

Passport to France

Passeport pour la France

Instrumental album
Tribute to French international golden hits
Background of the songs and the album

	Time	English title	Composer	Original French title
1	2:38	The sound of your name	Charles Aznavour	Ton nom
2	3:43	Autumn leaves	József Kozma	Les feuilles mortes
3	5:02	My way	Claude François Jacques Revaux	Comme d'habitude
4	3:15	Love is like a day	Charles Aznavour	L'amour cest comme un jour
5	2:36	Windmills of your mind	Michel Legrand	Les moulins de mon cœur
6	4:00	La boheme	Charles Aznavour	La bohème
7	3:43	If you go away	Jacques Brel	Ne me quitte pas
8	2:58	I will wait for you	Michel Legrand	Les parapluies de Cherbourg
9	4:44	Yesterday when I was young	Charles Aznavour	Hier Encore
10	3:25	Paris in August	Charles Aznavour	Paris au mois d'aout

Info on the songwriters: page 15.

- Jacques Steyn and the J-Box Orchestra.
- All instruments are digital and virtual.
- Arrangement, instrumentation, performance: Jacques Steyn.



1. The sound of your name

Ton nom 2'28"



Composer Charles Aznavour (1924-2018)
Original French title *Ton nom* (meaning *Your name*)
English title The sound of your name
English lyrics Herbert Kretzmer (1925-...)

The song was released on Aznavour's 1972 album *Idiote Je T'Aime...*
Aznavour also sang the song with Liza Minnelli.

For more about Charles Aznavour, see page 15

The orchestra

Melody Synthesizers: xylobell, woodbell, glass harp,
Instruments Synthesizers: variety of pads
Strings: violas; full strings
Clavinet
Acoustic bass, fretless bass
Percussion: standard drums, cabasa, timbale, small bell
Winds: flute, sax, trumpet, tuba, French horns

2. Autumn leaves

Les feuilles mortes 3'43"



Composer József Kozma / Joseph Kosma (1905-1969)
Original French title *Les feuilles mortes* (meaning *Dead leaves*) by Jacques Prevert
English title *Autumn leaves*
English lyrics Johnny Mercer

Les feuilles mortes (meaning *Dead leaves*) was composed by Joseph Kosma (1905-1969). The original French lyrics were written by the French surrealist poet Jacques Prevert (1900-1977).

Johnny Mercer wrote English lyrics in 1950 and the song became known as *Autumn leaves*.

Kosma wrote the song in 1945 at the closing of World War II when France (and Europe) were still suffering the consequences of this war.

Les feuilles mortes was sung by Yves Montand and Irène Joachim in the film *Les Portes de la nuit* (1946).

For more about József Kozma, see page 15

Orchestra

This is a standard jazz song, so my version is a basic and not indulgent jazz number. The setup is a standard 4-piece jazz band, but with several additions.

Melody Ocarina, shakuhachi (see below)
Instruments Piano
Acoustic bass, fretless bass
Percussion: standard drums, conga
Strings: cello, full strings
Winds: horns, trombone, tuba

First cycle

Ocarina



The husky fluty sound is that of an Ocarina, an instrument used as long ago as by the Maya and Aztecs of Central and South America.

Apart from closing holes to change pitch, the tone can also be effected by how hard the player blows.



Second cycle

Shakuhachi



The Shakuhachi is a traditional bamboo notched flute from Japan. The end-blown flute has five finger holes and a thumb hole.

It is tuned to a pentatonic (five note) scale. Tones and pitches can be extended by using various fingerings (e.g. partial holings) and by controlling the embouchure (which is the way the lips are formed around the mouthpiece).

The Shakuhachi sounds like a very breathy side flute.

3. My way

Comme d'habitude

5'02"



Claude François

Composition and lyrics Claude François (1939-1978), Jacques Revaux (1940-...), Gilles Thibaut (1927-2000)

Original French title *Comme d'habitude*, which means *As usual*.

English title *My Way*

English lyrics Paul Anka

In 1967 Claude François and Jacques Revaux collaborated writing this song, with assistance from Gilles Thibaut with the lyrics. It is not clear from the available sources exactly who did what. The song is about little things people do in relationships commonly during the course of a day, and titled *Comme d'habitude*, which means *As usual*.

