













CAUTIER CAPUÇON

GAÏA IS A PRIMORDIAL GODDESS AND THE PERSONIFICATION OF THE EARTH IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY.

SHE REPRESENTS NATURE, FERTILITY AND THE ORIGIN OF ALL LIVING BEINGS;

THE POWER AND PROFUNDITY OF NATURE. "



Gaïa is an album dedicated to the Earth, inspired by its beauty, its fragility and its power.

This project - I've been carrying it within me for some years now. It originated in the early stages of a conversation that I had with my friend Michèle Corash one evening after a concert with the San Francisco Symphony conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas.

It was just before the world toppled into the pandemic.

From this spark a wish was born: to bring together sixteen composers from a range of different backgrounds, aesthetic

approaches, cultures and musical genres around a single idea: that of *Gaïa*.

Here, the cello becomes a messenger, a heart beating to the rhythm of nature. In each piece we hear the Earth expressing herself through music: sometimes fragile, sometimes majestic, always essential.

This intimate link with nature, I draw it from my roots in the Savoy region.

A land of mountains and snow, of inhabited silences, this is where my perspectives were formed. It was also here that my childhood dream took shape: to climb Mont Blanc, cello on my back,

and to play in the pure echoes of the highest peaks, guided as ever by the impish light of that legendary cellist and mountaineer Maurice Baquet.

Today, the Mer de Glace glacier is retreating year after year, slowly, inexorably, exposing naked rock and raw earth.

This album is also a song of warning, a hymn to this threatened beauty, a prayer for the future generations.

I extend my thanks from the bottom of my heart to everyone who believed in this musical human adventure so deeply inspired by nature.







3 Wake

JB DUNCKEL

GAUTIER CAPUÇON cello

CAPUCELLI cello ensemble

GAÏA Wake is the sound of the forest. When I was a child, I lived next to a wood, and the forest told us about the seasons and variations in weather. The piece becomes smaller just as the forest darkens with clouds or bad weather makes trees wobble. I think that the sounds of nature contain a lot of music and that you only have to make your ear dream to hear it sing. Commission made possible by Jerome Guillen and Jeremy Gallaher

GAUTIER CAPUÇON GAÏA



Forever Home

AYANNA WITTER-JOHNSON

physical place, but the sense of community, when we come together to honour our environment and take the time to listen and care for one another on this precious journey of life.

Forever Home is a reminder that home isn't a

Commission made possible by

Marla Miller and David Kremer

GAUTIER CAPUÇON cello

AYANNA WITTER-JOHNSON cello & vocals

photo © Ben Ealovega

5 Air

LUDOVICO EINAUDI

Air is an air

A flying melody for cello

A song that needs no words

A poem that doesn't need translating

GAUTIER CAPUÇON cello

Commission made possible by

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8

Dr. Gladys Monroy and Larry Marks

Prélude

JOE HISAISHI

the impression of harmonic shifts, offering the performer the freedom to interpret the piece with either emotional intensity or restrained coolness.

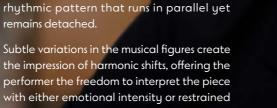
This piece was composed with Gautier Capuçon

A short motif, followed by an arpeggio-like figure, is played solely by the cello, while the piano accompanies with a contrasting

in mind as the performer.

remains detached.

GAUTIER CAPUÇON cello JÉRÔME DUCROS piano



Commission made possible by Linda Wenstrand and Bruce Winterhof Boreas

ARMAND AMAR

GAUTIER CAPUÇON cello
JÉRÔME DUCROS piano
CAPUCELLI cello ensemble

The word Boreas comes from Greek mythology, where it designates the god of the North Wind. Boreas embodies elements that are both powerful and wild, with icy breaths, often associated with winter and Nordic landscapes. In art and literature, Boreas represents a raw and unwavering force, symbolizing the contrast between winter tranquility and the raging elements

In this piece it is these images of cold landscapes, sometimes violent, sometimes mysterious that inspired me, with powerful rhythms to translate the vigor of the north wind, interspersed with calmer and suspended passages, recalling the frozen nature of winter.

Commission made possible by Deirdre and Chris Hockett





OLIVIA BELLI

GAUTIER CAPUÇON cello
OLIVIA BELLI piano

Olivia Belli appears by kind permission of Sony Classical

photo © Dovile Sermokas



In my piece, I chose not to focus on humanity's disasters or gloomy scenarios. Instead, I turned to the resilience of nature - its irrepressible vitality. It is in this enduring force that I see a foundation for hope in the future. The coming generations will face immense challenges and will need to draw upon the full range of their remarkable resources - both material and spiritual. To mobilize those resources, I believe we need hope, not fear.

The inspiration behind the piece was the astonishing story of Mětûšelaḥ, a date palm that sprouted from a 2,000-year-old seed and was named after the oldest person in the Bible: a tree that stands as a living symbol of the past, of resilience and renewal.

