

## ***Diapason d'or* of the year 2016 for the OSM's Recording of *L'Aiglon* by Honneger and Ibert**

**Montreal, November 23rd, 2016** – The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is proud to announce that it has received the coveted *Diapason d'or* of the year 2016 in the “Opera Recording” category, for its complete version of *L'Aiglon* by Honegger and Ibert.

Instigated over twenty years ago, the *Diapason d'or* of the year, one of France's most prestigious music accolades, is awarded each year to the best classical music CDs and DVDs. Laureates are chosen by a jury of critics from *Diapason* magazine who team up with producers from the French public radio station France Musique. Founded in 1952, *Diapason* magazine is an internationally-distributed monthly publication and a worldwide reference on recording information and reviews.

Miracles can, and do happen. Kent Nagano had managed to convince Decca to produce the first complete recording of the opera in five acts, *L'Aiglon*, a collective creation of Arthur Honegger (who penned Acts II to IV) and Jacques Ibert (who penned acts I and V). “The work premiered triumphantly in 1937, in Monte Carlo,” wrote François Laurent in the March issue of *Diapason*, “and since miracles never come singly, the conductor also had at his disposal a Francophone cast, capable of fully recognizing the heroic proportions of both the libretto and the score.”

The OSM was presented with the award at the *Soirée des Diapason d'or* of the year 2016 in Paris, broadcast live on France Musique. Maestro Nagano and Madeleine Careau, the OSM's Chief Executive Officer, were among the guests at the annual celebration of recordings and music, hosted by Emilie Munera, Rodolphe Bruneau-Boulmier, and Clément Rochefort. The complete list of laureates as well as transcripts of interviews with prize-winning artists will appear in the December issue of *Diapason*.

Recorded at the Maison symphonique de Montréal and pressed onto disc in its historic premiere in March, 2015, *L'Aiglon* also signaled the renewal of the OSM's partnership with the prestigious Decca label. Numbering eleven principal cast members, the album notably features the Belgian soprano Anne-Catherine Gillet in the role of *L'Aiglon*/The Duke of Reichstadt, Quebec baritone Étienne Dupuis as Metternich, and French baritone Marc Barrard as the Duke's devoted valet, Séraphin Flambeau. Other cast members include Philippe Sly, Pascal Charbonneau, Isaiah Bell, Tyler Duncan, Jean-Michel Richer, Hélène Guilmette, Marie-Nicole Lemieux, Julie Bouliane, and Kimy McLaren.

It should be noted that the OSM's double CD had previously earned the *Diapason d'or* “Découverte” in March, 2016, as well as the most prestigious German classical music recording prize, the ECHO Klassik, in the “Opera Recording (20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Century Opera)” category, last July. It was also named “Classical Album of the Week” by *Sunday Times Culture Magazine* (March, 2016), *Res Musica's* “La clef du mois” (March, 2016), and “Disk of the Week” by BBC Radio 3 (April, 2016).

## **The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal**

Since its founding in 1934, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal has distinguished itself as a leader in the orchestral life of Canada and Québec. A cultural ambassador of the highest order, the Orchestra has acquired an enviable reputation internationally through the quality of its many recordings and tours. The OSM carries on that rich tradition under the leadership of its current music director, Kent Nagano, featuring innovative programming aimed at updating the orchestral repertoire and strengthening the Orchestra's connection with the community. Over the years the OSM has undertaken over 40 tours and roughly 30 national and international excursions. The Orchestra has made more than 100 recordings, on the Decca, EMI, Philips, CBC Records, Analekta, ECM and Sony labels, as well as on its own label, which have earned it some 50 national and international awards.

## **The OSM's Valued Partners**

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal wishes to thank Ville de Montréal for its generous support.

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal is presented by Hydro-Québec.

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