The Canadian singer-songwriter and actor Paul Anka was on vacation in France and heard the song on the radio. Anka bought the publication and adaptation rights, and wrote completely different lyrics with a theme about living life on one's own terms. The Anka version, titled *My Way*, became a hit in the 1968 version by Frank Sinatra. It was a bigger hit in the UK than in the USA.

For more about Claude François, see page 16

Orchestra

As this is such a well-known song with too many versions sounding so similar, I tried to bring some freshness to the song.

Melody Tenor sax, trombone, Chinese Bawu, Chinese Guanzi, cornet, trumpet

Instruments Piano
Acoustic bass, fretless bass
Percussion: standard drums, cabasa
Strings, cello, harp, full strings
Trombone
A wide variety of synthesizer sounds - pads

Verse 1

Tenor Sax

Verse 2

Trombone

Chorus 1

Tenor Sax, Trombone, Bawu

Bawu

The Bawu or Bawoo is a side-blown wind instrument from China. It looks like a flute, but it is a reed instrument (thus like a sax).



Verse 3

Guanzi

The Guanzi, Guan or Bili is a Chinese double-reed wood wind instrument, like an oboe and bassoon. The Chinese word guanzi means *tube*.

The instrument has seven finger holes with one or two thumb holes and is usually made from rosewood.



Chorus 2

Cornet

Last chorus

Dark trumpet



Composer Charles Aznavour (1924-2018)

Original French title *L'Amour c'est comme un jour* (lyrics by Yves Stéphane)

English title Love is like a day

L'Amour c'est comme un jour is a 1962 composition of Charles Aznavour with lyrics by Yves Stéphane. An Italian version (*L'amore È Come Un Giorno*) was released in 1964 - lyrics by Sergio Bardotti.

In 1965 Aznavour's song was released as an English version, *Tomorrow is My Turn*, recorded by Nina Simone in that year.

More recently the song became popular when Sting (1951-...) joined Aznavour singing this song on the 2009 Aznavour album, called *Duos*.

For more about Charles Aznavour, see page 15

Orchestra

Melody Choir

Instruments Electric Piano
Acoustic bass, fretless bass
Strings: violins, viola, cello
Winds: Trombone, Sax
Rhythm: Balalaika, Irish bouzouki, harp
Percussion: standard drums, castanette, triangle, rainstick

Balalaika

The balalaika is a Russian stringed musical instrument historically related to the bouzouki, but its body is triangular in shape. The sustain is short like a mandolin, so it is usually played with a plectrum in fast tremelo. They come in various sizes that together cover a wide range from piccolo to contrabass.



They are used for many musical genres from classical music, to Russian folk music and dancing.

Irish bouzouki

The bouzouki, *buzukior buzuci, saz-bozuk* (Turkish) is a stringed instrument of the lute family, which is very ancient. It is derived from the ancient Greek *pandoura*.

Modern varieties have steel strings strung in pairs, with the low pair one octave apart. The instrument looks like a banjo and is guitar-like, but the body is usually bulged at the back - the original design was probably made of some gourd-like natural plant.

The Irish bouzouki, designed in the 1960s, is based on the Greek bouzouki, but with the strings tuned more like a mandolin.

On the Greek bouzouki, the lowest string is tuned to D3. On the Irish bouzouki it is tuned to G2, so it sounds more bassy.



Rainstick

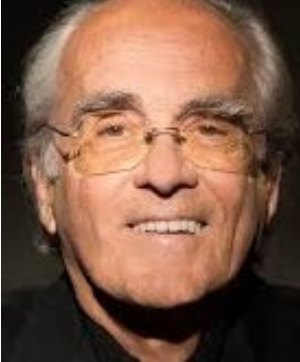


The rainstick is a very ancient instrument and found in many parts of the world, from Latin America, Asia, Africa to Australia.

It consists of a hollow piece of wood filled with small pebbles or beans. To make a sound, the stick is held upright, and then turned upside down. The tumbling beans or pebbles resonate against the inner walls of the piece of wood and make a sound. By varying the speed with which the stick is turned, sounds with different sustains can be made.

