

EARLY 20TH CENTURY FRENCH BLACK LACQUERED WOOD SIX-AIR CYLINDER MUSIC BOX

$1,600

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Crafted in France, circa 1920, this elegant antique cylinder music box combines traditional mechanical craftsmanship with refined decorative artistry. The rectangular wooden case features a rich black lacquered finish, accented with delicate gilt line borders and a charming central floral inlay depicting a colorful bouquet of flowers. The hinged lid opens to reveal the intricate musical mechanism and a beautifully illustrated original French tune card.

The colorful lithographed label is decorated with musical instruments, flowers, cherubs, and the names of celebrated European composers, including Mozart, Rossini, and Gounod. The card identifies six traditional melodies: "Manon," "La Mascotte," "L'Étoile du Soir," "Chant de l'Oiseau Moqueur," "La Fille du Tambour Major," and "Marche du Commis Voyageur."

Inside, the glass-covered mechanical assembly features a pinned metal cylinder, steel comb, and brass components. The traditional wind-up mechanism is operated with a removable key, while two adjustable levers control the musical functions, including repetition and stopping. The beautifully preserved interior reflects the precision and ingenuity of early mechanical music-making.

The antique French music box is in very good condition commensurate with age and use, with minor surface wear and some losses to the decorative finish. The mechanism is in wonderful working order, playing its six melodies with a delightful, nostalgic sound. Key included. A video demonstrating the music box playing is available upon request.

An enchanting addition to a library, living room, or music enthusiast's collection, this charming antique brings the timeless pleasure of mechanical music into the home.

Dimensions: 14"W x 7.5"D x 5"H

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