



NEW ALBUM BY THE OSM AND RAFAEL PAYARE STRAUSS *EIN HELDENLEBEN* - MAHLER *RÜCKERT-LIEDER*

TWO HIGHLY PERSONAL WORKS BY TWO *FIN-DE-SIÈCLE* GIANTS
ALBUM RELEASE ON MARCH 15

Montreal, February 1st, 2024 — The **Orchestre symphonique de Montréal** and Music Director **Rafael Payare** expand their **Pentatone** discography with a recording of **Richard Strauss' *Ein Heldenleben*** and **Gustav Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder*** performed by one of the foremost soprano of our time **Sonya Yoncheva**. With this recording, Rafael Payare and the OSM pursue their progress through the late Romantic German repertoire, a focal point of their concerts in Montreal and abroad as well as their recordings for Pentatone. The release this coming **March 15**, the OSM's 136th album, recorded at the Maison symphonique de Montreal in March 2023, carries forth a rich recording tradition since 1980.



Following their acclaimed recording of Mahler's Fifth Symphony, released in March 2023 to rave reviews and named Editor's Choice by both Gramophone and BBC Music magazines, Rafael Payare and the OSM further explore and shine in this late-Romantic repertoire.

At first blush, these works may not seem to form an obvious pairing. This is Strauss at his most exuberant, with an immense and richly coloured musical canvas, and Mahler at his most introspective, choosing the intimacy and inwardness of Friedrich Rückert's poems, creating an array of different atmospheres through his bare yet varied orchestration. Nevertheless, in their eminently personal and autobiographical approach, both composers offer us their careful reflection on existence and on their place in the world.

"It has been a fascinating experience to explore this repertoire with the OSM. Reconnecting with Mahler while immersing ourselves in the sound world of Strauss marks an important milestone in our musical trajectory together and continues our shared journey through the German and Austrian repertoire. It is also our first collaboration with Sonya Yoncheva, whose extraordinary voice is blessed with an endless palette of expressive nuances and colours. We are very pleased to share with you the poetic and musical world of these two towering composers."

— **Rafael Payare, OSM Music Director**

"This new album, the second of our exclusive partnership with the OSM, is a remarkable testimony of the orchestra's journey under its new Music Director, Rafael Payare. I marvel at the many qualities of their *Heldenleben*, a lesson in sonic refinement, precision and warmth. Star soprano Sonya Yoncheva, in her Pentatone and Mahler debut, shows that artistic boundaries are often self-imposed

and only call to be transcended. A tremendous achievement.” — **Renaud Loranger, Vice-President,
Artists and Repertoire, Pentaton**



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