



# EXPOSITION

TOURING EXHIBITION PRESENTATION



PHILHARMONIE  
DE PARIS

MUSÉE DE LA MUSIQUE

# GENERAL PRESENTATION



## PROJET INTRODUCTION

*Boléro* embodies nearly all the characteristics of Ravel's production and personality. In the form of an exhibition dedicated to the study of his most famous composition, the **Philharmonie de Paris celebrates the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth** and presents a kaleidoscopic portrait of the artist.



## THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition at the Philharmonie de Paris tells the story of the ***Boléro* as a universal masterpiece** while revealing the singular and fascinating personality of Maurice Ravel.

The visit begins with a **striking audiovisual installation** of *Boléro*, performed by the Orchestre de Paris, allowing visitors to experience the **full dramatic intensity** of the orchestral version of *Boléro*. The rest of the exhibition delves into the intimate life and personality of the composer and the longevity of his most important work.

Maurice Ravel was a free spirit who stood apart from the stylistic trends of his time and distinguished himself through an **unwavering perfectionism** in his work. Drawing inspiration from his passions—Spain, the poetry of childhood, and machines—Ravel developed **a unique and sensitive body of work**.

The many **choreographic and cinematic reinterpretations** of the work—including those by Maurice Béjart and Thierry Malandain—are showcased as an **audiovisual score in the exhibition**, demonstrating that since 1928, *Boléro* has continually fascinated performers, filmmakers, and choreographers.

## TOURING DETAILS

**On display in Paris**  
from Dec. 3, 2024  
to June 25, 2025

**Availability**  
from september 2025

**Surface**  
400m2, ajustable

**Available format:**  
Light version or  
audiovisual version can  
be discussed

**Price on demand**

# EXHIBITION VIEWS



(c) GIL LEFAUCONNIER



(c) Nicolas Lascourrèges



# THE EXHIBITION CIRCUIT



## 1 – IMMERSIVE PROJECTION OF THE BOLÉRO

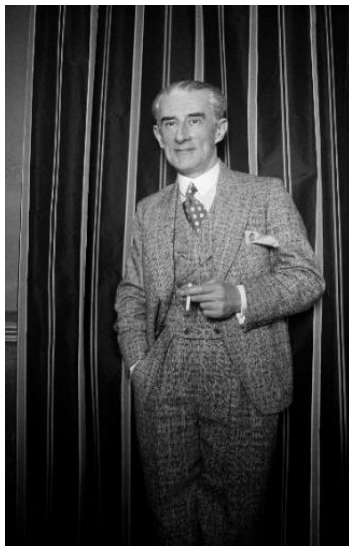
From the very first room, visitors experience **the physical sensation of this captivating orchestral crescendo** through a unique cinematic setup dedicated to the performance of *Boléro* by the Orchestre de Paris, conducted by Klaus Mäkelä. This film, shot and projected in 32:9 ratio, was created by François-René Martin & Gordon, and co-produced by Camera Lucida and the Philharmonie de Paris.



## 2 — WHO IS MAURICE RAVEL ?

Maurice Ravel received a classical musical education during which his **attention to detail** and talent for composition were noted. Quickly gaining recognition both in France and across the Atlantic during the Belle Époque and the post-war period, he became known for the same pointillism that characterized both his music and the decoration of his home. **The Belvédère**, which Ravel acquired in 1921 and which soon **became his haven of peace, encapsulates many aspects of the composer's personality**: his inspirations, his perfectionism and his elegance. It was in 1928, on the eve of composing *Boléro*, that he was at the height of his fame, celebrated by a successful American tour.

Maurice Ravel between 1925 & 1930 ©Boris Ljapintski / Roger Viollet



## 3 – BOLÉRO' S INSPIRATIONS

The exhibition finally explores **Maurice Ravel's various inspirations**. First, it examines his **connection to Spain** through his Basque mother and his passion for this country, which permeates his entire work. The carefree boldness of Ravel's music is also explained by his **unique relationship with childhood**, which he captures in a poetic, sometimes almost nostalgic way in several of his compositions. Finally, inspired by his father, an engineer, Ravel developed **a passion for machines of all kinds**. For Ravel, each composition is like a perfectly tuned machine, which is particularly true for *Boléro* and its impeccable mechanics.



Paul Colin, *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*, costumes' sketches, 1939, BnF



Metropolis de Fritz Lang, 1927

# EXHIBITION VIEWS



(c) Nicolas Lascourrèges



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# CONTACTS

**Jade BOUCHEMIT**, Deputy Director of the Musée de la musique  
[jbouchemit@cite-musique.fr](mailto:jbouchemit@cite-musique.fr) / +33 (1) 44 84 46 29

**Victoire GUÉNA**, Head of the Exhibitions Department  
[vguena@cite-musique.fr](mailto:vguena@cite-musique.fr) / +33 (1) 44 84 45 57

**Quentin OUGIER**, Project Coordinator for Touring Exhibitions  
[qougier@cite-musique.fr](mailto:qougier@cite-musique.fr) / +33 (1) 80 52 25 60



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