5. Windmills of your mind

Les moulins de mon cœur 2'36"



Michel Legrand

Composer Michel Legrand (1932-2019)

Original French title *Les Moulins de mon cœur* (meaning *The mills of my heart*) by Eddy Marnay (1920-2003)

English title *The windmills of my mind*

English lyrics Alan and Marilyn Bergman

The movie *The Thomas Crown Affair* was released in 1968 starring Steve McQueen and Faye Dunaway. It was about a rich and bored businessman (McQueen's role) who do robberies for kicks and as a game.

Michel Legrand wrote music for the film. For the scene where Crown flies a glider at the airport in Salem, New Hampshire, Legrand's brief was to write music that gives the feeling of a mind trip - such as when you try to fall asleep at night and you can't turn your brain off and thoughts and memories keep on tumbling around. *Les Moulins de mon cœur* (meaning *The mills of my heart*) was written for this scene.

Eddy Marnay (1920-2003) wrote the French lyrics, and Alan and Marilyn Bergman wrote the English lyrics with the title *The windmills of my mind*.

The American Film Institute ranked the song #57 of the best movie music over the past 100 years.

For more about Michel Legrand, see page 15

Orchestra

Melody Moon guitar, West-African domu, harp, Chinese choazhou guzheng

Instruments With my arrangement I tried to get that floaty, dreamy effect with various types of synthesized sounds.
The orchestra is very simple. There's some basic strings and a bass, and only the cabasa as percussion.
Choir

Verse 1

Moon guitar

Verse 2

Domu

The Domu (or Mangbetu) is a small stringed instrument from central Africa, specifically the Congo. The strings are usually bowed. The body box has two sound holes and is covered with animal hide and fur. The neck is arched.



Verse 3 and ending

Choazhou Guzheng

The Choazhou Guzheng is a zither-like plucked instrument popular in Asia, especially China and Taiwan.

It typically has 21 to 26 strings of silk. A smaller metal-string version has 17 strings. The bridges are moved for tuning.



6. La bohème

La bohème 4'00"



Composer Charles Aznavour (1924-2018)

Original French title La bohème

English title La bohème

English lyrics Herbert Kretzmer (1925-...)

This Aznavour song was written in 1965 and it became an international hit in many countries in Europe and Latin America.

The lyrics are about the bohemian lifestyle of young artists who live for their art, no matter how poor their circumstances are.

[For more about Charles Aznavour, see page 15](#)

Orchestra

Melody The melody is played with various keyboards:
Rhodes electric piano, piano, piano with synthesizer pad, harpsichord, synth pads, clavinet with 70s style synthesizer, piano with shakuhachi.
Chorus 3 and 4: shakuhachi

Instruments Piano, Electric piano
Fretless bass
Strings
French horns, tuba, ocarina
Rhythm: Celtic harp
Standard drum set, brush snare
Percussion: rainstick, 3 variations of handheld bells also known as finger cymbals (Ching, Kesi, Tingsha), Hira-daiko (Japanese bass drum), afoxê (see descriptions of these instruments below)

Celtic harp



There are many variations of harp design. The Celtic harp has a history in Ireland of more than 1000 years. It typically has 36 strings but the number of strings can vary.

While orchestral harps use pedals to change strings into different keys, the Celtic harp uses levers.

The Celtic harp sound is brighter than that of an orchestral harp.

Finger cymbals



These small cymbals are found in many cultures and has many different names and designs with different tones and sound qualities.

Three different types are used in this song.

The Chinese Ching is used in China, Cambodia and Thailand.

The Kesi is used in Malaysia, particularly in the traditional Paluan ensemble.

The Tingsha used in Tibetan Buddhist rituals.

Hira-daiko, or Hira-taiko



Hira-daiko (or taiko) is a Japanese bass drum. Daiko drums come in a variety of sizes and some are quite large.

Afoxê



The Afoxê is an Afro-Brazilian percussive instrument.

The cabaça is a gourd shaker (today often made of plastic). The Afoxê is a cabaça wrapped around with cords that are strung with beads or shells.

By shaking the instrument it sounds like the cabaça. When the beads or shells are moved across the gourd it makes a soft scratching shaker sound.

