About four contemporary singers/authors/poets

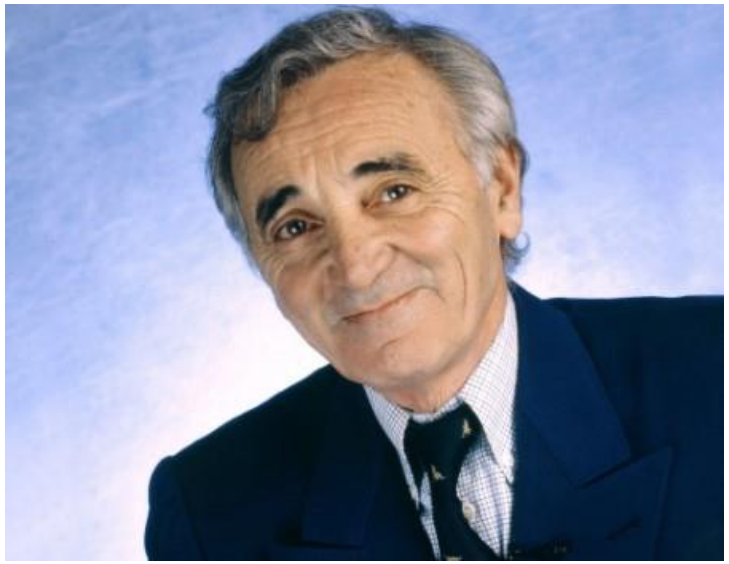
Charles Aznavour, Georges Brassens, Jacques Brel, Leonard Cohen

Corpus: Charles Aznavour (295 songs, 18 albums)

The corpus consists of 295 songs, organized into 18 collections (albums). Charles Aznavour (1924–2018) began his musical career in the 1940s and recorded nearly 1,200 songs, performed in several languages. He wrote or co-wrote over 1,000 songs—both for himself and for other artists—which are published in the book « Chansons : L'intégral » Aznavour*, Points. Don Quichotte Editions. Paris : Seuil. (2010).*



Corpus: Charles Aznavour (295 songs, 18 albums)



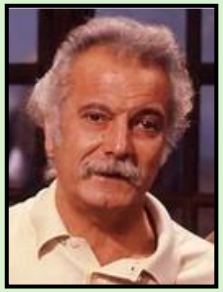
A facet perhaps less familiar to the general public is that, long before becoming one of the most widely recognized French singers outside the Francophone world, Aznavour spent a significant period working as a lyricist for other performers.

He wrote for Édith Piaf, Eddie Constantine, Gilbert Bécaud, Juliette Gréco, Sylvie Vartan, and Mireille Mathieu. He collaborated with Fred Astaire, Frank Sinatra, Andrea Bocelli, Bing Crosby, Ray Charles, Liza Minnelli, Tom Jones, and others.

Aznavour was a man of the stage, an accomplished film actor who received awards for his work, and a tireless traveler; he was involved in sometimes dramatic political causes and held an impressive array of international honors—in many ways the complete opposite of Brassens, who was deeply rooted in his local soil and fascinated by the Middle Ages.

Georges Brassens (140 songs, 12 albums)

The corpus that we propose to study here is a more complex and elusive material: a collection of 140 songs written and sung by the French musician-poet Georges Brassens (1921-1981).



This author is special in that he brings together three almost contradictory features:

a) He was a nonconformist and has rubbed shoulders with anarchist movements,

b) In 1967, he received the poetry prize from the very conservative *Académie Française*.

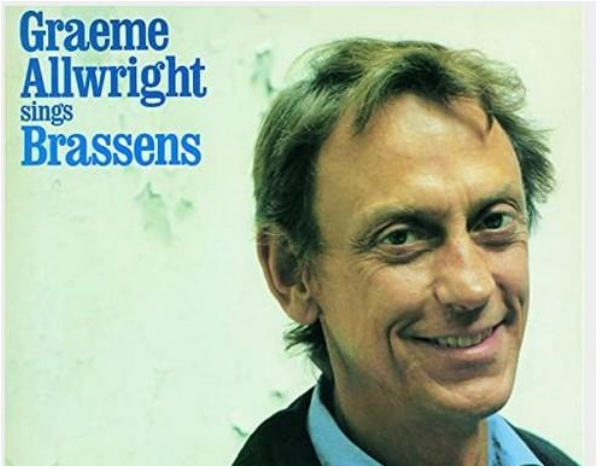
c) He was at the origin of the sale of 30 millions records.

d) The poetic texts of Brassens are particularly rich in stylistic figures (litotes, metaphors, anaphors, euphemisms, allegories, etc.). This poet is an expert in the art of diverting locutions (he speaks of the "dark face of the honeymoon", of the "gospel according to Venus"). It brings up to date popular, outdated or slang expressions (“the poor man's coffee” for: sexual act, etc.). It often uses historical, medieval and even obsolete terms…

