Erik Satie, 1866-1925. To say Satie was an eccentric is an understatement. In 1887, when he was 21, he described himself as a "gymnopedist," referring to his most famous compositions, the *Gymnopédies*. He also called himself a "phonometrician" ("someone who measures sounds"), preferring this designation to that of "musician." In his later years, Satie lived on a unique diet of exclusively white foods and wore only grey suits.

He was an influential figure of the late 19th- and early 20th-century Parisian avant-garde. His work was a precursor to later artistic movements such as minimalism, repetitive music, and the Theatre of the Absurd. He was friendly with Stravinsky, his music had an early influence on Maurice Ravel, he associated with/collaborated with many of the writers, artists, sculptors, and composers in the Paris of the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. He was a writer as well as a composer. In 1916, with Georges Auric, Louis Durey, Arthur Honegger, and Germaine Tailleferre, Satie formed the Nouveaux jeunes. Later, the group was joined by Francis Poulenc and Darius Milhaud. In 1918, Satie withdrew from the Nouveaux jeunes, and Jean Cocteau gathered the six remaining members, forming the Groupe des six. Satie died at age 59 in 1925, following many years of heavy drinking and consumption of Absinthe. This presentation will feature Satie’s life and work.

Coordinated by Phil Adams

This special event is free and open to UCALL members and friends.

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