In West Africa the Yoruba use a larger version called a *Shekere*. Slaves from west Africa most likely introduced it to Latin America.



Composer Jacques Brel (1929-1978)
Original French title *Ne me quitte pas* (meaning *Don't leave me*)
English title *If You Go Away*
English lyrics Rod McKuen (1933-2015)

Jacques Brel (1929-1978) was a Belgian cabaret star. His most popular song, *Ne me quitte pas* (meaning *Don't leave me*) was written in 1959, and was translated into 27 languages. In the English-speaking world the lyrics of Rod McKuen (1933-2015) are the best known with the title *If You Go Away*.

Part of chorus is based on a music theme of *Lassan* (Andante) of the *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6* by the composer Franz Liszt.

Brel wrote the song after he and his mistress Zizou (Suzanne) Gabriello broke up. He wrote it in the Au Rêve bar, on the northern slopes of the Parisian district of Montmartre from which he could see Zizou's apartment on the other side of the little square. Brel refused to acknowledge the child as his own, so Zizou had an abortion.

In a 1966 interview, Brel said that *Ne me quitte pas* was not a love song, but rather "...a hymn to the cowardice of men...", and the degree to which they were willing to humiliate themselves.

For more about Jacques Brel, see page 16

Orchestra

Being a cabaret song, the words are more important than the melody. The repetitive melody can become somewhat monotonous, so I spiced up the different verses with different rhythms and nuances.

Melody The melody is played with a variety of string instruments: jazz guitar, electric piano with wire attack, balalaika, Gaelic Clarsach (wirestrung harp), and 3 types of Japanese string instruments: koto, sanshin, and shamisen (see descriptions below)

Instruments The band consists of a basic bass, drum set and strings, as well as several synthesized sounds.
 Winds: trombone, mizmar, shakuhachi

Verse 1

Jazz guitar

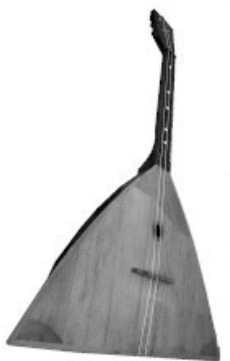
Chorus 1

Electric piano with wire attack

Verse 2

Balalaika

The balalaika is a Russian stringed musical instrument historically related to the bouzouki, but its body is triangular in shape. The sustain is short like a mandolin, so it is usually played with a plectrum in fast tremelo. They come in various sizes that together cover a wide range from piccolo to contrabass.



The balalaika is used for many musical genres - from classical music, to Russian folk music and dancing.

Chorus 3



Gaelic Clarsach

The Gaelic Clarsach is a Scottish variation of the harp, dating back to at least the 700s CE. An earlier version, Pictish harp, was strung with gut or horsehair. The later Gaelic clarsach was strung with wire.

The wirestrung harp strung has a distinctive sound with a long sustain.

The Clarsach is the oldest known Scottish instrument. Bagpipes were introduced much later into Scotland - only around the 1500s.

Verse 3

Koto, Sanshin, Shamisen

Koto



The Koto is a Japanese zither. Its body is close to 2m long. It typically has 13 silk strings that are tuned with movable bridges.

The player plucks the strings using picks attached to his or her fingers.

Notes can be bent to change the tone - a technique known as *tsuki* - with the same effect as guitar players bend their strings.

Strings can also be played in tremelo.

Sanshin



The Sanshin is a banjo-like instrument with 3 silk strings, and similar to the Chinese sanxian. It has been in use in Japan since the 1500s. The body box is usually covered with snakeskin. It is played with a plectrum worn on the index finger.

The instrument is popular in Okinawa where music is composed with the notes CDEGA. Having no F and B notes the melodies played on Sanshin are different to for example the Shamisen.

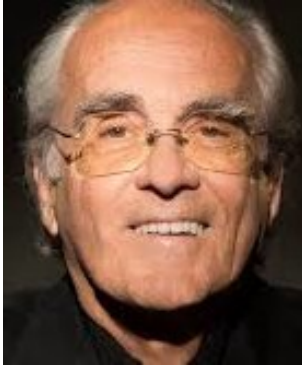
There are subtle difference between the Sanshin and Shamisen (see below). In simple terms, the Sanshin sounds a little gentler than the Shamisen.