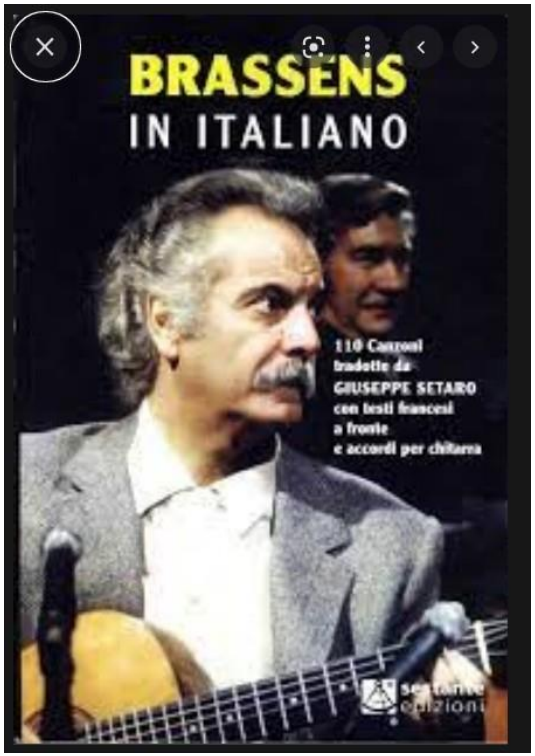
Georges Brassens (140 songs , 12 albums)

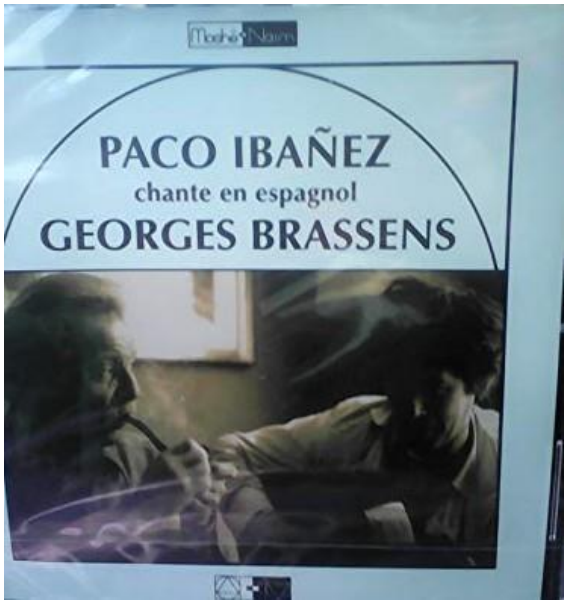
English

Italian



Spanish





Japanese



Jacques Brel (157 songs, 13 albums)

Jacques Brel (1929–1978)—a Belgian singer-songwriter, poet, actor, and director—is considered one of the greatest singer-songwriters in the Francophone world (with over 25 million albums sold). Yet, at the height of his popularity in 1967, he walked away from performing live.

He served as an inspiration for many English-speaking singer-songwriters, including David Bowie, Mort Shuman, and Leonard Cohen. Several of his songs were translated and performed by artists such as Ray Charles, Nina Simone, and Frank Sinatra. Jacques Brel was a compelling figure, possessed of an explosive sensitivity.



1972
Ne Me Quitte Pas



1964
Mathilde



1963
Les Bigotes



1962
Les Bourgeois



1961
Marieke



1959
La Valse à Mille Temps

Leonard Cohen (80 songs, 9 albums)

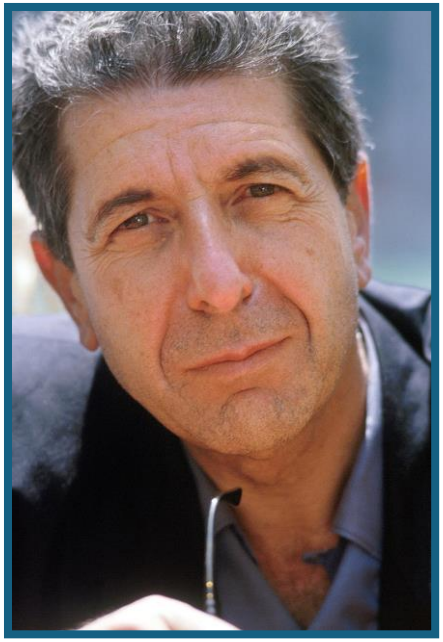
Leonard Cohen (1934 –2016) is a Canadian singer-songwriter, poet, and novelist.

Themes commonly explored throughout his work include faith and mortality, isolation and depression, betrayal and redemption, social and political conflict, and sexual and romantic love, desire, regret, and loss.

He was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

He was invested as a Companion of the Order of Canada, the nation's highest civilian honour.

In 2011, he received one of the Prince of Asturias Awards for literature and the ninth Glenn Gould Prize.



Two corpora (English original version and French translation) can be downloaded