

**Igor Peteh****Paper (Artworks): THE ART OF TRANSCRIPTION**

Drawing by Ivan Branko Imrović

**Topic: Music****Authors:****Igor Peteh**

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**Abstract:**

The word composing etymologically comes from the Greek word synthesis and a Latin synonym which corresponds to a term compositio. Transcription of music work is an adaptation of the music work in other media or other musical instrument, by the procedure which not profanes its essence, its idea. Less intervention in musical substance means more successful transcription. *Conditio sine qua non* of transcription is directly conveying the original message and the power of expression. Incentive for processing comes from the original and ingenious musical ideas that can be used in other media. The art of transcription is a matter of good knowledge the musical style and good knowledge of the possibilities of instruments or voices. Sincere admiration to the original art work procreates the true artistic need to participate in the re-creation of a pre-existing art work. Organum is the oldest type of music which began the art of transcription. From the famous transcriptions should be mention La Bataille de Marignan by Clement Janequin, Bach's organ and orchestral works, songs by Franz Schubert and many other works until today. The whole history of transcription embodies continuously striving to transform an idea into its image and to give it a new life. Massenet's Meditation from the opera Thais is a masterpiece. It is harmonically rich, emotionally-charged and compositional clear. From the time of its creation Massenet's Meditation continuously preoccupied attention of musical interpreters and listeners. Therefore it becomes for a long time a global classic evergreen. Sophisticated harmonic progressions, intriguing atmosphere and a wide range of expression, induced me to transcribe this composition for piano. Piano is a universal instrument, it has a long time been confirmed as the main instrument for transcription in a music history. Because of all of these mentioned above, I had the need to become a part of this music.



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**Keywords:**

Transcription of a music work, composing, instrument for transcription

## The Art of Transcription

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### Premise

The word composing etymologically comes from the Greek word synthesis and a Latin synonym which corresponds to a term "*compositio*". Transcription of music work is an adaptation of the music work in other media or other musical instrument, by the procedure which not profanes its essence, its idea. Less intervention in musical substance means more successful transcription. *Conditio sine qua non* of transcription is directly conveying the original message and the power of expression. Incentive for processing comes from the original and ingenious musical ideas that can be used in other media. The art of transcription is a matter of good knowledge the musical style and good knowledge of the possibilities of instruments or voices. Sincere admiration to the original art work procreates the true artistic need to participate in the re-creation of a pre-existing art work. Organum is the oldest type of music which began the art of transcription. From the famous transcriptions should be mention *La Bataille de Marignan* by Clement Janequin, Bach's organ and orchestral works, songs by Franz Schubert and many other works until today. The whole history of transcription embodies continuously striving to transform an idea into its image and to give it a new life.

### Jules Massenet – Thais Meditation

Jules Massenet (1842. – 1912.) was born in Montaud, France. At the age of 10, he was admitted to the Paris Conservatory. In 1863 Massenet won the Prix de Rome, a prize which allowed him to travel and study in Italy and began to compose in earnest.

Massenet is well known with the operas and the solo violin Meditation from Thais. During his lifetime Massenet was one of the most celebrated opera composers. His gift for melody and harmony is reflected in first line in his operas, but also in other kind of music he composed. (vocal music, chamber music, piano pieces etc.).

Massenet's Meditation from the opera Thais is a masterpiece. It is harmonically rich, emotionally-charged and compositional clear. From the time of its creation Massenet's Meditation continuously preoccupied attention of musical interpreters and listeners.

Therefore, it becomes for a long time a global classic evergreen. Sophisticated harmonic progressions, intriguing atmosphere and a wide range of expression, induced me to transcribe this composition for piano because a piano is a universal instrument. It has a long time been confirmed as the main instrument for transcription in a music history. Because of all of these mentioned above, I had the need to

become a part of this music.

Next pages represent my original transcription of Thais Meditation by Jules Massenet as my original work and they are following:

JULES MASSENET  
1842. — 1912.

IV. THAIS MEDITATION

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Handwritten musical score for piano in 4/5 time, measures 37-51. The score is written on grand staves with treble and bass clefs. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/5. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings. Measure numbers 37, 40, 44, 48, and 51 are indicated at the beginning of their respective systems. The notation is dense and complex, featuring many accidentals and slurs.



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4/5

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54 5/5

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61 M.S. → M.S. →

65 M.D. P

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**Acknowledge**

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