Shamisen



The Shamisen is also a banjo-like instrument with 3 strings but with a longer neck than the Sanshin. Its range is thus larger than the Sanshin.

Strings are plucked with a heavy buffalo horn or ivory plectrum called a *bachi*. The striking technique, called *tataki*, is thus different to that of the Sanshin. Strings are plucked harder than on a Sanshin, which results in a percussive-like snap. The more energetic string vibrations also touch the ridge resulting in a soft buzzing resonance - called *sawari*.



Michel Legrand

Composer Michel Legrand (1932-2019)

Original French title *Je ne pourrai jamais vivre sans toi* (meaning *I can never live without you*)

English title *I will wait for you*

English lyrics Alan Bergman and Marilyn Bergman

Les Parapluies de Cherbourg (*The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*) is a 1964 French musical movie with music by Michel Legrand, and starring Catherine Deneuve and Nino Castelnuovo. All the dialogue was sung.

The soundtrack was nominated by the Academy Awards for several achievements, including Best Song and Best Soundtrack. At the 1964 Cannes Film Festival it received the Palme D'or.

The plot of the musical film is spread over three periods. In Part One Geneviève, played by Catherine Deneuve works in a small town boutique selling umbrellas. She falls in love with a mechanic called Guy, played by Nino Castelnuovo. Soon, however, Guy is called up to do military duty in the Algerian War.

When he departs they sing the song *Je ne pourrai jamais vivre sans toi*, which is popularly known by the title of the movie *Les Parapluies de Cherbourg*.

English lyrics were written by Alan Bergman and Marilyn Bergman and this version is known as *I will wait for you*.

For more about Michel Legrand, see page 15

Orchestra

I do the bridge in a dissonant manner to make it more jazzy. I end the song with a hint of jazz scat.

Melody Synthesizer sounds
Sax, trombone

Instruments Piano
Acoustic bass, fretless bass
Strings
Winds: trombone, French horns
Choir

Melody

Intro Harmonica

Verses 1 and 2 Synthesizer key sounds

Verses 3 and 4 Sax, then trombone



Composer Charles Aznavour (1924-2018)
Original French title *Hier Encore* (meaning *Just yesterday*)
English title *Yesterday when I was young*
English lyrics Herbert Kretzmer (1925-...)

Charles Aznavour wrote *Hier Encore* in 1964.

The song was translated into many languages, including Japanese, Greek, Danish, Italian and Spanish.

The song is about the non-contemplative rushing through life and perhaps self-centeredness of youth. Insight comes only later in life.

Aznavour has performed this song with his daughter and granddaughter.

For more about Charles Aznavour, see page 15

Orchestra

Melody First cycle: choir blended with synthesizer pad
 The second cycle, after the instrumental break, is alternatively played with acoustic guitar and Irish bouzouki (see below).
 In the last part of the song they are combined, while ocarina and some synthesized sounds are also added.
 The outro is played with flute and shakuhachi (see below).

Instruments Acoustic bass
 Celtic harp (see below)
 Strings, highlighting viola and cello
 Standard drums
 English horn
 Percussion: tambourine, triangle, block, güiro, rainstick

Celtic harp



There are many variations of harp design. The Celtic harp has a history in Ireland of more than 1000 years. It typically has 36 strings but the number of strings can vary.

While orchestral harps use pedals to change strings into different keys, the Celtic harp uses levers.

The Celtic harp sound is brighter than that of an orchestral harp.

Irish bouzouki



The bouzouki, *buzuki* or *buzuci*, *saz-bozuk* (Turkish) is a stringed instrument of the lute family, which is very ancient. It is derived from the ancient Greek *pandoura*.

Modern varieties have steel strings strung in pairs, with the low pair one octave apart. The instrument looks like a banjo and is guitar-like, but the body is usually bulged at the back - the original design was probably made of some gourd-like natural plant.

The Irish bouzouki, designed in the 1960s, is based on the Greek bouzouki, but with the strings tuned more like a mandolin.

On the Greek bouzouki, the lowest string is tuned to D3. On the Irish bouzouki it is tuned to G2, so it sounds more bassy.

