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## VISUAL GUIDE: Artist graphics in the Musique music player

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### Introduction:

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This tutorial refers specifically to **Musique Version 1.5** running on **Linux Mint 18.3 "Sylvia" Cinnamon edition**. The principles discussed here should be of use to people running earlier versions of Musique on earlier versions of Linux Mint.

Musique is a visually beautiful music player, which allows you to view your music collection by artists, albums or folders. Musique uses **last.fm** to catalog your music folder, obtaining album cover graphics, artist photographs, information on singers and lyrics from last.fm's website. This allows you to very rapidly display your music collection in a very graphical rich manner.



The downside to relying on **last.fm** for all your graphical images is that you might not like the images that **last.fm** chooses for you. Newcomers to Musique rapidly discover that there is very little control over graphics from within the Musique player itself.

A lot of newcomers give up on Musique before they discover that by setting up their **Music** folder in a certain way, they can dictate what album cover images, artist photos and information Musique displays. This involves adding **cover.jpg** files alongside your music files, deleting or altering various hidden files (eg **\_cover**, **\_thumb**, **\_photo** etc).

This tutorial aims to give newcomers to Musique the tools they need to choose exactly what **Artist** graphics Musique ends up presenting to them, when they open up this eye-catching music player.

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## VISUAL GUIDE: Album cover graphics in Musique music player

Musique handles **Album Cover** graphics in a different manner to **Artist** graphics.

If you are interested in learning about **Album Cover** graphics, click on the link below.

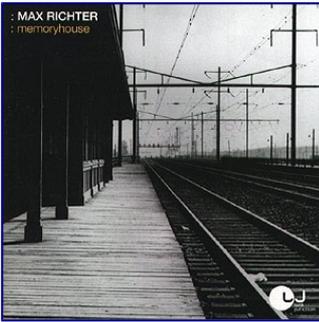
Alternatively, click on the relevant icon below to download a copy of the **Album cover** tutorial in the format you desire.

- <https://community.linuxmint.com/tutorial/view/2386>



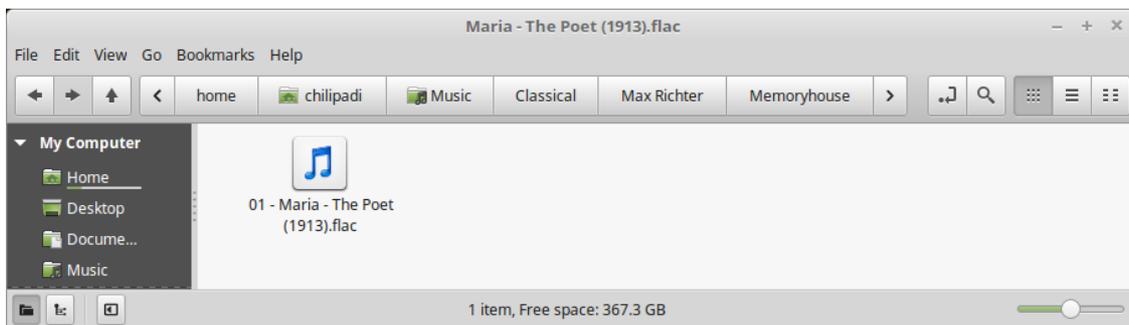
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To help illustrate the various steps involved in manipulate your Music folder, we will presume you have brought a music CD called **Memoryhouse** by **Max Richter**.



We will also presume that you have ripped your favorite track from this album (Track 2: Maria, The Poet (1913), for string orchestra) and added your ripped **Maria - The Poet (1913).flac** file to your Music folder.

