Debussy also felt the influence of Wagner, but his response was a conscious attempt to remove "Wagnerisms" from his music. In a letter to a friend during the composition of his opera *Pelléas et Mélisande*, he complained: "I was too hasty to crow over *Pelléas et Mélisande*. . . . The ghost of old Klingsor, alias *R. Wagner*, appeared at the turn of a measure, so I tore it all up. . . ." Debussy created a unique musical style that has come to be called *impressionism*. It is a blend of elements borrowed from Eastern and Western music, as well as those of his own invention. Many composers in the early twentieth century were influenced by *impressionism*. 

**Characteristics of Impressionism and Related Styles**