Ocarina



The husky fluty sound is that of an Ocarina, an instrument used as long ago as by the Maya and Aztecs of Central and South America.

Apart from closing holes to change pitch, the tone can also be effected by how hard the player blows.



Güiro



The güiro is a percussion instrument, traditionally a hollow gourd with parallel notches cut on one side. A stick or tines are moved over the notches to produce a ratchet sound.

10. Paris in August

Paris au mois d'août 3'25"



Composer Charles Aznavour (1924-2018)

Original French title *Paris au mois d'août* (meaning *Paris in August*)

English title No released English translation

Charles Aznavour was the main male actor in the French movie . His character is a 40-ish year old salesman. In August his wife and kids go on vacation, but he has to stay in Paris to work. He meets a young Englishwoman (Susan Hampshire) who came to Paris for a photo shoot. They have a brief fling.

Aznavour wrote the title song of the movie - *Paris au mois d'août*. He also wrote Italian lyrics, *Parigi in agosto*, which he sang in duo with Lara Pausini (1974-...).

For more about Charles Aznavour, see page 15

Orchestra

Melody Melody parts are played with different wind instruments:

Verse 1a: oboes, clarinets

Verse 1a: oboes, clarinets, trumpets

Verse 2a: horns

Verse 2b: oboes, trumpets

Verse 3: shakuhachi and piccolo

Bridge: pizzicato strings

Verse 4a: horns and trumpet

Instruments Intro: Accordion and duduk (see below)
Piano, electric piano
Fretless bass, synth bass
Strings, emphasis on cello, synthesized strings
Synthesized sounds
French horns, duduk
Choir
Standard drum, cabasa, tambourine, block

Intro



Duduk

The Duduk is a double reed wind instrument (like oboe and bassoon, but sounding more like an English horn) of the regions around the Caucasus mountains of Armenia, Iran, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Russia. It is usually made of apricot wood, hence the alternative name *tsiranapogh* (which means *apricot made*).

Its notes can be sustained for long periods of time resulting in a sustained drone – but this effect was not used here.

Shakuhachi

The Shakuhachi is a traditional bamboo notched flute from Japan. The end-blown flute has five finger holes and a thumb hole.

It is tuned to a pentatonic (five note) scale. Tones and pitches can be extended by using various fingerings (e.g. partial holings) and by controlling the embouchure (which is the way the lips are formed around the mouthpiece).

The Shaku sound like a very breathy side flute.



The song writers

Charles Aznavour (1924-2018: 94)



In a 1998 global survey by *CNN* and users of *Time Online* Charles Aznavour was named *Entertainer of the Century*. He received 18% of the total vote - more than Elvis Presley and Bob Dylan.

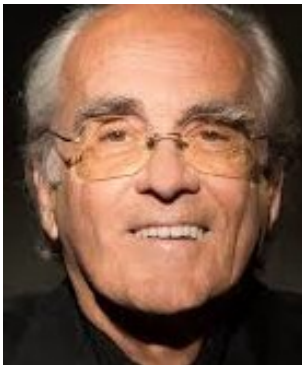
His career spanned over 70 years and many other famous performers joined him on his stage - from Liza Minelli to Sting, Luciano Pavarotti and a very long list of others. Aznavour recorded more than 1'200 songs, interpreted in eight languages. He wrote more than 800 songs and sold 180 million records.

Aznavour's parents (Michael Aznavourian and Knar Baghdasarian) were Armenian, but fled Armenia to France during the genocide and expulsion of the Armenians by the Ottoman government of Turkey between 1914 and 1923. Charles was born in 1924 in Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Paris. with the name Shahnour Vaghinag Aznavourian.

He began acting at age 9 on both stage and in film and later became a dancer and performer in nightclubs. While he opened for Edith Piaf at the Moulin Rouge she mentored him and convinced him to focus on singing.

A very long list of other famous artists performed with him on his stage, and an even longer list recorded his songs. He kept on touring until his death in 2018 at age 94. His last tour included Latin America, Russia, Australia, Japan, and several European countries.

Michel Legrand (1932-2019: 87)



Michel Legrand was born in Paris in 1932, and like Charles Aznavour, of Armenian descent. He grew up in a musical home. His father (Raymond Legrand) was a conductor and composer, and his mother (Marcelle Ter-Mikaëlian) was the sister of conductor Jacques Hélian.