- **/home/user/Music/Classical/Max Richter/Memoryhouse**



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## Summary:

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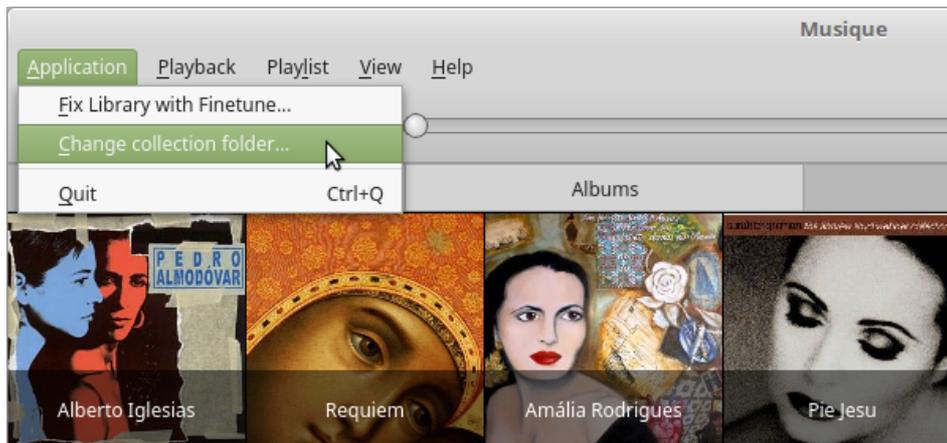
1. Allowing **Musique** to use **last.fm** to select artist graphics.
2. Adding or replacing **\_photo** files to force **Musique** to use your choice of artist graphics.
3. References

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## 1). Launch Musique and scan your music collection:

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- First select: **Application - Change collection folder...**

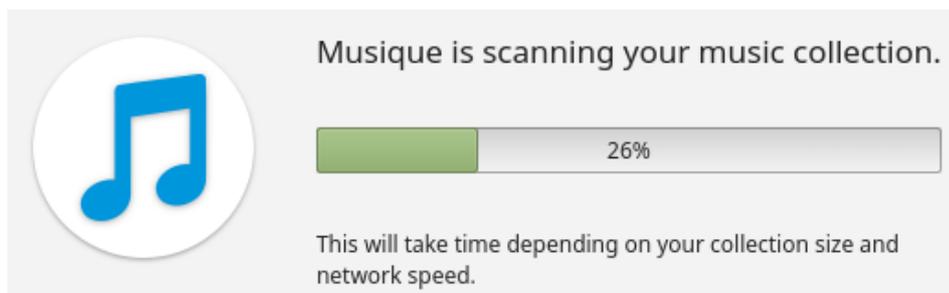


- Then select:

**Use Music folder**



The **Musique is scanning your music collection** pop up screen opens up.



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The audio CD ripper and encoder that you used to rip your **Clair de lune.flac** music file will most likely have automatically tagged this ripped file with the following information:

- **Title:** Maria, The poet (1913), for string orchestra
- **Artist:** Max Richter
- **Album:** Memoryhouse
- **Year:** 2003
- **Track Number:** 2
- **Genre:** Classical

**Note:** I use **Asunder 2.8** to rip my audio CD's, which uses the **CBDB (Compact Disc Database)** to name and tag each track.

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Whilst the **Musique** program was scanning your collection, it was communicating with the **last.fm** database.

Using the music tags that your audio CD ripping software had added to your **Maria, The Poet (1913).flac** file; **last.fm** selected what it thought was the most appropriate Artist image for this music track.

