



ORCHESTRE
SYMPHONIQUE
DE MONTRÉAL



**DANSE MACABRE:
THE 2ND RECORDING ON DECCA FOR THE OSM AND KENT NAGANO**

The perfect way to celebrate Halloween 2016!

Montreal, September 6, 2016 – The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and Kent Nagano are pleased to announce the release of *Danse macabre*, the second album produced in collaboration with Decca, the prestigious record label. *Danse macabre* follows on the heels of *L’Aiglon*, the lyric drama by Honegger and Ibert recorded by the OSM and Kent Nagano as a world premiere. *L’Aiglon* has earned numerous honors since its release in March 2016, including an ECHO Klassik award.

Danse macabre, a new recording conducted by Kent Nagano, will win over new enthusiasts, seasoned music lovers and the entire family. Six major works from the repertoire share a common theme: Halloween. And although they were not all composed specifically for the occasion, the works evoke aspects that are characteristic of the dark holiday, including death, sorcery, skeletons and demons.

“The late 19th and early 20th centuries witnessed great advances in technology, and a simultaneous rise in concern for matters of secular spiritualism—a trend also observed in our current technological age,” points out the OSM’s music director, Kent Nagano. “This cyclical enthusiasm for the supernatural and the occult tends to pervade popular consciousness and artistic production, no matter how advanced and rational the society. As such, it is a theme that transcends nationality, culture and time. The great variety of works in this recording, from the swirling magic of Dukas’ *Sorcerer’s Apprentice* to the uniquely American humour in Ives’s *Hallowe’en*, represents the OSM’s effort to offer a unique perspective on a compelling historical period in classical music, but also a point of commonality with the world we inhabit today.”

The album was recorded over the course of three concerts presented on October 29 and 30, 2015, at the Maison symphonique de Montréal. It features the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and Kent Nagano performing works by Dukas, Dvořák, Mussorgsky, Balakirev, Saint-Saëns and Ives.

Danse macabre

Orchestre symphonique de Montréal
Kent Nagano, Music Director and Conductor

Paul Dukas, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*

Antonín Dvořák, *Noon Witch*, B. 196

Modest Mussorgsky, *Night on Bald Mountain* (orch. Rimsky-Korsakov)

Mily Balakirev, *Tamara*

Camille Saint-Saëns, *Danse macabre* (soloist: Andrew Wan, violin)

Charles Ives, *Hallowe'en* (from *Three Outdoor Scenes* for string ensemble), in a chamber-music version featuring six musicians from the OSM (Andrew Wan and Alexander Read, violin; Neal Gripp, viola; Brian Manker, cello; Hugues Tremblay, percussion; Olga Gross, piano)

The album includes four first-recordings for the OSM. The Orchestra, under the direction of Charles Dutoit, had already recorded *Night on Bald Mountain* and *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* on the Decca label in 1988 and 1989 respectively.

The *Danse macabre* CD will be available for PREORDER on September 9 via iTunes, Amazon, and all other leading retailers. It will be available in stores and on streaming platforms on October 14, 2016.

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal

Since its founding in 1934, the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM) has made a name for itself as a leading orchestra in Quebec and Canada. The OSM is a cultural ambassador of the highest order, having earned an enviable international reputation for its many quality recordings and tours. The OSM proudly upholds this tradition under the leadership of its current music director, Kent Nagano, by featuring innovative programming that aims to rejuvenate the orchestra's repertoire and strengthen its connection with the community. Over the years, the OSM has gone on tour approximately 40 times (with the most recent being a coast-to-coast tour of the United States from March 14 to 26, 2016) and roughly 30 excursions in Canada and abroad. The Orchestra has more than 100 recordings to its name on the Decca, EMI, Philips, CBC Records, Analekta, ECM and Sony labels, as well as on its own label. These recordings have earned some 50 national and international awards.

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

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

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