

## Transcription (19'48)

Hi everybody! Welcome to World Music!

Léo Ferré was born in 1916 in Monaco and died in 1993 in Italy. He was a musician, singer, song writer, conductor and Monegasque poet. So I believe Monegasque is the language of Monaco.

His career was strong, particularly in France after WW2 and he released there 40 albums. A number of these songs have actually become part of the French *Chansons* repertoire. In time, he was quite controversial with his lyrics but also he changed the traditional song structure, including his bigger use of spoken text.

This song "Avec le temps" - "With Time" - was written by Léo Ferré. It is a song that he recorded in 1970 and that was intended for volume II of his *Amour Anarchie* album. However, the love that fills the song was not in suit with the rest of the album, so I believe that he didn't use it. And it was released as a single album. And the song is a tragic and sad but beautiful love song that was inspired by his recent breakup. Now I have read that part of the contribution toward his breakup was, or perhaps it's just one of many factors of this, when he went away and he had a pet chimpanzee and the poor chimpanzee had a fall and his partner decided that the most humane thing was to, you know, euthanize the chimpanzee. And he blamed to it for his chimpanzee, yes, and obviously he never forgave her, so it's a very sad story. There is a song that I might even ask your reaction on after some listening to it and to that point and I believe the song is called "Pépée", the name of his beloved chimpanzee.

So, this recording, I'm not quite sure when it was, but I'll say it's roughly the late 70s or early 80s and I believe it was for live TV. So, anyway let's see Léo Ferré singing "Avec le temps".

[Music > 4'24]

O well! Whoa! What a powerful performance! He is an absolutely brilliant storyteller or was an absolutely brilliant storyteller.

He's getting across the message of the song, which is written, now we say then sung his own experience and it is so powerful, so emotionally charged. Excellent, excellent delivery by Léo Ferré!

So the translation of the lyrics says. So "With Time", "Avec le Temps":

*With time  
With time, everything goes away  
We forget the face  
And we forget the voice  
When the heart beats no more  
It's not worth looking any further  
You must let it go  
And that's time*

*With time  
With time, everything goes away  
The one we adored  
Whom we looked after in the rain  
The one we understood*

*With a simple glance  
Between words, between the lines  
And under the makeup of the disguised promise  
Which disappears in the night  
With time everything vanishes*

*With time  
With time, everything goes away  
Even the dearest memories  
've got a strange face left  
As a rummage into the gallery of the past  
In the alley of death  
On Saturday evening  
When tenderness departs alone*

This is such a powerful lyric! What poetry! And it goes on:

*With time  
With time, everything goes away  
The other person we believed in  
For nursing a cold, for any little thing  
The other person for whom  
We gave fresh air and jewels  
For whom we would have sold our souls  
For pennies  
In front of whom we crawled like dogs  
With time  
Everything goes well*

*With time  
With time, everything goes away  
We forget the passions  
And we forget the voices  
Which whispered the words of the poor folk  
Don't come back too late!  
Above all, don't catch cold!*

*With time  
With time, everything goes away  
We feel alone and weary like an exhausted horse  
And we feel frozen in an unknown bed  
And perhaps we feel lonely but keep free  
And we feel cheated for all those lost years  
So, truly, with time, we love no more.*

Whoa! That's so powerful! Now, I'm not sure how accurate the translation is, I'd say fairly close, might not be one 100% accurate, say slightly from French to English, but that's the sentiment behind the song. And I would like to go through it and talk it through.

So, we start with the introduction and very shortly after Léo Ferré comes in with his beautifully placed phrasing. Let's hear him!

[Music 0'31]

Yes, so right from the beginning, he is evoking this sad feeling behind the song with his phrasing and his placement of the lyrical lines. Brilliantly done! And we did note the change he's done beneath from layer to soft at the end of some phrases really help projecting the emotional content of the song. He does this so well. He is such a brilliant poet and such a brilliant storyteller.

So, here's his song.

[Music 0'42]

Here he is singing in his upper register, which is so sweet and sad as well, sweet and at the same time very haunting, knowing the meaning behind the song. And he uses the semi-spoken lines, which we can hear in some of the whole song. Some of these are semi-spoken and I believe that strongly adds to the melancholy of the song.

Let's hear from here again!

[Music 1']

It's just the vulnerability within his voice, as well! This is a great performance, absolutely brilliant!

[Music 1'29]

It's great phrasing!

Now, in this section, I love the way he cuts off some of the words, quite quickly, and it just adds to the mood of the song.

[Music 1'56]

You hear!

Again!

Quite spoken!

Ha!

O well, so full of emotion as well!

[Music 2']

In this section, we can hear the cracks in his voice, once or twice, that really add to that emotional delivery of the song. He's doing so well! We've got the beautiful piano and strings, as well as the bass, within the arrangement that makes the song feel so desolate.

[Music 2'05]

There's also a trumpet, hey, whether that's a keyboard sample trumpet band, I'm guessing it's likely a keyboard trumpet, but all the same, the trumpet just adds to that desolation as well. Let's go back to it!

[Music 3'01]

Brilliant!

He had a way he emphasizes "passion". Really, again, it's so emotive.

Ha! It's spoken!

[Music 3'35]

I mean just everything about his performance is really delivering the message behind the song. He is an absolutely brilliant storyteller. Ha!

[Music 3'59]

We have a spoken part at the end and the translation roughly is:

"And we feel cheated by all the lost years,

So truly with time we love no more".

[Music 4'16 > 4'23]

Ha!

The strings fading in at the end add to the sadness. It's really well arranged, and you know, that's so well given and the way he speaks the last line.

"With time we love... no more"

Ha! Let me just listen to it again!

[Music 4'10 > 4'23 ]

He was just such a brilliant performer. Everything I've seen from Léo Ferré just evokes emotion and he can tell his ability which is so great as a performer, as a vocalist, and as a storyteller poet.

That was so enjoyable, as sad as it was. And emotionally powerful as it was. And I really enjoyed that. I hope that you enjoyed my reaction and I'll see you again very soon. Bye!