



ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL



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A THIRD NAGANO/OSM RECORDING

The recording of Mahler's *The Song of the Earth* released in Canada

Montreal, September 3, 2009 – Released on the Sony label during the Orchestra's European tour last spring, Gustav Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* (*The Song of the Earth*) will be available on the Canadian market September 8 on the OSM label. The recording, made under the direction of Kent Nagano in concert on January 13 and 14, 2009, and in the studio, features tenor **Klaus Florian Vogt** and baritone **Christian Gerhaher**.

The Song of the Earth is a true “symphony with voices.” The work is divided into two parts of equivalent duration. The first consists of five lieder, while the sixth lied takes up the entire second part. Two solo voices (here, tenor Klaus Florian Vogt and baritone Christian Gerhaher) engage in a dialogue with the orchestra and establish the harmony of opposites that underlies the cycle. The second-to-last work completed by Mahler, *The Song of the Earth* is a gripping meditation on the fate of man, the pilgrim in a world from which he must detach himself. Mahler chose a mosaic of poems borrowed from the collection *The Chinese Flute*, an anthology from the T'ang dynasty (8th century). The final result keeps the subtleties of the images and expressiveness of the Asian poetry, with resonances of the romantic spirit.

When it was released on the European market, the press reacted more than favorably to this new recording by the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal:

“The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal deploys a superb orchestral tapestry, under the mood-attentive direction of Maestro Nagano, its music director since 2006: colors, breathing, intoxication and sense of drama. A heroic, clear tenor, an irresistible baritone, orchestra and conductor at a peak of sincerity and tenderness: the version recorded in early 2009 is a bombshell. This is the finest recent tenor/baritone version of *The Song of the Earth*.” - Alexandre Pham, Classiquenews.com

“Vogt is one of the finest tenors going in this repertoire. The artist is armed with a light, luminous timbre as well as strong technical means. These qualities give birth to a subtle performance, natural and never forced. Another great singer, Christian Gerhaher offers an intense emotional experience with a final “Abschied” of light and shade, autumnal and nostalgic with a keen sense of the text that borders on musical and human miracle... This beautiful version for tenor and baritone is certainly the most relevant since the mythical Bernstein recording (Decca).” - Sylvain Dupuis, ResMusica.com

“Nagano had phenomenal intuition in engaging the man who sang Lohengrin under his direction. Vogt, with his high, clear voice, powerful and yet elegiac, is *the* tenor of the discography of the last twenty years. The CD is the first great OSM-Nagano success on disc.” - Christophe Huss, *Le Devoir*

KLAUS FLORIAN VOGT studied voice at the Lübeck Conservatory of Music with Günter Binge. From 1998 to 2003 he was a member of Dresden's Semperoper, where conductors he worked with included Giuseppe Sinopoli and Sir Colin Davis. In May 2006 Klaus Florian Vogt made his American debut in the role of Lohengrin at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. In March of the following year he was heard for the first time in Munich, in Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina*, singing the role of Golitzin (for which he received a Faust award from the German theatre association).

German baritone **CHRISTIAN GERHAHER** studied singing with Paul Kuen and Raimund Grumbach. With his partner the pianist Gerold Huber he has become a reference in the area of the lied. Their recoding of Schubert's *Winterreise* earned a 2002 Echo Klassik, as did their disc devoted to Schubert's *Die schöne Müllerin* in 2004. Their disc *Abendbilder* received a Gramophone Award in 2006. The same year he was presented with the prestigious NDR Musikpreis at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival.

The OSM has made 96 recordings, winning 47 national and international awards, including two Grammys and recently a Juno for *Beethoven, Ideals of the French Revolution. Das Lied von der Erde* is the third Nagano/OSM recording to appear in as many seasons, the second being an album devoted to the music of Korean composer Unsuk Chin.

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