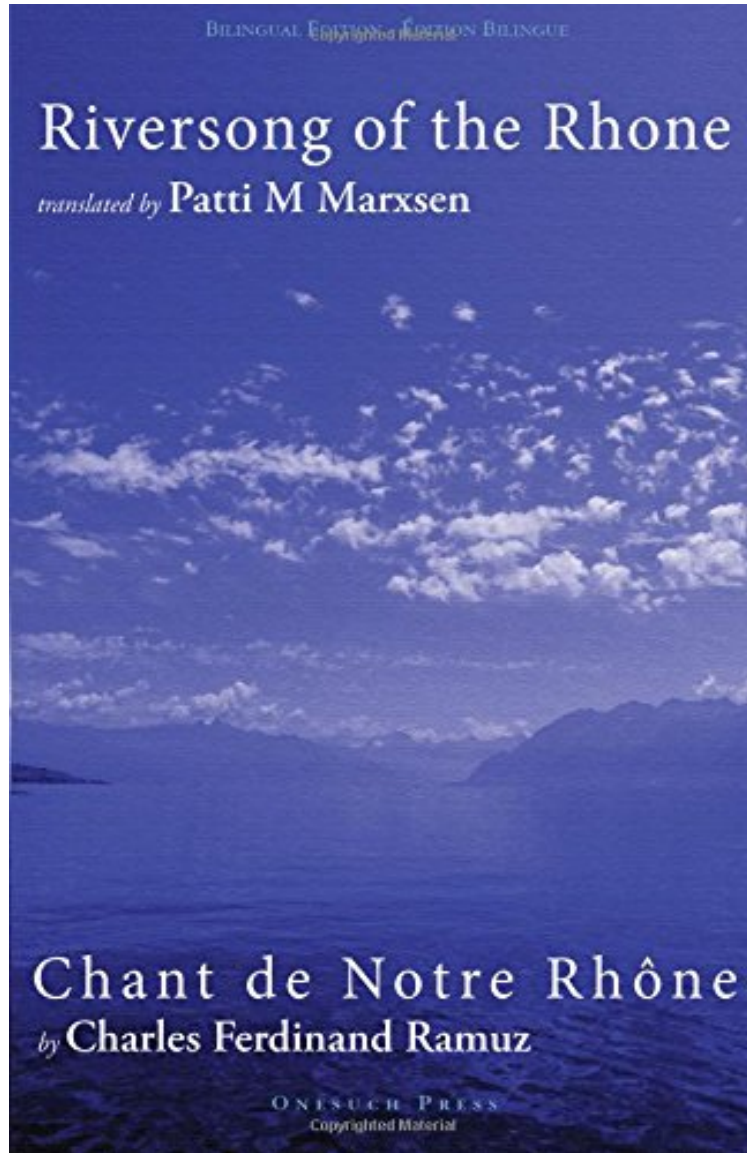


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## Riversong of the Rhône

*Charles Ferdinand Ramuz*

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**Charles Ferdinand Ramuz : Riversong of the Rhône** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Riversong of the Rhône:

"One sings here of the soul of a river, and this soul never dies." C.F. Ramuz Nearly seventy years after the death of Charles Ferdinand Ramuz (1878-1947), it is safe to say that the reputation of Switzerland's legendary poet of the

people is secure, at least in French. Since 2005, his 22 novels have appeared in a two-volume Pléiade Edition from Gallimard (Paris) and Éditions Slatkine in Geneva has completed 29 volumes of Ramuz's Oeuvres Complètes (Complete Works). The author's slightly blurred face has been on the Swiss 200-franc note for years and his *Histoire du Soldat* (A Soldier's Tale), written in collaboration with Igor Stravinsky in 1918, can easily be found on YouTube. But only recently have English translations of Ramuz's novels begun to appear and until now, his only epic prose poem has not been available in English. Patti M. Marxsen's translation of Ramuz's *Chant de Notre Rhône* brings this unique work to Anglophone readers as *Riversong of the Rhone* in a well-crafted bilingual edition that is ideal for students as well as general readers of poetry. Part ode to nature, part assertion of human freedom, part celebration, and entirely pure delight in language made musical, Marxsen's *Riversong* promises to be as enduring as the river and the landscape it describes. "Riversong of the Rhone is fueled by an entrancing, hymn-like music. Patti Marxsen's agile translation of the poem reveals a musicality within incantatory repetitions and images of a rocking cradle—an aural and visual evocation of a shared birthplace." -Jennifer Kurdyla, *Music Literature* "Marxsen has taken the French lyrical prose and transformed it into English lyrical prose." - From the Foreword by Susan M. Tiberghien

*Riversong of the Rhone* is a beautiful book. And still more beautiful if we take the time to listen to it as well as to read it. To listen to the song of the river. It is the music that turns the pages, that tunes the heart of the reader to the beauty of the words. To the beauty of the Rhone River and its riversides, the home of the author—and composer—C.F. Ramuz. *Riversong of the Rhone* is a beautiful book. And still more beautiful if we take the time to listen to it as well as to read it. To listen to the song of the river. It is the music that turns the pages, that tunes the heart of the reader to the beauty of the words. To the beauty of the Rhone River and its riversides, the home of the author—and composer—C.F. Ramuz.