



## Piano *LE PAPILLON*

(**BIOGRAPHY**) CALIXA LAVALLÉE (1842-1891) was initiated to the piano, violin, organ, and [cornet](#) by his father, a musical instrument maker. By 1855 he was studying piano in Montreal with [Paul Letondal](#) and [Charles Wugk Sabatier](#). In 1857 he left Canada to perform as a musician in the USA and later tour in South America. After serving in the US Civil War he returned to Canada in 1863 to teach and give concerts in Montreal. During 1865-66 he spent some time in California, then married in Lowell, Mass., settled in Boston, then moved to New York where he was appointed music director of the Grand Opera House from 1870-72. He returned to Montreal and a public subscription allowed him to spend 1873-75 in Paris where he studied piano with [Marmontel](#), and composition with [Boieldieu fils](#). (**BACKGROUND**) The piano [étude](#) *Le Papillon* (The Butterfly) was composed while Lavallée studied in Paris. It was subsequently placed on the study list of the Paris Conservatoire and published numerous times in Europe and America. (**PUBLICATIONS**) Selection only. Paris: L. Eveillard, n.d. [ca. 1874]. Boston: Arthur P. Schmidt, revised edition, 1884 plus among others those by G. Schirmer, Carl Fischer, Theodore Presser, Oliver Ditson, B. F. Wood in the USA, and Gebettiner and Wolff of Warsaw. [CMH I](#), 212-19. (**MUSIC**) Lavallée presents material for the pianist to develop [chromatic](#) passage work, quick lateral movements of the left hand and dexterous [monophonic](#) lines divided between the two hands in this effective [concert étude](#). (**RECORDINGS**) *The Life and Times of Calixa Lavallée* Linda Lee Thomas, piano, CBC, RCI 513, 1980 LP. (**FURTHER READING**) [EMC2](#), 727-29.



Cover illustration of the 1884  
Arthur P. Schmidt & Co., edition