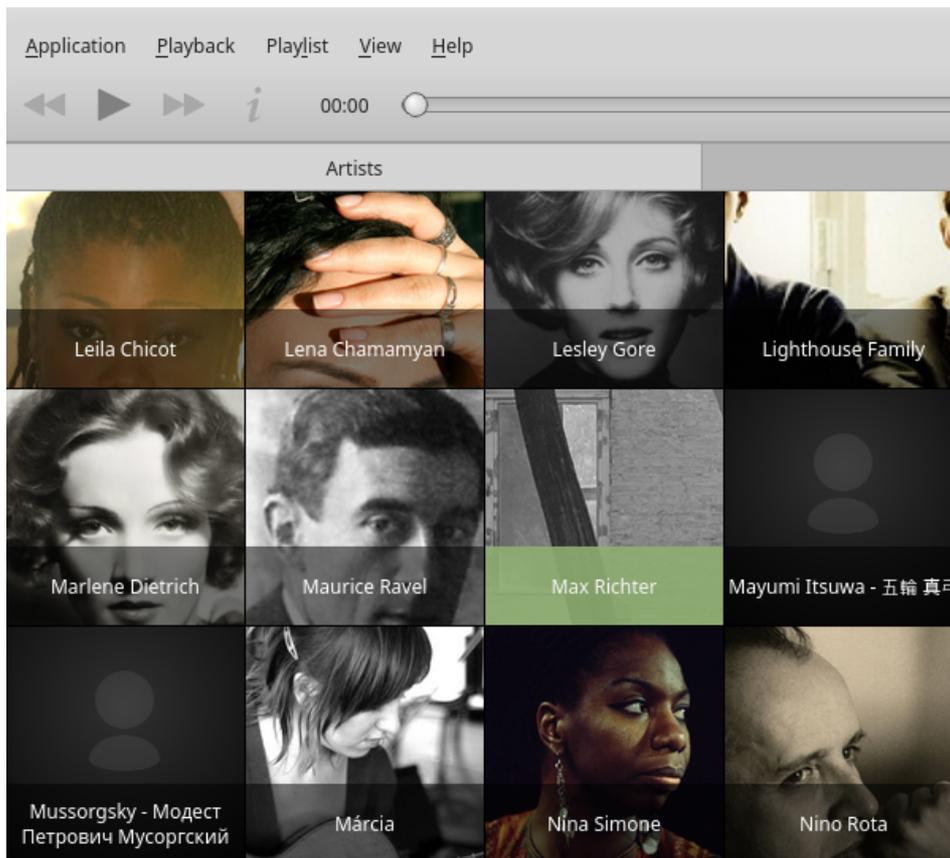
**last.fm** then sent your Musique program an URL link to a file on it's database, which contains a **.jpg** graphic file of Max Richter (the Artist who composed **Maria, The Poet (1913)**).

Finally your Musique program downloaded a copy of the artist graphic file and stored this image on your computer.

This image file was then utilised by the Musique program to display the Artists image in Musique's Artists tag (see image below).

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- Once your new music file has been added to **Musique**, you notice that there is a problem with the graphic image of **Max Richter** in Musique's Artists tab.



- All you can see is a section of tree trunk and a window in the background.



- Mayumi Itsuwa** does not have artist image at all, just a greyed out graphical representation of a head and shoulders.



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## 2). Adding or replacing hidden `_photo` files to force Musique to use your choice of artist graphics:

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- [MicroHOWTO: VISUAL GUIDE to making hidden files visible](#)



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### 2a). Open your home directory and make your hidden folders visible

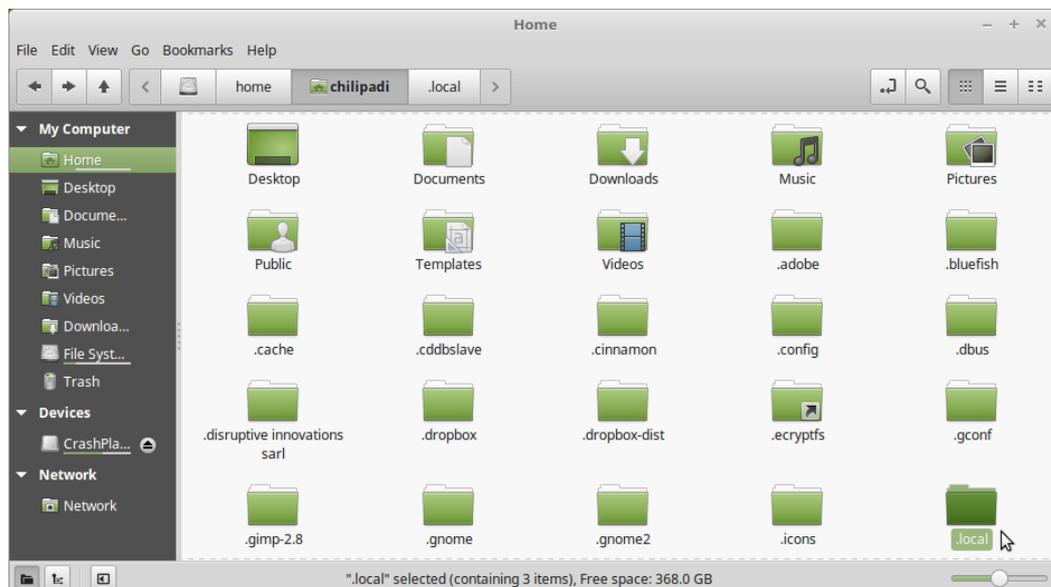
- Click on the Home icon on your desktop.



