Johann Strauss, Jr., the Austrian musical giant who was known as the “Waltz King,” was born in Vienna on October 25, 1825. His first waltz was written when he was only six years old. His father did not want him and his two brothers, Josef and Eduard, to become musicians. Therefore, after graduation from the Schottengymnasium and the Technische Hochschule, Johann, Jr. became a bank clerk.

As a boy, his music endeavors were carried on secretly with Franz Amon, the leader and first violinist of his father's orchestra, and when the elder Strauss and his wife separated, Johann, Jr. underwent proper music training.

He formed his own orchestra at the age of 19, and when his father died, the orchestras of father and son combined. This group toured extensively throughout Europe, presenting concerts in major cities and gaining even wider recognition than that enjoyed by the orchestra under his father's leadership. The new orchestra also toured in Russia (1865-1866), England (1869), and the United States (1876).

Strauss' most popular works date from the 1860s, including Accelerations Waltz (1860), Vienna Bonbons Waltz, Tales from the Vienna Woods Waltz, and the famous Blue Danube Waltz. After coming under the influence of Jacques Offenbach and Charles Lecoq, he turned to composing operettas. Of his sixteen operettas, Die Fledermaus and Gypsy Baron are the most widely known.

Strauss composed over 500 works, many of which are standards of the orchestral and band repertoire today. He died in Vienna on June 3, 1899.1

Louis-Philippe Laurendeau

DOB: 1861 (St. Hyacinthe, Canada)
DOD: 1916 (Montreal, Canada)

Laurendeau, Louis-Philippe. Composer, writer, b St-Hyacinthe, Que, 1861, d Montreal 13 Feb 1916. He was active for many years in Montreal and was bandmaster at the École militaire of Saint-Jean, but later he devoted himself entirely to composition and arranging. Though a resident of Longueuil (near Montreal), he occupied an editorial position with Carl Fischer, the New York publishers.

Some 200 of Laurendeau's compositions and arrangements, mostly for band and published by Fischer and Cundy-Bettoney, are listed in F. Pazdírek's Universal-Handbuch (Vienna 1904-10). His intermezzo Twilight Whispers, Opus 202, won first prize in the 1895 Metronome competition. Works of specific Canadian interest include Shores of the St Lawrence, a medley for band, and Land of the Maple, Opus 235, a march.

1 Rehrig, William H., Bierley, Paul E. (Editor), The Heritage encyclopedia of band music, Robert Hoe Foundation, Columbus, OH., 2005 CD, used with permission.
Laurendeau taught as well, and Fischer published several of his volumes of band instruction and repertoire, including The New Era Band Book (Grades 2, 3) and The Practical Band Arranger. He used the pseudonym Paul Laurent, but the National Library of Canada has record of only one publication on which it appears. A Montreal street was named after Laurendeau in 1931.

Blue Danube, (waltz) was published in 1911 by the Carl Fischer Publishing Company (New York) and arranged by L.P. Laurendeau. Blue Danube is the common English title of An der schönen blauen Donau op. 314 (On the Beautiful Blue Danube), a waltz by Johann Strauss II, composed in 1867. Originally performed 9 February 1867 at a concert of the Wiener Männergesangsverein (Vienna Men's Choral Association), it has been one of the most consistently popular pieces of music in the classical repertoire. Its initial performance was only a mild success, however, and Strauss is reputed to have said, "The devil take the waltz, my only regret is for the coda—I wish that had been a success!"

The waltz originally had an accompanying song text written by Josef Weyl. Strauss adapted it into a purely orchestral version for the World's Fair in Paris that same year, and it became a great success in this form. The instrumental version is by far the most commonly performed today. An alternate text by Franz von Gernerth, Donau so blau (Danube so blue), is also used on occasion.

The sentimental Viennese connotations of the piece have made it into a sort of unofficial Austrian national anthem. It is a traditional encore piece at the annual Vienna New Year's Concert. The first few bars are also the interval signal of Österreich Rundfunk's overseas programs.

It is reported by composer Norman Lloyd in his "Golden Encyclopedia of Music" that when asked by Frau Strauss for an autograph, the composer Johannes Brahms autographed Mrs. Strauss's fan by writing on it the first few bars of the Blue Danube. Under it he wrote "Unfortunately not by Johannes Brahms."

