



ORCHESTRE
SYMPHONIQUE
DE MONTRÉAL

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RELEASE ON ANALEKTA/ SONY
OF THE RECORDING
GODS, HEROES AND MEN:
THE CREATURES OF PROMETHEUS AND
BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO. 3, "EROICA"

FIRST OSM PARTICIPATION IN THE
EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
FOR 3 CONCERTS IN AUGUST 2011

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PRESS RELEASE

Montreal, March 23, 2011 – The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and the Analekta record company today released the album *Gods, Heroes and Men*, on which the OSM and Kent Nagano revisit the world of Beethoven, performing excerpts from *The Creatures of Prometheus* and *Symphony No. 3* ("Eroica"). The event took place in the presence of OSM music director Kent Nagano and Mario Labbé, president of Analekta. Sony will launch distribution and marketing of the album in mid-April for certain European countries and in mid-May for the U.S. and other international markets. This fifth disc of the Orchestra under the direction of its music director is part of the cycle of Beethoven symphony recordings by Maestro Nagano and the OSM. Symphony No. 5 was released in 2008 on the album *Beethoven: Ideals of the French Revolution*, Symphonies Nos. 6 and 8 will be recorded in April with scheduled release date this summer and Symphony No. 9, to be presented during concerts inaugurating the OSM's new home in September 2011, will be recorded at that time. As a bonus for the album *Gods, Heroes and Men*, Analekta will offer a download of music from *The Creatures of Prometheus* interspersed with a text written at the request of the OSM by Canadian author **Yann Martel** (winner of the prestigious Booker Prize for *Life of Pi* in 2002), narrated by French actor **Lambert Wilson**.

The OSM also announced its participation, for the first time in its history, at the celebrated **Edinburgh International Festival**, from **August 16 to 18, 2011**. The Orchestra will have sustained presence at the Festival, presenting two orchestral programs and one chamber-music program.

GODS, HEROES AND MEN

New recording of the works of Beethoven by the OSM and Kent Nagano

At the heart of *The Creatures of Prometheus* lies the Promethean myth, providing food for thought regarding the quest for human progress and the consequences it may entail. "The myth of Prometheus symbolizes the European "Enlightenment" of the 18th century, explains Kent Nagano. In the "Promethean spirit," a new human being was revealed in his rebellion, a human being capable of putting the world in order by his own standards. This ballet stands outside of any tradition, and as a result gains even more in importance, as it must be viewed in the context of being an actual political statement. Beethoven's music is an expression of admiration for

“the Prometheus of the Age” – as Goethe and many contemporaries saw Bonaparte. We may thus understand Beethoven’s music as homage to Napoleon, the contemporary perfecter of a mythical humanity’s growing up. At the same time, however, we may consider its manifold idyllic character as an expression of hope for liberation from the chains of the past and for better times to come.” The music from *The Creatures of Prometheus* is matched here with another startling score by the great composer: Symphony No. 3. The longest symphony ever composed at the time of its conception, the “Eroica” took audiences by surprise with the inventiveness of its musical language and of its form.

The OSM and Kent Nagano recorded the music from *The Creatures of Prometheus* and the Symphony No. 3 in February and May 2010 in the Multimedia Room at McGill University’s Schulich School of Music and at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier. The original work juxtaposing a narration of the text written by Yann Martel to the music of *The Creatures of Prometheus* was premiered at the OSM on May 11, 2010.

Production of this recording by the OSM was made possible thanks to the support of the City of Montreal and the Québec Department of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy.

THE OSM AT THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The OSM music director also announced that, after taking part in more than forty national and international tours over the years, the OSM will be performing for the first time in its history at the Edinburgh International Festival. One of the most important of the European artistic festivals, the Edinburgh International Festival was founded in 1947. The Asian continent is at the heart of the programming for the 2011 edition of this multidisciplinary event, and the OSM will pursue that theme through the presentation of works by contemporary composers Tan Dun, Tōru Takemitsu and Unsuk Chin, along with other compositions from the repertoire.

The OSM will present three concerts at the Festival. Two orchestral programs and one chamber-music program will be offered:

August 16 at 8 p.m., at Usher Hall

Claude Debussy: *La Mer*

Tan Dun: *Water Concerto for water instruments and orchestra* (with percussionist Beibei Wang)

Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 6, “Pastoral”

August 17 at 8 p.m., at Usher Hall

Tōru Takemitsu: *A flock descends into the pentagonal garden*

Gustav Mahler: *Rückert-Lieder* (with mezzo-soprano Waltraud Meier)

Igor Stravinsky: *Firebird*

August 18 at 11 a.m., at Queen’s Hall – Chamber-music concert

Maurice Ravel: Introduction and Allegro in G major

Unsuk Chin: *Fantaisie mécanique pour 5 instrumentistes* under the direction of Kent Nagano

Franz Schubert: Octet in F major (D. 803)

The Edinburgh International Festival also unveiled today the complete lineup for its 2011 edition, available at www.eif.co.uk.

Participation of the OSM in the Edinburgh International Festival is made possible thanks to the financial support of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. The OSM also wishes to thank Tourisme Montréal and Tourisme Québec, partners in these concerts, Blue Cross of Québec, suppliers of insurance to the musicians during tours, and the OSM Foundation.

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