- Press the **Ctrl** key and the **H** key on your keyboard at the same time, to make your hidden folders visible.

Hidden files can be easily identified, because they always start with a dot (.)

e.g. `.local`



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## 2b). Navigate yourself to the hidden folder containing the `_photo` file associated with `Maria - The Poet (1913).flac`

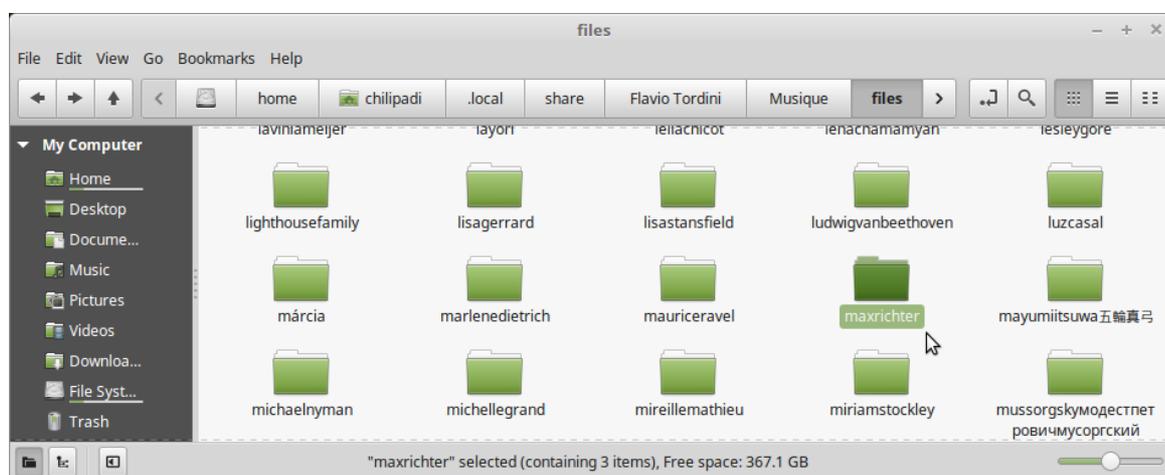
The `_photo` Artist graphic file that **Musique** has associated with the **Maria - The Poet (1913).flac** music file is stored in a folder called **maxrichter** in the **.local** hidden folder.

The absolute address for this folder is:

- `/home/user/.local/share/Flavio Tordini/Musique/files/maxrichter`

It is very straightforward to navigate yourself through to:

- `/home/user/.local/share/Flavio Tordini/Musique/files`

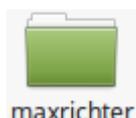


From this point on, you have to use a little common sense to progress further. **Musique** has set up a sub folder called **maxrichter** to store all the files it uses for **Max Richter's** music.

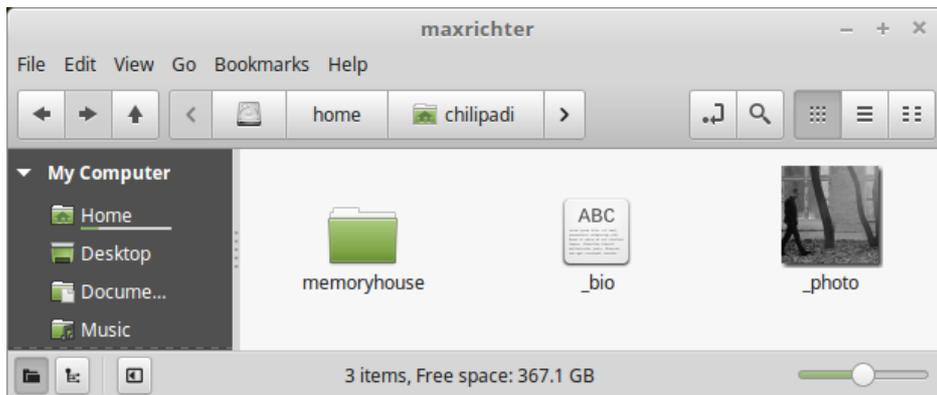
On your computer you may have to search a bit for the folder bearing the name of the **singer / band / composer** that you are looking for.