Commission made possible by Diane and Harry Greenberg





Life in Sunshine

JASMINE BARNES

GAUTIER CAPUÇON cello

CAPUCELLI cello ensemble

The piece is titled *Life in Sunshine*. The title of the piece is a play on a lyric in Roy Ayers' song *Everybody Loves the Sunshine*.

Life in Sunshine explores the concept of what being carefree feels like.

l experimented with themes of neo soul, gospel and jazz, all which bring a sense of nostalgia to me - a state of carefree ease that I vividly remember from childhood.



Side Piece

NICO MUHLY

GAUTIER CAPUÇON cello

FRANK BRALEY piano

photo © Heidi Solander





Toro Tsa Kwa

ABEL SELAOCOE

GAUTIER CAPUÇON cello

ABEL SELAOCOE cello, vocals, programming





GAUTIER CAPUÇON cello SARAH REBECCA vocals

Commission made possible by

Patrick McCabe and Andrew MacIlrath

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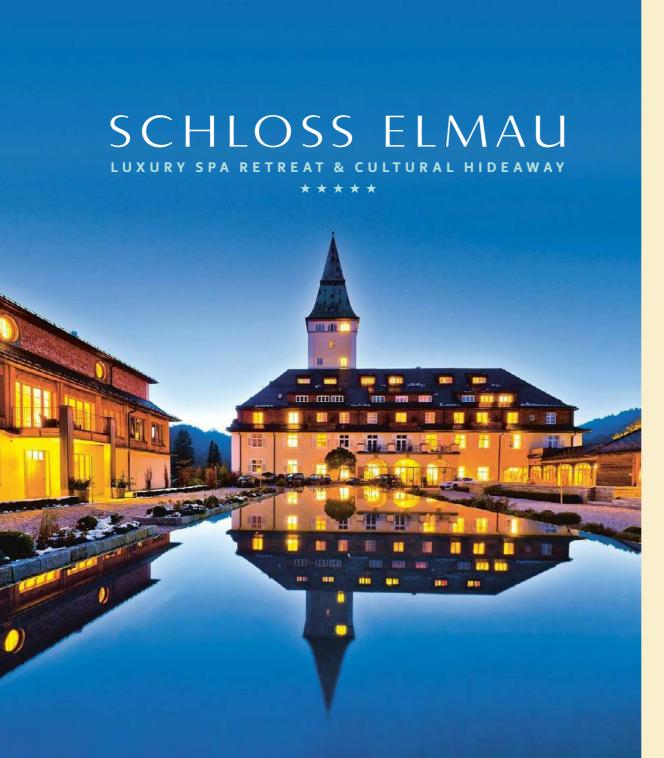
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Schloss Elmau celebrates more than 200 annual events comprising classical music, jazz, literature and debate, among them the legendary chamber music week each January founded by the famous Amadeus Quartet in 1957. It is followed by different festivals, such as the Schubert week in June, Jazz Classica in July, the Lied Week in September, the Book Critics' Week in October and the Jazztival in November – to name but a few. Many of Schloss Elmau's cultural programs are being created and first performed in this house. All of the major record labels use the unique acoustics of Schloss Elmau's concert hall to give their artists the perfect surroundings for music making.













AUTIER CAPUÇON

THANK YOU

i would like to once again extend my heartfelt thanks to THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY and MICHÈLE CORASH, to every donor who gave their support, and to SCHLOSS ELMAU.

Without them, Gaïa would not have seen the light of day.

For the Gaïa music video and mountain-top shots, i would like to express my warmest thanks to BÉRENGÈRE PRIMAT, LIONEL RODAS & AIDF, to WARNER CLASSICS, to the technical & artistic team made up of BERTRAND DELAPIERRE (director & photographer), MICHEL FAUQUET & FRANÇOIS PALLANDRE (guides) assisted by ÉMILE PALLANDRE, LAURENT MOLLARD (sound engineer) and DANUTA PIETER (producer), and to all the partners involved: ATELIER PIERRE BARTHEL, BEAL, BEST MONT BLANC, COMPAGNIE DU MONT BLANC, LES BÂTONS D'ALAIN, MILLET, SNELL SPORTS and VUARNET.

Gautier Capuçon



The San Francisco Symphony is celebrated for its artistic excellence, creative performance concepts, award-winning recordings, and standard-setting education and community engagement programs. Since it was established in 1911, the Symphony has a grown in acclaim under a succession of distinguished music directors: Henry Hadley, Alfred Hertz, Basil Cameron, Issay Dobrowen, Pierre Monteux, Enrique Jordá, Josef Krips, Seiji Ozawa, Edo de Waart, Herbert Blomstedt, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Esa-Pekka Salonen.

The San Francisco Symphony continues to shape the future of orchestral music, making a lasting impact on the cultural fabric of San Francisco and the world.

Special thanks to the San Francisco Symphony and the generous donors who helped bring this project to life.

SFSYMPHONY

GAUTIER CAPUÇON

CAÏA

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