HENRI DUTILLEUX

Henri Dutilleux (1916–2013) is widely acknowledged as one of the 20th century's important composers. His early musical ability was nurtured by his grandfather, the organist and composer Julien Koszul, who was director of the conservatory at nearby Roubaix and a classmate and friend of Gabriel Fauré. After studying piano, harmony, and counterpoint with Victor Gallois at the Douai Conservatoire Dutilleux attended the Paris Conservatoire, 1933–38, studying harmony and counterpoint with Jean and Noël Gallon, composition with Henri Paul Busser, and music history with Maurice Emmanuel. After serving briefly as a medical orderly during World War II, Dutilleux returned to Paris in 1940 where he earned a living as a pianist, arranger, and teacher before becoming choral director at the Paris Opéra in 1942. He held the post of director of music productions with the French radio company ORTF (1945–63) and taught composition at the École Normale de Musique de Paris (1961–70), after which he returned to the Paris Conservatoire for two years as a guest professor.

Soon after completing his conservatory training, Henri Dutilleux began a decades-long search for his own authentic compositional voice, later renouncing all of the pieces that predate the Piano Sonata (1946–48), written for his then-new wife, the pianist Genevieve Joy. He achieved international recognition in 1951 with his Symphony No. 1, and soon begin receiving commissions from the likes of cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, Juilliard String Quartet, violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, Boston Symphony Orchestra, and Swiss conductor Paul Sacher. Many of these works — such as the string quartet *Ainsi la nuit* (1977), and the orchestral pieces *The Shadows of Time* (1997) and *Métaboles* (1964) — are regarded as masterworks of Western literature. In addition to The Kravis Prize for New Music, Dutilleux's numerous honors and prizes included the Grand Prix de Rome (1938), French Grand Prix National de la Musique (1967), Praemium Imperiale (1994), Cannes Classical Award (1999), Grand Prix 1999 de la Presse Musicale Internationale, Ernst von Siemens Music Award (2005), and MIDEM Lifetime Achievement Award (2007). He was an honorary member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters and a member of the Académie Royale de Belgique.