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Program note researched by Marcus L. Neiman
Medina, Ohio

Additional information on either the composer or composition would be welcomed. Please send information to marcusneiman@zoominternet.net

2 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Blue_Danube
Blue Danube.
(An der schönen blauen Donau.)
Waltz.
Joh. Strauss.
arr. by L. P. Laurendeau.

Piccolo.

American Star M.
1393.

Carl Fischer, New York.
Blue Danube.
(An der schönen blauen Donau.)
Waltz.
Joh. Strauss.
arr. by L. P. Laurendeau.
2nd & 3rd Bb Clarinets.
American Star M.
1393.
Blue Danube

(An der schönen blauen Donau.)

Waltz.

Bassoon.

Joh. Strauss.

arr. by L. P. Laurendreau.

Carl Fischer, New York.
Blue Danube.

Soprano Saxophone. (An der schönen blauen Donau.)

Waltz.

Joh. Strauss.

arr. by L. P. Laurendeau.

American Star J'll.

1393.
Blue Danube.
(An der schönen blauen Donau.)
Waltz.
Joh. Strauss.
arr. by L. P. Laurendeau.

Tenor Saxophone.

Carl Fischer, New York.
Blue Danube.
(An der schönen blauen Donau.)
Waltz.

Joh. Strauss.
arr. by L. P. Laurendeau.

Baritone Saxophone.

Carl Fischer, New York.
Blue Danube.
(An der schönen blauen Donau.)
Waltz.
Joh. Strauss.
arr. by I. P. Laurendeau.

Full Band 75¢
Solo B♭ Cornet.
American Star Fl.
1393.

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Blue Danube
(Andershönen blauen Donau)
Waltz.
Joh. Strauss.
arr. by L.P. Laurendeu.

1st Bb Cornet.

1393.

44379-6
Carl Fischer, New York.
Blue Danube.
(An der schönen blauen Donau.)
Waltz.

2nd & 3rd B♭ Cornets.

arr. by L. P. Laurendeau.

Joh. Strauss.

14379-6

Carl Fischer New York.
Blue Danube.
(An der schönen blauen Donau.)
Waltz.
Joh. Strauss.
arr. by L. P. Laurendeu.

1st & 2nd Eb Horns.
(Eb Altos.)

Carl Fischer New York.
Blue Danube
(An der schönen blauen Donau.)
Waltz.
Joh. Strauss.
Arr. by L. P. Laurendeau.

3rd & 4th Eb Horns.
(Eb Altos.)

Carl Fischer New York.
Blue Danube
An der schonen blauen Donau

Joh. Strauss
L. P. Laurendeau

Horns transcribed by Robert Rudy
Blue Danube
An der schonen blauen Donau

Joh. Strauss
L. P. Laurendeau

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Horns transcribed by Robert Rudy
Blue Danube
An der schonen blauen Donau

Joh. Strauss
L. P. Laurendeau

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Horns transcribed by Robert Rudy
Blue Danube.

1st & 2nd Tenors.

(Ander schönen blauen Donau.)

Waltz.

Joh. Strauss.

arr. by L.P. Laurendeau.

Carl Fischer, New York.
Blue Danube.
(An der schönen blauen Donau.)
Waltz.
Joh. Strauss.
arr. by L.P. Laurendeau.

1st & 2nd Trombones.
(Tenors 2:)

1393.

Carl Fischer, New York.
Blue Danube.
(An der schönen blauen Donau.)
Waltz.
Joh. Strauss.

3rd Trombone.
(Bb Bass clef)

1393.

Carl Fischer, New York
Blue Danube.
(An der schönen blauen Donau.)
Waltz.

Joh. Strauss.
arr. by L. P. Laurendieu.

Baritone

American Star J'ly.

1393.

Carl Fischer, New York.
Blue Danube.
(An der schönen blauen Donau.)
Waltz.

Joh. Strauss.
arr. by L. P. Laurendeau.

B♭ Bass.
(3rd Trombone)

1393.

Carl Fischer, New York.
Blue Danube
(An der schönen blauen Donau.)
Waltz.

Drums.

Joh. Strauss.
arr. by L. P. Laurendeau.

Carl Fischer, New York.