Legrand was a jazz pianist, composer, arranger and conductor. He wrote music scores for more than 200 films and TV productions. He was nominated for a long list of prestigious awards such as Academy Awards, Golden Globe awards, Grammy awards, Emmy Awards and many others. He won 3 Oscars and 5 Grammys.

Joseph Kosma (1905-1969: 64)



József Kozma was born in Budapest (Hungary). His name is also written as Joseph Kosma.

He began playing the piano at age 5, wrote his first opera at 11, and among others studied with Béla Bartók at the Liszt Academy. In 1928 he studied in Berlin and became acquainted with Bertolt Brecht, Helene Weigel and Hanns Eisler. He married a fellow student, Lilli Apel. In 1933 the couple emigrated to Paris.

In Paris he became acquainted with Jacques Prévert (a French poet and screenwriter) and Jean Renoir (a French film director, screenwriter, actor, producer and author), regarded by film critics as the 4th greatest director of all time.

In the 1930s Kosma wrote music for many of Jacques Prévert's poems, which were recorded by popular singers. Most of his compositions were known only in France. The piece *Les feuilles mortes* (*Autumn Leaves*) became an evergreen internationally known song, and included as standard in jazz repertoires.

Jacques Brel (1929-1978: 48)



Jacques Brel was born in Brussels, Belgium. His family was of Flemish descent but spoke French. From his early teens he loved writing, from poems and essays to short stories, and eventually plays. When he was 15 he learned to play guitar.

In 1952, when he was 23, he wrote songs and performed them at family gatherings and in cabaret in Brussels. The next year he got a recording contract from Philips Records, and was convinced to move to Paris where he performed at various cabaret venues, initially without much success. He began touring and releasing more songs on record.

In 1956 he formed a partnership with a classical pianist François Rauber who did the arrangements of his songs. That year they released *Quand on n'a que l'amour* (*When You Only Have Love*) which became a French hit.

The following year he performed with the already famous French musicians Maurice Chevalier and Michel Legrand. Later in the year he won a music award, Grand Prix du Disque.

From then on he was set on a music performance career in the limelight, touring several French speaking countries, including Madagascar. In 1966 he decided to retire from music performance altogether, being tired of the performances and hectic schedule. He nevertheless afterwards completed 4 more studio albums and also got involved with film as actor, eventually appearing in 10 films.

In the 1970s he developed a passion for sailing and bought a boat, *Askoy II*, with which he planned a 3-year voyage around the world. He and his wife got as far as the French-Polynesian Marquesas Islands near Tahiti and decided to settle there. Here he wrote 17 new songs, and recorded 12 of them on his last album, called *Les Marquises*.

They lived on the island until his last days. By 1978 his lung cancer developed to such an extent that he flew back to Paris where he was hospitalised. He died later that year at the age of 48.

Claude François (1939-1978: 39)



Claude François was born in 1939 in Egypt. His father was working as a manager for the Anglo-French Suez canal company on the Suez Canal. His mother was Italian, from the southwestern area of Calabria. She was very musical, and had Claude take piano and violin lessons, while he also learned how to play drums.

As a result of the 1956 Suez Canal Crisis, together with many others the family was expelled from Egypt. They moved to Monaco. There Claude played drums with an orchestra at the luxury hotels along the French Riviera, and also began to sing. He soon moved to Paris.

In Paris he recorded some American rock and roll numbers. He wrote French lyrics for American songs. In 1963 two such numbers became hits in France: *Si j'avais un marteau* (the song *If I had a hammer*) and *Marche Tout Droit* (*Walk Right In*). His career was set.

In 1967 he co-wrote *Comme d'habitude* (*As Usual*) with Jacques Revaux which became a hit in French-speaking countries. Paul Anka wrote the English lyrics as *My Way*, which became an international hit.

By the 1970s disco became the craze, and Claude shifted from rock to disco.

He had an international career performing all over Europe, and also in the Royal Albert Hall in London.

In 1978 while taking a shower he was bothered by the light fixture not being straight on the wall and accidentally electrocuted himself - or so the story goes.