

In Marlotte, *Les Fauvettes* retain all their appeal for artists

From the beginning of the last century, the villa *Les Fauvettes*, at the corner of rue Gambetta and rue Ciceri, was already among the most noticed in Bourron-Marlotte and even appeared on postcards of the time.



It was around 1890 that the gardener Emile Combe had this house built, located near his own *Les Glycines* residence, a little further up rue Ciceri. This investment property was then rented on a regular basis and, it seems, mainly to artists.

The list of tenants and visitors to *Les Fauvettes* is very long and, among them, we can mention:

- Berthe Marx, internationally renowned pianist and her husband Otto Goldschmidt, himself pianist and impresario of the illustrious violinist and composer Pablo de Sarasate. The latter certainly visited *Les Fauvettes* with his friends Marx and Goldschmidt on several occasions.¹ The couple was present in Marlotte between 1890 and the end of that same decade.
- Alexander MacKenzie, Scottish-born composer and conductor. He attended the wedding of Berthe Marx and Otto Goldschmidt, in the garden of *Les Fauvettes*. It is also there that MacKenzie finished writing his opera *Le Luthier de Crémone*, in 1894.

¹ Articles on Marx and Goldschmidt were published in *Bulletin des Amis de Bourron-Marlotte*, 64 (2022) and in *Revue d'histoire de Fontainebleau et de sa région*, 23 (2022).

- Alphonse Marx, painter. Brother of Berthe Marx, we owe him, among other works, a superb sanguine from his sister. During a visit to Marlotte, he also produced a portrait drawing of the owner Emile Combe (see below).²



- Moritz Moskowsky, pianist and composer of Polish origin. He may have rented *Les Fauvettes* in the first decade of the 20th century.
- Nino Busetto, painter and sculptor, author of at least two sculpted fireplaces in Marlotte.
- Around 1910, Kate Wingrove-Borghers³, an English painter, rented *Les Fauvettes* year-round.⁴
- Joseph Szulc, Polish musician, author of numerous operettas, and husband of Suzy Delsart, singer who created the role of *The Merry Widow*. After residing

² Communication from Mrs. Paulette Bernard, grand-daughter of Emile Combe.

³ *Si les maisons racontaient ... Dans l'intimité de la communauté artistique de Bourron-Marlotte* by M.C. Roesch-Lalance (2023). Eventually, Kate Borghers moved more permanently to *Le Pignon*, at 23 rue Delort.

⁴ Communication from Mrs. Paulette Bernard, grand-daughter of Emile Combe.

at *Villa Suzon*, at No. 8 rue Ciceri, around 1910, the couple rented *L'Atre*, a house next to *Les Fauvettes*, also built by Emile Combe.

Today, the site is still of great interest to artists and *Les Fauvettes* remain a motif appreciated by the Marlotte-based painter Reid Masselink⁵, who recently set up his easel there!



⁵ Reid Masselink, un peintre américain à Bourron-Marlotte, in *Bulletin des Amis de Bourron-Marlotte* 61 (2019).