I have wasted a lot of time in the past looking for **beethoven** under **B**, when I should have been looking for **ludwigvanbeethoven** under **L**.

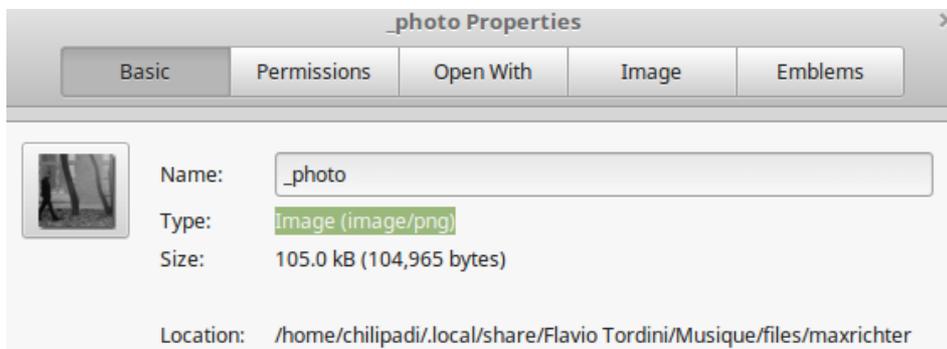
- Click on the **maxrichter** folder



- As you can see in the screenshot below, the maxrichter folder contains the **\_photo** graphic file that we are looking for, as well as a text file called **\_bio** and a folder called **memoryhouse**.



- Right click on the **\_photo** file and select **Properties**.

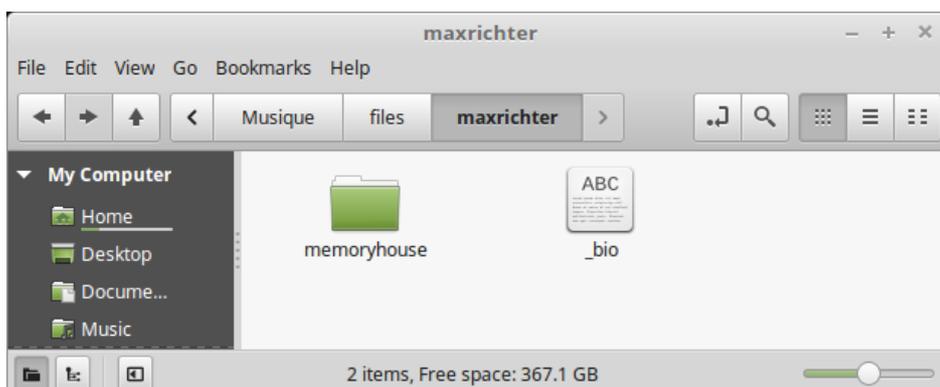


- The **\_photo** file for Max Richter is a 300 pixel x 300 pixel **.png** file. If you check the **\_photo** files of other singers / bands / composers in your music collection, that **Musique** has obtained from **last.fm**, you will see that they are all 300 pixel x 300 pixel **.png** files.

**/home/user/.local/share/Flavio Tordini/Musique/files**

## 2c). Delete the **\_photo** file in the **maxrichter** folder and replace it with an alternative graphic image of Max Richer

