As we all know, Reflections in the water is the first of the three pieces of the book of images. Reflections in the water employs a unique element of symbolism that brought in a new era of music which I admire. Debussy’s music was influenced by various artists he met in his trips such as in France, Russia and Rome. Debussy himself said that his music is symbolic and not impressionism. The reason he said this was he created a new form of music that had definite music features and techniques. His main aim was to create a new era in the music industry whereby apart from simply creating a mood, atmosphere and tone the music is image dependent with very specific symbolic representations. He was keen to show that music was not merely sitting Infront of the piano and randomly pressing on keys. He utilized form and structure to bring out the symbolic effects.

Debussy had a unique taste in music unlike many of other musicians in his time. Together with another French musician by the name Maurice Ravel, they are believed to have introduced impressionism into the music industry. This song communicates symbols to the ears of the audience. For instance, look at the structure of the song from the beginning to the end. He uses the musical piece to symbolize water that is in motion. With a peculiar tempo at the beginning, that increases towards the middle and fizzles at the end. The through- composed form is prevalent throughout reflections in the water. The through-composed form develops continuously from the beginning of the music as depicted by the piece that starts with a slow tempo as it proceeds. He combines two-bar units in an arch-like process to achieve this additive form in an unpopular way. Unlike ternary forms it does not have a symmetrical shape. It also lacks the alternation of material seen in common cyclic or rotational forms

As the pictures are displayed, Debussy aims to create a lasting picture in the audience’s mind. When a fountain is displayed, he employs glimpses of melodic statements with brief melodies to create the notion of a fountain. The climaxes used are very peculiar and anyone following through the piece can easily associate the music itself to the beautiful art. Floating images are accompanied by calm tones. Debussy’s aim is to create sounds and reflections in the water through the music. He also uses sounds that entice the audience to think of raindrops and to trigger thoughts of dribbles in a pool. The amount of admiration Debussy deserves for being so creative is unmatched. Dominantly his love for whole tone scales.

The opening of the song uses a rich motif of three musical notes. The music piece has a large-scale use of instrumental timbre. He creates impressions of light reflecting from the water by use of very rapid arpeggios and shimmering sounds waves and resonating tones. As from the third minute of the song there is an exotic build-up displayed in the music. By the time minute3:56 reaches, the sound fizzles into very lush chords. He uses a pattern of alternating high and low chords while employing motifs similar to those of the beginning. Debussy’s harmony is affected by the use of modes. He uses these nodes to create new scale formations. The subdominant notes, octatonic scales are prevalent. When he employs the whole tone scale in his music, he does not differentiate the constituent intervals.

When it comes to instrumentation, Debussy uses complimentary timbres to create subtle harmonies. Loud passages can be spotted in the musical rarely but mostly he uses large orchestra. The strings used in the music are divided and muted. He uses the harp to add a little distinctive coloring to the music and percussion instruments to add the unusual timbre. String instruments augmented with a combination of pizzicato and arco are used. He uses soft sonorities that contrast with the deep bases to create timbral juxtapositions that are very unique. It is a phenomenal music piece.