complex human emotions in music.

Regret is a piano piece with a formal structure consisting of two distinct sections: an eight-bar A section and a ten-bar B section. The A section begins with a whole falling note and features two statements of the main melody over a repeated harmonic progression of E-flat to A-flat. The B section begins with a repetitive motif of E-flats and A-flats and contains chromaticism and sustained chords, resolving to A-flat major. The voice leading is within one octave, creating a warm and intimate feeling. Debussy uses incomplete chords and suspensions to create a sense of yearning and Regret. The melody is mainly contained within one octave with occasional leaps into higher registers.

Through his masterful use of chromaticism, voice leading, harmony, and lyrical melodies, Debussy creates an incredibly poignant musical experience that accurately depicts the narrator's emotions. The poem and song together capture the essence of loss and longing in a truly profound way. It is no wonder that Regret has been an enduring classic for over a century.

Works Cited

Hilton, Kimberly. *The Méloides of André Caplet: A Performance Guide*. The Florida State University, 2022.