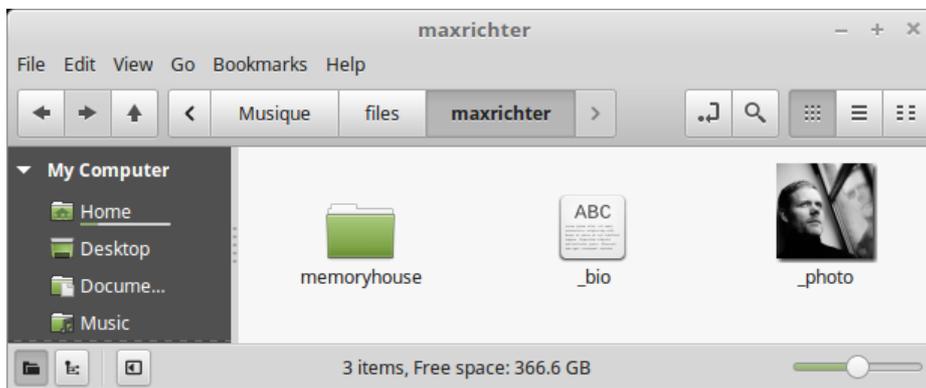
- Delete the **\_photo** file in the **maxrichter** folder.



- Find a suitable replacement graphic image of Max Richter. Use GIMP if necessary to crop out a square section from this image. Resize your cropped image to 300 pixel x 300 pixel and save the image to your desktop as a **.png** file.
- You can use a **.jpg** image file if you want, but given the choice I would replace the **.png** file that you deleted with another **.png** file.

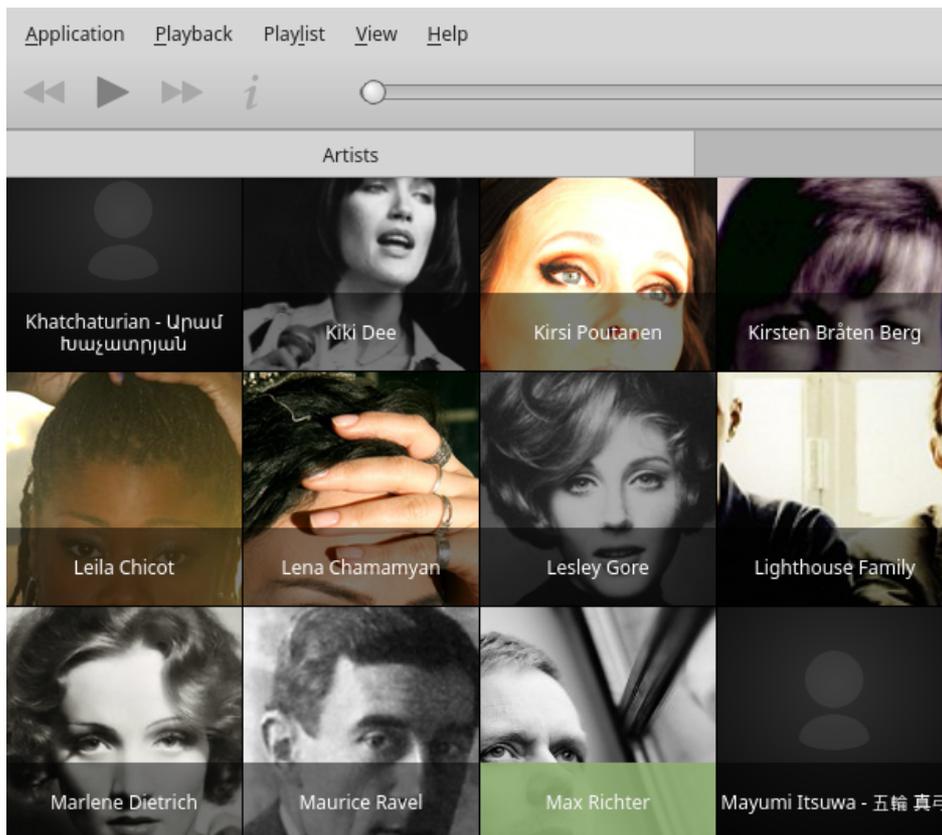


- Rename the image **\_photo**
- Store a copy of the image in the **maxrichter** folder.



## 2d). Launch Musique and rescan your Music folder

- First select: **Application - Change collection folder...**
- Then select: **Use Music folder**
- Once **Musique** has finished scanning your Music folder, there should be an image of **Max Richter's** face on **Musique's** artists tab, acting as the graphical link to his orchestral piece **Maria - The Poet (1913)**.



- A slight improvement on the original photograph of a tree trunk, with a window in the background.




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### 3). References:

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- [Hide files in Linux Mint](#)