

Robert Williams

Professor Facer

French 102 S2020

1/31/2020



<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=0feNVUwQA8U>

### Une Grande Chanson

Imagine being a French citizen in 1946. Your nation recently endured the horrors of the Second World War and the Nazi occupation. Those in the free world are looking to the future with optimism. One evening, you attend a concert featuring the famous chanteuse Édith Piaf. Tonight, Piaf performs a song that you and the rest of the audience never heard before. As she sings about her newfound romance and how it leaves her seeing life through rose-colored lenses, you are taken aback by the beautiful melody and the message of newfound joy and excitement for the future that you and the rest of France can relate to. For the moment, recent memories of loss and tragedy are replaced with a dreamlike peace and joy. As the music continues, you feel a strong sense of pride in your nation.

Translating to "life in pink", the song "La Vie en rose" went on from that first live performance in 1946 to become extremely successful in France and throughout the world. This became known as Piaf's signature hit. It was even covered by famous American singers of the time such as Louis Armstrong, Bing Crosby, and Tony Martin.

A testament to the song's worldwide fame, "La Vie en rose" sort-of became the eponym of a 2005 Korean drama titled "My Rosy Life". A track from the show is a Korean version of the song. I do not know much about this drama, but from what I read it was hugely successful and came in second for the year in ratings.



<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=iY0g74doPzk>