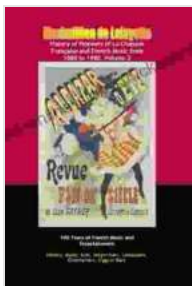


# A Century of French Music: The Pioneers of La Chanson Française from 1880 to 1980

La chanson française, the French art song, has a long and rich history that dates back to the Middle Ages. However, it was not until the 19th century that the genre began to take on its modern form. During this time, a number of pioneering artists emerged who helped to shape the sound and style of la chanson française.

One of the most important figures in the history of la chanson française was Aristide Bruant. Born in 1851, Bruant was a singer and songwriter who became famous for his performances in the cabarets of Montmartre. His songs were often satirical and humorous, and they often dealt with the lives of the poor and working class. Bruant's music was hugely popular, and he helped to popularize la chanson française among a wide audience.



## History of Pioneers of La Chanson Francaise and French Music from 1880 to 1980. 100 Years of French Music and Entertainment (History, Music, Acts, Songwriters, ... Entertainers, Biggest Stars. Book 2)

by Tony Lyons

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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Another important figure in the history of la chanson française was Yvette Guilbert. Born in 1865, Guilbert was a singer and actress who became known for her distinctive style of singing. She often performed in a simple black dress, and she used her voice to create a variety of vocal effects. Guilbert's music was often more serious than Bruant's, and she often sang about love, loss, and heartbreak.

In the early 20th century, a new generation of chanson française singers emerged. These singers included Edith Piaf, Maurice Chevalier, and Charles Trenet. Piaf was born in 1915, and she quickly became one of the most famous singers in the world. Her songs were often about love, loss, and heartbreak, and she sang with a passion and intensity that few others could match. Chevalier was born in 1888, and he became famous for his charming and witty songs. Trenet was born in 1913, and he became known for his light and airy songs. These three singers helped to define the sound of la chanson française in the 20th century, and they continue to be admired and loved by fans around the world.

In the years after World War II, a new generation of chanson française singers emerged. These singers included Georges Brassens, Jacques Brel, and Serge Gainsbourg. Brassens was born in 1921, and he became known for his intelligent and thought-provoking songs. Brel was born in 1929, and he became known for his passionate and intense songs. Gainsbourg was born in 1928, and he became known for his experimental and provocative songs. These three singers helped to push the boundaries

of la chanson française, and they continue to be influential figures in the genre.

Today, la chanson française continues to thrive. A new generation of singers is emerging, and they are keeping the genre alive and well. Some of the most popular chanson française singers today include Zaz, Stromae, and Christine and the Queens. These singers are all unique and talented, and they are helping to keep la chanson française relevant in the 21st century.

La chanson française has a long and rich history, and it continues to be an important part of French culture. The genre has produced a number of iconic singers, and it continues to be popular with fans around the world. La chanson française is a unique and beautiful genre of music, and it is sure to continue to thrive for many years to come.

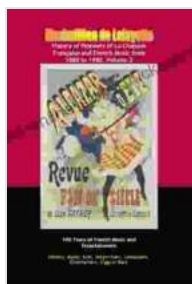
### **Further Reading**

- [AllMusic: Chanson Française](#)
- [Britannica: Chanson](#)
- [France-Amérique: A Brief History of the Chanson Française](#)
- [The Atlantic: The Long and Glorious History of the Chanson Française](#)
- [The New York Times: A Song for France: The Five Most Important Chansons Françaises](#)

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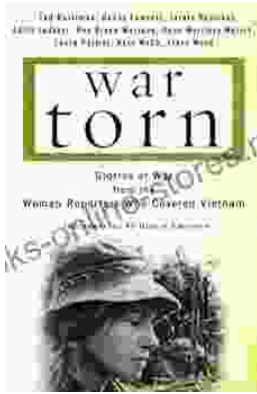
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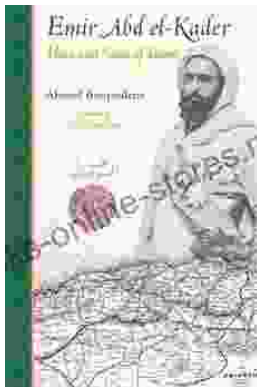
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