

Composer Profile: Camille Saint-Saëns

1 Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns was born on 9 October 1835 in Paris.

2 Saint-Saëns died on 16 December 1921 in Algiers.

3 Saint-Saëns was a French composer, organist, conductor and pianist.

4 Saint-Saëns was a musical prodigy and also had profound knowledge of many other subjects.

5 Saint-Saëns was a co-founder of the French National Music Society, which helped young composers present their music to the public.

THE
FACTS



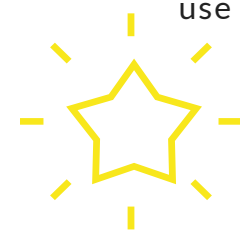
Notable pieces:

- Second Piano Concerto (1868)
- First Cello Concerto (1872)
- *Danse macabre* (1874)
- *Samson and Delilah* (1877)
- Third Violin Concerto (1880)
- Third ("Organ") Symphony (1886)
- *The Carnival of the Animals* (1886).



Camille Saint-Saëns

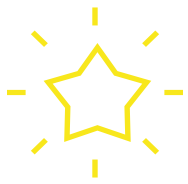
Saint-Saëns admired Liszt's symphonic poems and was one of the first French composers to use this form of music



Saint-Saëns was influenced by Liszt, Wagner, Mendelssohn, and Beethoven.



Saint-Saëns liked to travel and hints of Egypt, Algeria, and Japan can be heard in his music.



In his early years, Saint-Saëns was very interested in modern music but later preferred a more conservative, traditional style.



Saint-Saëns composed his *Carnival of the Animals* for fun and allowed only one movement — *The Swan* — to be published as he feared the work would damage his reputation as a serious composer.



Saint-Saëns couldn't face proposing to his wife directly, so wrote to her brother instead.



Saint-Saëns used a pseudonym — Charles Sannois



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Saint-Saëns' Danse Macabre was originally written for voice and piano.

The Swan from Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals* became known as "*The Dying Swan*" after it was choreographed for the ballerina Anna Pavlova.